

EXHIBIT A-101



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October 9, 2000, Monday, SOONER EDITION

SECTION: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, Pg. B-5

LENGTH: 522 words

HEADLINE: CD WILL BENEFIT CONVICTED 'WEST MEMPHIS 3' KILLERS

BYLINE: DAVE FERMAN, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

BODY:

On May 6, 1993, three 8-year-old boys were found murdered in West Memphis, Ark. Steve Branch, Michael Moore and Chris Byers had been hog-tied, tortured and mutilated. The crime shocked the small town and became, briefly, national news. Three young local men -- Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley Jr. (at the time 18, 16 and 17, respectively) -- were convicted of the crime, part of what prosecutors said was a satanic ritual.

They were poor, and they were fans of Metallica and Megadeth and Anne Rice and Stephen King. They looked like the kind of rock dudes you can see anywhere. Echols was sentenced to death and the other two to lengthy prison terms, and that, as far as most folks were concerned, was that. Only, it's not that simple. The case of the so-called "West Memphis 3" has become something of a cause celebre in the entertainment industry, in large part due to a 1996 HBO documentary "Paradise Lost: Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills."

"South Park" co-creator Trey Parker has spoken out about the case, as have others, and those seeking acquittal or at least a new trial for the WM3 number in the thousands. A second documentary, "Paradise Lost II: Revelations," was aired on HBO this year.

Which is where "Free the West Memphis 3" comes in. Set for release tomorrow, the benefit CD brings together a wide range of musicians -- from Tom Waits to Steve Earle to the Supersuckers -- to, as executive producer Danny Bland puts it, "make sure a spotlight is put on Arkansas. I don't want them to think they swept three guys under the rug."

Bland is the co-founder of Seattle's Aces & Eights Records; he and co-founder Scott Parker became aware of the case via the first HBO show.

"I grew up a punk rocker in Phoenix, so I know about alienation and being different," Bland says. "And it grew into a bigger understanding that we have a big problem and I'm not going to stand for it."

Several aspects of the case trouble Bland and WM3 supporters. Misskelley, who has an IQ of 72, was questioned for 12 hours without a lawyer or parent present; only 30 minutes of the interrogation was recorded.

Also, there's basically no physical evidence linking the men to the crime -- no blood, no hair, no semen. As a result, he says, the lifestyle of the three was used against them: Books by Rice, King and Aleister Crowley were entered as evidence, as were CDs and concert T-shirts.

"The prosecutor held up a record by Blue Oyster Cult, the one with 'Don't Fear the Reaper' on it, and kept emphasizing the word 'cult,'" says Bland. "And at the time Jason had never heard of Blue Oyster Cult. The record belonged to a friend of Damien's mom -- they were even grasping for straws at that. They introduced into evidence T-shirts by Megadeth and Metallica. They were playing on a naive or backwards jury."

Bland is adamant: The West Memphis 3 are innocent, scapegoated for their looks and the music and books they like. At the least, he says, there should be a new trial; their lawyers will present arguments to the Arkansas Supreme Court soon, and after that there's the federal courts.

LOAD-DATE: October 9, 2000

EXHIBIT A-102



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PR Newswire

August 7, 2000, Monday

SECTION: ENTERTAINMENT, TELEVISION, AND CULTURE

DISTRIBUTION: TO ENTERTAINMENT AND MUSIC EDITORS

LENGTH: 574 words

HEADLINE: Aces & Eights Recordings and KOCH Records to Release 'Free the West Memphis Three' Benefit CD

DATELINE: NEW YORK, Aug. 7

BODY:

This October Aces & Eights Recordings and Koch Records will release "Free the West Memphis Three;" a benefit CD for three wrongfully convicted men: Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley.

The benefit CD will feature new, unreleased tracks from the Supersuckers featuring Eddie Vedder, Tom Waits, Rocket From the Crypt, Steve Earle, Mark Lanegan, Zeke, The John Doe Thing, Kelley Deal, Murder City Devils, Nashville Pussy, Tony Scalzo, Joe Strummer & the Long Beach Dub All Stars, L7 and Killing Joke.

The CD is the brainchild of Eddie Spaghetti of the Supersuckers and Danny Bland and Scott Parker of Aces & Eights Recordings. After learning about the wrongful conviction of Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley Spaghetti, Bland and Parker knew they had to do something about it. Doing what they do best, they rounded up fellow musicians and made music.

"These men were vilified for wearing the wrong clothes and listening to the wrong music," says Eddie Spaghetti. "I'm by no means the first person to question this, nor am I the last. These guys were made into scapegoats so residents could have a target for their anger."

Funds from this CD will go to Justice Watch, a foundation dedicated to assisting individuals who have been wrongfully convicted. The funds will be distributed equally between Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley.

This tragedy began on May 6, 1993. Steve Branch, Michael Moore and Chris Byers, all eight-years-old, were found brutally murdered in the Robin Hood Hills in West Memphis, Arkansas. Three teenagers were accused and convicted of the crime. At their trial the prosecutors argued that they had killed the young boys as a part of a satanic ritual. They entered into evidence the music the accused listened to and the books they read. Misskelley, a 17-year-old with an IQ of 72 confessed after being interrogated for almost 12 hours. Misskelley had been promised reward money, was borderline mentally retarded and did not have an attorney or parent present.

"The more I learn about this case the more convinced I am that the wrong men are in prison, says John Doe. "I will do whatever I can to make sure that this case does not get swept under the rug. This CD will help us make sure these men, and the children who were murdered, are not forgotten."

Award-winning filmmakers Bruce Sinofsky and Joe Berlinger helped bring this case to light with the release of the HBO documentary "Paradise Lost: Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" in 1996. Three viewers from California, Burk Sauls, Grove Pashley and Kathy Bakken, realized a need for more information about the case and launched the Web site <http://www.wm3.org>. The sequel documentary, "Paradise Lost II: Revelations" aired earlier this year on HBO, was released to theaters throughout the summer and will be released to video by the end of the year.

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August 7, 2000, Monday

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URL: <http://www.prnewswire.com>

LOAD-DATE: August 8, 2000

EXHIBIT A-103



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Los Angeles Times

March 13, 2000, Monday, Home Edition

SECTION: Calendar; Part F; Page 1; Entertainment Desk

LENGTH: 914 words

HEADLINE: TELEVISION;
MYSTERY OF 'REVELATIONS': THE TRUTH OR PAY-TO-SAY?

BYLINE: HOWARD ROSENBERG

BODY:

No one will ever accuse their films of being drab or uneventful.

After the remarkable PBS documentary, "Brother's Keeper," Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky gave us HBO's "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," a twisting, stunning 1996 account of three weird-behaving teenagers being tried and perhaps unjustly convicted in the grisly slayings of three 8-year-olds in West Memphis, Ark., a serene town of 28,000 along the Mississippi River.

Now comes the disturbing HBO sequel, "Paradise Lost 2: Revelations," which raises as many questions about the filmmakers--including their monetary payment to John Mark Byers, a key subject in the documentary--as about the bizarre case they update here. It's one that sent Damien Wayne Echols, now 24, to death row, and Jason Baldwin, now 21, and Jessie Misskelley, now 23, to prison for life.

Although the original documentary left open their guilt or innocence--while ominously darkening Byers, stepfather of one of the murdered boys--the new one zealously crusades on behalf of the accused killers, who were stamped as Satanists in this Bible-thumping community because of their passions for heavy metal music and black clothing. Nor did it help that Damien was also the name of the antichrist in those popular "Omen" movies about devilish evil.

Coming across as demonic in "Revelations," though, is the wild-preaching Byers, a frightening, Bunyanesque mountain of a man who lectures in Scripture and spews tirades at the camera like a mad prophet. On trial in the film also are the authorities who still insist--despite apparent potholes in the evidence--that the convicted trio slew second-graders Christopher Byers, Steven Branch and Michael Moore in 1993.

The nude, rigid bodies of these little Huck Finns were found beside a shallow creek in Robin Hood Hills, a clump of woods along a busy interstate. They had been mutilated, persuading authorities that a ritual sacrifice had occurred and that presumed devil worshipers Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley should be scooped up. Then Misskelley, said to have an IQ of just 72, made a confession to police, which he later repudiated.

Berlinger and Sinofsky are superb storytellers as they use "Revelations" to probe the triple-murder's inky corners and attempt to cast more doubt on the prosecution's original case. They again omit narration and seamlessly converge verite sequences and interviews into an account that also monitors Echols' attorney and a "criminal profiler" preparing for a legal appeal that may determine whether lethal injection is ahead for their client.

Echols is hardly recognizable here in his scholarly spectacles, these days looking and sounding more like a serious law student than the preening, almost-girlish narcissist viewers met in the first film when he wore his dark hair swooped to one side and titled himself "the West Memphis boogeyman."

TELEVISION;MYSTERY OF 'REVELATIONS': THE TRUTH OR PAY-TO-PLAY? Los Angeles Times March 13, 2000, Monday,

Yet Byers has hardly changed, even though his wife, Melissa, has since died, and the cause of her death remains murky. She died of a "broke heart," Byers says.

One immediately wonders why--after being strongly suggested as a heavy in the first film--Byers agreed to an encore for "Revelations." Is he a masochist? One of those 15-minutes-of-fame-at-any-price guys?

*

The answer may come about midway through the documentary, when viewers are informed in a printed message that not only were families on both side of the case paid "equal honorariums" for the first film--something not publicized at the time--but that Byers received another "honorarium" for participating in "Revelations."

In effect, that makes him a paid performer and taints the film's credibility. And perform he does, time after time, as if cued by the camera's red light. If the filmmakers wanted a Lucifer, they got one in Byers, whose menacing TV-tailored rants are the emotional center of this documentary that also finds him taking a polygraph test whose circumstances are never fully clarified.

Nor is why the camera inevitably is present for Byers' venomous monologues. Does he decide on his own to visit his wife's grave and place red roses there in front of the lens, for example, or is it the filmmakers' idea? Just how involved are Berlinger and Sinofsky in shaping the story they're supposed to be observing? There were rumblings about manipulation in the first film, and one wonders if they ratcheted that up in "Revelations."

In any case, the graveside visit produces, with Byers telling his dead wife: "Those animals killed you! They're evil animals and they killed you!" Facing the camera, he adds: "And for you morons, infidels and fools who think I had anything to do with it, go to hell! Go to hell!"

A skeptic might suspect staging. That would include having Byers always present to clash with Free the Memphis Three, a Los Angeles-based group that believes in the innocence of Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley, and arrives in town for the court hearing that may determine Echols' fate.

A member notes that Byers is nice to the group until filming begins, and wonders: "Why are you being so mean to us now that the cameras are rolling?" Viewers can draw their own conclusions.

* "Paradise Lost 2: Revelations" can be seen tonight at 10 on HBO. The network has rated it TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17).

Howard Rosenberg's column appears Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He can be contacted via e-mail at calendar.letters@latimes.com

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: (3 photos), "Paradise Lost" revisits the convictions of Jessie Misskelley, left, Damien Wayne Echols, Jason Baldwin. **PHOTOGRAPHER:** HBO **PHOTO:** (3 photos), The murdered 8-year-olds in Arkansas: Steven Branch, left, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore. **PHOTOGRAPHER:** HBO

LOAD-DATE: March 13, 2000

EXHIBIT A-104



Copyright 2000 Sun-Sentinel Company
Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

March 13, 2000, Monday, Broward Metro EDITION

SECTION: LIFESTYLE, Pg. 3D

LENGTH: 700 words

HEADLINE: IS THIS JUSTICE?;
HBO TAKES ANOTHER LOOK AT CONTROVERSIAL ARKANSAS TRIPLE MURDER CASE.

BYLINE: KINNEY LITTLEFIELD ; The Orange County Register

BODY:

Oh boy, we're tough.

We will kill crime.

Our penchant for punishment over rehabilitation, for longer prison terms or even the death penalty, seems increasingly pronounced.

But what if a terrible mistake is made, as we saw in the movie *The Hurricane* when boxer Ruben "Hurricane" Carter was wrongly incarcerated for murder?

What if less-than-affluent murder defendants can't afford the pricey lawyering you'd better well have if you're on trial for your life?

Those crucial questions are pressing in *Paradise Lost 2: Revelations*, an eerie documentary about triple murder and a possible miscarriage of justice in West Memphis, Ark., premiering tonight on HBO.

The unsettling feature-length film continues where its Emmy and Peabody award-winning predecessor *Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills* (1996) left off. It revisits the 1994 arrest and conviction -- with much community outrage and scant evidence -- of Jason Baldwin, now 22, Jessie Misskelley, now 23, and Damien Echols, now 24, for the brutal murder of three 8-year-old boys.

The case gained national notoriety and the trappings of a witch hunt because Echols wore long hair and a trench coat, listened to heavy metal music and was rumored to have made a pact with the devil.

"Every day the press was saying devil worship, Metallica music -- guilty, guilty, guilty," filmmaker Bruce Sinofsky said of the 1996 trial. Sinofsky and Joe Berlinger produced and directed *Paradise Lost 2* and the original *Paradise Lost*.

"The jury pool was so polluted there was no way people hadn't made up their minds about guilt or innocence."

Baldwin and Misskelley are now serving life sentences and Echols awaits execution on death row, pending possible review of his case by a federal judge. He has exhausted his state appeals.

Meanwhile, provocative *Paradise Lost 2* aims to stir public support to give Echols a new trial.

Distressing as it is, it is investigative -- and advocacy -- journalism at its best.

"The defendants' families live on \$ 8,000 or \$ 10,000 a year," Sinofsky said. "The way it works in Arkansas with indigent cases, if you're an attorney your name comes up in a lottery and you have to defend that person. Only one of the original attorneys had any murder trial experience."

IS THIS JUSTICE?;HBO TALKS TO ANOTHER LOOK AT CONTROVERSIAL KANSAS TRIPLE MURDER CASE. Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL) March 13, 2000, Monday,

"To see these people settle for inexperienced attorneys with no war chest -- you really see how poor people don't get a fair shake unlike O.J. or the Ramseys (in the unsolved JonBenet Ramsey murder case) or the Menendez brothers -- whatever the outcome of the trial."

Paradise Lost 2 also probes the possibility that police may have coerced a confession from Misskelley, who has an IQ of 72.

His interview with the police lasted 12 hours without a lawyer or family member present. It was a linchpin of the prosecution's case.

Watch Paradise Lost 2 and you can't help but worry deeply how well our get-tough criminal justice system works.

Indeed, the film is styled to achieve a mood of gut-roiling menace.

It meshes fast edits, graphic crime photos, Metallica music and flashbacks to the earlier film with emotionally strident interviews.

Included are straight-up chats with police investigators, a criminal profiler, the victims' parents, the convicted men and their support group "Free the West Memphis Three."

"That group has really jumped in to try and get a new trial," Sinofsky said. "The Internet is crucial at this point -- Damien even did an Internet chat from death row."

The documentary includes scenes of Echols' mom tearfully chatting over the Net with her son.

In truly strange segments it showcases the bizarre mind-set of John Mark Byers -- father of one of the slain boys -- who some believe guilty of the triple murder.

Sinofsky: "In our system -- in this case -- there was just this leap to convict so life can go back to the way it was in the community because fear is running rampant and kids can't go back to the playground.

"Before this case I was a supporter of the death penalty. But after seeing how mistakes can be made I'm now firmly against it.

"Really, this case is a study in poor man's justice. It's just not something you can easily rinse off."

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS 6, HBO photo; **WANTED:** The publicity poster for the documentary shows the victims, Steven Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, as well as the three men convicted of their murders, Jessie Misskelley, Damien Echols and Jason Charles Baldwin.

LOAD-DATE: March 17, 2000

EXHIBIT A-105



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 **Press Journal**

Press Journal (Vero Beach, FL)

March 12, 2000, Sunday

SECTION: TV Journal; Pg. 24

LENGTH: 635 words

HEADLINE: 'PARADISE LOST' SEQUEL REVISTS SCENE OF 1993 MURDERS

BODY:

The small town of West Memphis, Ark., hasn't been the same since May 1993, when three 8-year-olds, Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, were found brutally murdered.

In March of the following year, three teen-agers, Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley, were found guilty of the killings. Their trial and eventual conviction formed the basis for "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," an emotionally intense documentary that won an Emmy and a Peabody after its 1996 screening on HBO.

Filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky update that controversial case in "Paradise Lost 2: Revelations," an equally upsetting two-hour plus documentary premiering Monday, March 13, on HBO.

A lot has happened since the first film, although all three convicted boys, now no longer teens, remain behind bars. Their alleged ringleader, 24-year-old Echols, has been on death row for five years, and his appeals for a new trial thus far have failed.

After "Paradise Lost" aired, however, an L.A.-based group called the Free the West Memphis Three Support Fund formed among concerned individuals. The group raised funds to hire a criminal profiler and other experts brought in for the defense, in hopes of getting Echols a new trial that will take a fresh look at the evidence.

That's a point that bears underscoring: While the original "Paradise Lost" understandably ruffled feathers among those who believe that Echols and his two friends committed the murders, neither of the two films flatly asserts that the boys are innocent.

"We like to let viewers make up their own minds," Berlinger says, "and all I'm saying is that if I had been in that courtroom, I would not have been able to vote guilty based on the evidence presented."

During the case, the prosecution asserted that the crimes took place in the ravine where the bodies were found, yet no blood, fingerprints or any other evidence was found there.

Advocates fighting to get a new trial for the three young men argue that the circumstantial evidence against the trio was no stronger than that against other suspects, including John Mark Byers, the stepfather of one of the murdered boys. It is Byers, in fact, who becomes the dominant figure in the second film, a bizarre, larger-than-life character who has to be seen to be believed.

While he passed a polygraph test concerning the murders, many still regard him with suspicion. His flamboyant and theatrical behavior in the new film won't do much to dispel those suspicions, but he is an absolutely fascinating study in contradictions. What's more, he absolutely relishes being on camera (Byers was paid an honorarium to participate).

'PARADISE LOST' SEQUEL . . . VISITS SCENE OF 1993 MURDERS Press Journal (Vero Beach, FL) March 12, 2000, Sunday

"I don't think I'll ever find anyone else who is as interesting to film ... and who loved the camera as much as he did," Berlinger says. "You have to ask yourself, even though he is mugging for the camera, is this a real portrait?"

"I say it is, because in the processing of that mugging, he unwittingly reveals a lot about himself. What it means you can decide for yourself. I have filmed many people in many situations and, filmically speaking, I have never been so entranced by somebody."

Sinofsky says he privately thinks Echols faces an uphill battle to get a new trial. "If I were Damien and his family, I'd try to be realistic," he says.

\$130:(B/W) Photo: "Paradise Lost 2: Revelations," airing Monday on HBO, raises questions as it retreads the blood-soaked ground of the murders of three 8-year-olds boys (top row, 1-r) Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, in Arkansas, but doesn't assert the innocence of the trio (bottom row, 1-r), Jessie Misskelley, Damien Echols and Jason Baldwin, convicted of the murders.

(B/W) Photo: Bruce Sinofsky (left) and Jo Berlinger.

LOAD-DATE: March 16, 2000

EXHIBIT A-106



Copyright 1997 Knoxville News-Sentinel Co.
Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee)

April 27, 1997, Sunday

SECTION: A Section; Pg. A1

LENGTH: 1773 words

HEADLINE: Walking life's muddy edges; Teens' fascination with occult links South's most disturbing murders

BYLINE: By John North, News-Sentinel staff writer

BODY:

Wrapped within the walls of her mother's metal trailer, the Kentucky girl sliced her arms with razors and wrote messages of hate. I hate God. I hate the world.

Wraithlike, the 16-year-old slipped through a western Kentucky town in his black coat, black locks, black mood. He called himself a vampire, a lord of the night.

The other two dabbled in magic -- black and white. They walked life's muddy edges, cursing their lousy lives.

Among the four of them, Natasha W. Cornett of Betsy Layne, Ky., Rod Ferrell of Murray, Ky., Christa Gail Pike of Durham, N.C., and Damien W. Echols of West Memphis, Ark., are charged with or have been convicted of killing nine people.

They are the alleged leaders of some of the most disturbing homicides reported in the South in recent years. Not one of them was over age 18 at the time of their alleged crimes.

In the most recent case, Cornett and five other young Kentuckians are accused of forcing a Powell family to drive April 6 to a remote Greene County road where they shot them in a ditch. Three died; a 2-year-old boy lived despite suffering gunshot wounds to the eye and chest.

Bored or mad or so disgusted they've given up hope, Cornett, Ferrell, Pike and Echols represent a dark profile in violent crime -- the dispossessed man- or woman-child with a fascination for the occult that goes beyond the spooky ritual.

For them, fantasy merges with fact. Games end up being played for keeps.

They lost their innocence years ago, if they ever had it.

"It used to be the adults killing the kids," said Leonard Miller, a clinical psychologist who examines violent juveniles slated for transfer into Knox County's adult court system.

"Now it's crimes being committed by kids against kids and everybody else."

Boys on bikes

Steven Branch, Michael Moore and Christopher Byers, all aged 8, were riding bikes and skateboarding when they met up with their killers May 5, 1993 in West Memphis, Ark., just across the Mississippi River and the Tennessee line. They were stripped, tied, beaten, sexually assaulted and then dumped in a creek that flows through woods in an area known as Robin Hood Hills. Two boys drowned, another bled to death. Someone mutilated Byers' genitals.

Damien Echols, then 18, Jason Baldwin, 16, and Jessie L. Misskelley Jr., 17, were convicted of murder. Prosecutors suggested Echols led the others in a triple-murder tied to the occult.

Walking life's muddy edges; T. J.'s fascination with occult links South's most disturbing murders Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee) April 27, 1997, Sunday

Echols, now 22, received the death penalty while his co-defendants were sentenced to life in prison. He has maintained his innocence. While acknowledging an interest in witchcraft, Echols says it is a religion to him and not a way to hurt people.

The young men were the subject last year of "Paradise Lost: the Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," an HBO portrait of their trials. Supporters have created a defense fund and launched an Internet campaign to free them. They believe the young men, dubbed the West Memphis Three, were unfairly tried by a community intent on locking away three town oddballs.

A toke in the park

The Job Corps murder. In Knox County, it's a shorthand reference to the murder of Colleen A. Slemmer, 19, a student at the now defunct Knoxville Job Corps Center.

Slemmer was lured out the night of Jan. 12, 1995, by an offer to smoke marijuana in Tyson Park with fellow students Christa Gail Pike, then 18, her boyfriend Tadarly D. Shipp, 17, and female acquaintance Shadolla R. Peterson, 18. Near a remote bike path on the University of Tennessee Agriculture Campus, Slemmer was beaten, slashed and tortured.

Pike, jealous that Slemmer was trying to take her boyfriend, and Shipp carved a pentagram in her chest. Pike kept a piece of the victim's skull as a souvenir.

Last year, Pike became the youngest person to sit on Tennessee's death row. In January, Shipp was convicted and sentenced to life in prison. Peterson has pleaded to being an accessory after the fact. She was sentenced to six years probation. Lawyers are pursuing appeals for Shipp and Pike, now 19 and 21.

A quiet night at home

Richard and Ruth Wendorf were enjoying a night at home Nov. 25, 1996, in Eustis, Fla., when someone bludgeoned them with a heavy metal object. Several days later, Rod Ferrell, Heather Wendorf, the couple's 15-year-old daughter, and three other youths aged 16 to 19 were picked up in Baton Rouge, La., driving the Wendorfs' Ford Explorer. Authorities allege Ferrell, a former schoolmate of Heather's, decided to drive from Kentucky to Florida to kill the couple and bring Heather back so she could wed one of the accused.

A grand jury has charged Rod Ferrell with first-degree murder. Ferrell's three friends, also from western Kentucky, are accused as principals in the killings.

In January, jurors declined to charge Heather Wendorf, who told investigators she did not learn her parents were dead until after she left Florida with Ferrell.

The other four await trial.

Witnesses on the road

Vidar and Delphina Lillelid of Powell and their two children were on their way home April 6 from a Jehovah's Witness conference in Johnson City when they were confronted. Authorities theorize they were carjacked at a highway rest stop near Interstate 81 in Greene County, driven to a dead-end road and shot.

Vidar and Delphina died with their 6-year-old daughter, Tabitha, and 2-year-old son, Peter, in their arms. Tabitha eventually died. Peter is recovering in a Knoxville hospital.

Natasha Cornett and five others, who had set off that day on a road trip from eastern Kentucky, are the alleged killers. The group was arrested two days later at the Arizona-Mexico border riding in the Lillelids' van.

Cornett, who has a history of mental illness, and three others ranging in age from 17 to 20 are being held in Greene County awaiting a preliminary hearing, tentatively set for May 21. Fourteen-year-old Jason B. Bryant and 17-year-old Karen Renea Howell are fighting extradition from Arizona.

Kindred spirits

Miles apart in life, Cornett, Echols, Ferrell and Pike have several things in common. Their stories come from court hearings, interviews with friends and family and from their own mouths.

All came from homes broken by divorce or separation.

Walking life's muddy edges; T. . . s' fascination with occult links South's most d. . . bing murders Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee) April 27, 1997, Sunday

All felt like outcasts in their communities. "Freaks" is the word Ferrell and Echols have used to describe how they were perceived around town.

"It's a waking of a brand-new dreadful day," Cornett wrote in a 1995 diary passage released by her then attorney.

"It's my birthday. . . . Death shall finally take me. . . . It does not matter if I enter hell, because I live my whole life in it . . ."

For several, their choice of dress compounded their feelings of alienation. Most have said they preferred black and were ridiculed for it.

Ferrell dyed his hair black, painted his nails black and adopted an all-black costume for which he became notorious around Murray, Ky. Cornett briefly married about a year and a half ago, with a wedding ceremony at which she wore a black dress and had a black cake.

Unable or unwilling to fit in with the rest of society, all four turned to magic and the occult.

Echols became interested in Wicca, a common reference to the various traditions of Neo-Pagan witchcraft. Pike gained a reputation around the Knoxville Job Corps Center as a witch, and she and Shipp dabbled in satanism.

Ferrell embraced vampirism, shunned daylight and engaged in candlelit ceremonies in which he and some of his co-defendants drank their own blood. Kentucky authorities say he broke into a Murray animal shelter in October and beat 40 dogs and tortured two to death.

Cornett and several of her friends took part in a blood-letting ceremony in a Pikeville, Ky., motel days before heading down to East Tennessee this month.

Also, family members or the suspects themselves say they have attempted suicide and self-mutilation. Echols and Cornett received mental health treatment for manic depression.

Madonna Wallen, Natasha's mother, told a News-Sentinel reporter doctors gave the young woman medication, but it made her sick. Cornett's former lawyer said she was filled with self-loathing and spoke of an imminent Armageddon.

". . . She said, 'We don't have anything to look forward to,' " Wallen said. "Tomorrow is nonexistent, I guess, to them."

Reasons why

Little about the backgrounds of Cornett, Echols, Ferrell and Pike surprises Knox County area mental health professionals. Their lives are symptomatic of an American culture in which traditional family ties are weaker, social values are looser and public support for programs to help children is smaller, experts said.

"I just don't see children as our priority," said Jim Griffin, who is involved in developing programs to help children in area juvenile courts for the Helen Ross McNabb Center, Inc. "Funding speaks of it. It's just not there."

Clinical psychologist Miller has evaluated young people for Knox County Juvenile Court for almost 30 years. In that time, the offenders have become more violent. They typically have grown up in homes in which they get away with more, either because the parent is more accepting or doesn't pay attention to the behavior, he said. Many were abandoned or neglected.

Diana McCoy, a clinical and forensic psychologist in Knox County, said generally the juveniles she has seen who were attracted to something such as satanism felt inadequate. Satanism offers them a sense of power and belonging, she said.

Miller said part of the problem behind the rise in violent young offenders can be traced to the lack of options in mental health care, especially for the poor. The longer juveniles go without help, the harder it is to treat them, he said.

Still, professionals caution there are no absolute predictors when it comes to serious juvenile crime. Many children with similar backgrounds reach adulthood without incident. For example, dressing in black is not bad, nor is dabbling in the occult unless it becomes extreme, experts said. For some, the occult is a harmless way to rebel against one's parents, McCoy said.

Walking life's muddy edges; T... 's fascination with occult links South's most d... bing murders Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee) April 27, 1997, Sunday

Griffin is a strong believer in the good in mankind. He makes a point of noting that serious juvenile offenders are but a tiny portion of the nation's young people. He praises Knoxville agencies for working together to help needy young people.

But he also is a realist. What's happening with juvenile violence today, whether gang- or cult-related, could have been predicted long ago, he said. Society has a problem. "It's been coming for a long time, and I think we've been negligent in not addressing it sooner," Griffin said.

GRAPHIC: From left, Charity Keesee, Heather Wendorf, Scott Anderson and Rod Ferrell appear before a Marion County, Fla., judge for their alleged roles in the 1996 murders of Richard and Ruth Wendorf. In January, grand jurors declined to charge Heather Wendorf. The others are awaiting trial.

Natasha W. Cornett

Christa Gail Pike

From left, Jessie Misskelley Jr., Michael Wayne "Damien" Echols and Jason Baldwin

(Color) Photo of handcuffs

LOAD-DATE: April 30, 1997

EXHIBIT A-107



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The Ottawa Citizen

April 11, 1997, Friday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: ARTS & MOVIES; Pg. E1 / Front

LENGTH: 1299 words

HEADLINE: Innocence Lost: A powerful documentary looks at what happens when a small town meets the Damien factor in the halls of American justice

BYLINE: JAY STONE; THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

BODY:

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills HHHH

Directed by: Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky Rating: AA Playing at: ByTowne Cinema, today to Monday

The first images are horrifying: a police video of three eight-year-old boys, naked, sexually mutilated, murdered, left to rot at the edge of the woods in West Memphis, Arkansas. A month later, three suspects are arrested. They are local outcasts, teenagers who dress in black and listen to heavy metal music. One of them is named Damien, just like the antiChrist in the horror film *The Omen*.

And we, the jury, are there for the entire thing. The investigation, the trial, the verdict, the uneasy feeling at the end that we have just witnessed an old-fashioned American witch-hunt, with real witches.

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills, is a 2 1/2-hour documentary about the case. Made with unparalleled access by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, Paradise Lost takes us into the lawyers' offices and courtroom and jails on a journey into the dark heart of the justice system and of the society of the small-town South. By the end of Paradise Lost you may not be persuaded that the teenage suspects were railroaded, but it is difficult not to feel that there is at least a reasonable doubt about their guilt.

The film is fascinating both for its larger themes -- the prejudice against the young and different, the casual incompetence of such official organizations as police forces and media outlets -- and in its details of the lurid, almost Gothic world of the small-town South. Some awfully bizarre characters are on display here, exotic creatures grown in the hot-house of the Bible Belt and watered with the spray of flag-waving patriotism. It's a frightening combination.

The facts of the case are these. In May, 1993, Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore go missing in the Robin Hood Hills section of West Memphis. Three days later their bodies are found in a shallow creek beside Interstate 40. A month later, a simple-minded teenager named Jessie Misskelly Jr. is questioned by police and implicates two friends in the murders: Jason Baldwin, 16, and the apparent leader of the group, Damien Echols, an 18-year-old outcast with a smart-aleck attitude and taste for black clothes, Metallica and books about the occult. Because of the mutilation of the boys, it is believed the killers are part of a devil-worshipping cult.

Meanwhile, the killings galvanize the town. The mother of one of the victims appears on a TV newscast in her best red dress, looking like she relishes this newfound attention. The father of another invites the film-makers out to a field to watch him fire his handgun at pumpkins he has set up to represent the accused teens. "Oh, Jessie, I done blowed you half to Tucson," he says as one of them explodes.

Meanwhile, in the courtroom, we begin getting the uneasy feeling that not is all as it seems. Damien, for all his wise-guy demeanor, is about the most rational guy in town. The police, it turns out, haven't investigated things as thoroughly as they might. And what about that blood-covered stranger in the washroom of Bojangles restaurant on the night of the disappearance? The film-makers even come up with a piece of evidence that could have some bearing on the case.

Paradise Lost doesn't hit anyone over the head with any of this. Film-makers' Berlinger and Sinofsky also made Brother's Keeper, a documentary about three eccentric brothers in New York state who were protected by their community, rather than persecuted, when one of them was accused of a crime. This movie is more ambiguous than that.

"We want the audience to be like a jury member, to go in and look at both sides of the issue and come away with their own conclusion," Berlinger said in a telephone interview recently.

"Hopefully most people will come away with the conclusion we came to, which is these kids did not get a fair trial although they're a little weird. If people don't come to that conclusion, we don't shove it down their throat. Our point of view is in the film, but it's not smashed over your head. That's a function of trying to show both sides of the story, it's a function of not having a narrator, it's a function of not being afraid of raising questions that don't all get answered. We don't dot every 'i' and cross every 't'."

Berlinger and Sinofsky were attracted to the Robin Hills murders by a New York Times story that took the official line on the tragedy: that it was the work of Satan-worshipping metalheads. Coming on the heels of several similar cases involving young people who kill, Berlinger says they thought the movie would be a study of disaffected youth, "a real-life River's Edge."

But when the film-makers got to West Memphis, they found something different.

Much of the power in Paradise Lost comes in the open doors that greeted Berlinger and Sinofsky. Their cameras go everywhere, including lawyers' strategy sessions and into the homes of the victims and the accused.

Berlinger says that ability to get in on things is their talent: "By and large we get into where we want to film because people like us and trust us. The filming part is relatively easy ... we spend an inordinate amount of time with people not filming. The tendency is for people to jump out of a car with a camera and start rolling.

"Our tendency is to let people get to know us and spend a lot of time with people and for every hour of film we acquire, there's maybe 15 hours of human interaction with people. We treat every experience like we're on some college exchange program, immersing ourselves in the particular culture that we're filming and really letting people get to know us and vice versa."

So successful are they at this that they now have plans to go back to West Memphis to do a follow-up film, and all the people they have talked to in the first film say they're willing to talk again. Everyone thought Paradise Lost was fair.

Still, Berlinger is disappointed that the movie and the reaction to it outside Arkansas has not resulted in any action to help the teenagers who were convicted.

"On an artistic level I sort of have a problem treading the same ground again. But on the other hand, there is such a need for more information in this case. The kids are still rotting in jail after all this."

The next film will focus more clearly on what Berlinger sees as the injustice of the case, although he still has faith in the American system. Taken as the flip side of Brother's Keeper, about a community that resisted a rush to judgment, Berlinger says that the two films together are a fair portrait of the justice process.

"I think it's cynical to say the justice system will screw you if you're poor, but it's also naive to think it always works out, as it did in Brother's Keeper. Like any human institution, it can fail miserably and you always have to be vigilant."

In Robin Hood Hills, he feels that there was a "bad cocktail," a combination of ingredients including a fundamentalist society that believes in good and evil in a tangible sense and that the devil walks among us; a faith in the fact that if the police arrest someone he is probably guilty of something; and a local press corps that Berlinger calls "extremely irresponsible."

Innocence Lost: A powerful documentary looks at what happens when a small town meets the Damien factor in the halls of American justice The Ottawa Citizen April 11, 1997, Friday, FINAL EDITION

"There was a much easier and lazier story just to have a daily article or a daily newscast that three devil-worshipping teens killed three eight-year-old boys. That was easier than to deal with the complexities and the ambiguities of the case."

Add the horror of the crime and the community's need to resolve it, and the result is what Berlinger terms "a horrible tragedy beyond the tragedy of the eight-year-old boys being slaughtered."

GRAPHIC: Color Photo: Slain eight-year-olds: Steven Branch, Christopher Byers, Michael Moore

Color Photo: Christopher Byers

Color Photo: Steven Branch

Color Photo: Film-makers Bruce Sinofsky (left) and Joe Berlinger had incredible access to all players in Arkansas tragedy

Black & White Photo: Was outcast Damien Echols the murderer?

LOAD-DATE: April 12, 1997

EXHIBIT A-108



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The Ottawa Citizen

April 1, 1997, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; CYNTHIA AMSDEN; ARGUMENT & OBSERVATIONS; Pg. A14

LENGTH: 803 words

HEADLINE: Oh God, Paradise Lost is for real

BYLINE: CYNTHIA AMSDEN; THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

BODY:

"Between the idea and the reality, between the motion and the act falls the Shadow," wrote T. S. Eliot. Between the Hollywood movie scripts and the news footage of botched L.A. bank robberies and O.J. Simpson car chases falls the shadow of life verite.

For the public was long ago turned into fear-lust which makes them lock their deadbolts at night and rush to their televisions to watch sanitized versions of what is taking place on the streets.

Some pop journalists have taken it upon themselves to pontificate on this faux-life, posing as self-appointed Siskel-and-Eberts, writing in loops of purple prose about real-time perpetrators who lack creative imagination and movie directors who love them that way because they validate scripting ideas.

These writers imbue the phenomena with cultural moment, but, because they have paddled their way up a ideological cul-de-sac, they never quite explain the moment. This is because there is no point.

News footage is just that -- recording an event. There may be similarities to movies like Heat or The Chase, but statistical probability shows if you make enough crime movies, they will eventually duplicate themselves in the street.
NEXT!

Then along comes Paradise Lost: Child Murders at Robin Hoods Hills, the documentary that is sure to shatter the comfortable dialogue of dinner party debates.

It tells the story of Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, all eight years old, who disappeared at 6:30 pm on May 5, 1993, in West Memphis, Arkansas. Twenty-four hours later, their bodies were pulled out of a river. They had all been brutally murdered in a manner that screamed Satanic ritual.

One month later, 17-year old Jessie Misskelley, a boy with an IQ of 72, confessed to the murders, implicating his friends Jason Baldwin, 16, and Damien Echols, 18. Their arrests were headline news and the story was picked up by the New York Times.

Documentary directors Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky read the details, headed to Arkansas and spent 10 months filming a documentary of such peripatetic truth it blends the idea, the reality and the shadow into one.

The problem with Paradise Lost is that for all it presents American Bible Belt kangaroo justice, for all it showcases personalities and lifestyles better suited to a medieval Bruegel painting, for all it highlights how Americans administer the death penalty as the penicillin of the '90s, the film can't break free from the entertainment pages. And this simple fact bewilders the directors.

One viewer, visibly shaken after seeing the film, feels some events are better left unpreserved. But 'preserved' is the wrong verb as it implies the filmmakers merely recorded events a la C-PAC.

What, in fact, happened was the cameras became a catalyst, inspiring chilling off-the-record confessions (one victim was beaten with a belt by his father the morning he died) and impromptu performances (the fathers of two of the victims used a pumpkin for target practice, dedicating each bullet to the convicted boys, discussing shooting distances inside the courtroom).

And then the film-making process rotates on itself when Christopher Byer's father stepped over the documentary line and gave a director a gift. Presented as a new skinning knife, blood traces were found on it and, after DNA testing, it became evidence.

The sentiment that these events in West Memphis are too socially toxic to be recorded for posterity may be precisely what keeps Paradise Lost on the movie pages. Packaged as 'entertainment,' the public is not obliged to respond.

The black water that runs under the thin ice of this pretension drowns the inherent issues (the staggeringly transparent evidence, the single-suspect investigation responding to the public's need for retribution, the local media coverage so biased it chokes rational thought), leaving only a cameo of life in an evolutionary bottleneck of the American south.

The Idea of justice, as Canadians appreciate it (Guy Paul Morin notwithstanding), is a wholesome notion. However, the Act that left three Grade 2 students dead is an undeniable reality.

And so is the reality of three possibly innocent teenagers serving life in prison, one waiting for a lethal injection. The Shadow is the bastardized process that brought them there.

This documentary puts form and shape to it, in a manner which, unlike OJ's trial where television viewers mutter, "This is too preposterous to be real" and violent crime movies where audiences say, "Thank God this isn't real", Paradise audiences leave theatres knowing it is all too real and must force themselves to stop pretending it is not.

Editor's note: The documentary Paradise Lost is scheduled to open in Ottawa on April 11.

Cynthia Amsden is a Cobourg freelance writer.

LOAD-DATE: April 2, 1997

EXHIBIT A-109



Copyright 1997 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.
The Toronto Star

February 21, 1997, Friday, METRO EDITION

SECTION: ENTERTAINMENT; Pg. B3

LENGTH: 1048 words

HEADLINE: Horrific child sex slayings an intriguing mystery

BYLINE: By Peter Goddard Toronto Star

BODY:

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders At Robin Hood Hills AA

A documentary by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky. At the Carlton.****

In 1969, in a burst of critical despair, Newsweek film critic Joseph Morgenstern anguished about a documentary he'd just seen that he felt was so raw and left so much to be explained that America was being tarnished by it.

The unexplained truth simply wasn't true enough, he said. He didn't want real people just talking to the camera. It was too - real.

Bring in a good writer to flesh things out. He added: "It takes a writer's imagination to get at people who don't know how to get at themselves. It takes an actor's training to play one's self on camera."

In question was Salesman, a documentary from David and Albert Maysles (and Charlotte Zwerlin), whose risk-taking work influenced how and why Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky made Paradise Lost so disturbingly non-committal. (The two met in 1986 while working for the Maysles.)

Morgenstern most likely mistook his own unease at watching Salesman's sad-sack Bible hustlers trudge through white-trash America with something wrong with the film, itself.

But that doesn't discount his feelings. In 30 years of documentary-making since, we still like to have things made easy for us, explained by some all-knowing, unseen narrator.

But The Child Murders Of Robin Hood Hills, as the subtitle goes, doesn't explain anything. If anything, it only makes clear that there's a lot more to be explained.

This built-in uncertainty is almost as much of a shocker as the knowledge that three young men are in a West Memphis, Ark., jail - one on death row - for a horrific triple sex-slaying they perhaps didn't do.

How times change - and movies as well as their critics. The uncertainty that bothered Morgenstern so much that he felt he had to defend "not even faith in God, but country," is now, in Paradise Lost, the savvy way to reflect that same country 30 years later.

"We absolutely hate narration," Berlinger said in a recent interview. "We try to craft films which unfold like fiction, which have that kind of structure. We try to feel out (what's) naturally dramatic."

The drama was more unnatural than anything.

In 1993, Berlinger and Sinofsky began shooting what they thought would be something resembling a real-life version of River's Edge, Tim Hunter's 1989 drama about a group of teens who don't know how to react when one of their group murders another.

Already established through their 1992 documentary *Brother's Keeper*, they had HBO bankrolling them. But what they found in their river's edge was more lurid than fiction.

As *Paradise Lost* begins, three 8-year-old boys have been murdered near Interstate 40. Police videotape taken at the river-bank scene reveals that they've been sexually attacked. One has had his genitals removed.

Outraged, the community puts the police under the gun to do something. A month later, the cops produce. Three arrests are made in what was suggested is a Satanic cult. Jessie Misskelley, 17, admits to taking part in the killings and names Jason Baldwin, 16, and Damien Echols, 18, as his accomplices.

Blood rituals! Dog slaughtering! Heavy metal Metallica! At their trials, it matters little that Misskelley, with an IQ of 72, was shown to be easily suggestible, or that there was little physical evidence linking any of them to the crime.

But it matters one heck of a lot that Echols wears black, reads Aleister Crowley and says he's a Wiccan. In West Memphis, being a Wiccan doesn't carry quite the weight being a Rotarian might.

The hapless trio - Misskelley is uncomprehending, Baldwin utterly resigned, Echols, preening and vain - doesn't have a chance, not in this town.

But, then again, the town doesn't have much of a chance, not in this doc - particularly when everyone is shown to be, at best, a bunch of southern crackers, red-necked from the heels up or, at worst, cornpone geeks chewing on hatred like so much chaw tobacco.

But don't we know this cast of real-life rubes already? Indeed, aren't they almost stock documentary characters whenever northern cineastes need a bit of gothic Americana to give us a rural shock.

A similar crowd shows up Salesman (only they're in New England and Florida). They show up in Errol Morris's *The Thin Blue Line* (in Dallas). The women are bitter and bulgy. The men are stone-faced and crazed-looking.

But boy can they hate. And you sense they're been set up by Berlinger and Sinofsky no less than the teenagers were by the town.

Admittedly, the documentarians have gone out of their way to say they weren't taking sides. If there's any finger-pointing it's in the direction of the West Memphis legal system, said Berlinger, because there was "an incredibly weak case against these kids."

Actually, *Paradise* makes a case against anyone who'd send the kids down the river - particularly John Mark Byers, the father of Christopher Byers, the castrated victim.

Byers is first seen ranting madly near where the bodies are found. Later, in church, he sings some gospel. Still later, he's shown shooting holes in a pumpkin, pretending it's the head of an accused: "I don't blowed you half to Tucson."

But Byers caused further confusion when he handed over to Berlinger and Sinofsky a knife that may have some bearing on the case.

"We were in an incredibly difficult legal, moral and ethical dilemma," Berlinger explained. "We feel strongly you shouldn't change the outcome of the story you're following. We were concerned about being dragged into our own story. We felt badly about adding to the man's pain. There was a professional worry, too. We thought it was going to shut the film down."

The knife was turned over to the investigators - HBO insisted - and the teens were nevertheless imprisoned.

"There is a point of view in the film," said Berlinger. "It's not smashed over your head. We don't try to dot every 'T' and cross every 'T.' We ask our audiences to weigh every bit of information. Frankly, 15 per cent of the people walk away thinking the kids are guilty."

But mostly you don't. Still, whatever balance goes missing is made up in the lure of the tabloid headline-screaming mystery of it all - the sheer beguiling uncertainty.

GRAPHIC: 2 Photos: MURDER TALE: Filmmakers Bruce Sinofsky, above left, and Joe Berlinger based their documentary *Paradise Lost* on the murders of, from left, Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore. Three teens, from bottom left, Jessie Misskelley, Damien Echols and Jason Baldwin, were arrested. [movie](#); [review](#)

LOAD-DATE: March 25, 1999

EXHIBIT A-110



Copyright 1997 The Morning Call, Inc.
Morning Call (Allentown, PA)

January 18, 1997, Saturday, THIRD EDITION
Correction Appended

SECTION: ENTERTAINMENT, Pg. A37, SPOTLIGHT

LENGTH: 979 words

HEADLINE: SPOTLIGHT ON BRUCE SINOFSKY...JOEL BERLINGER;
DOCUMENTARIANS TASTE BITTER FRUIT IN 'PARADISE'

BYLINE: AMY LONGSDORF; (A free-lance story for The Morning Call)

BODY:

It's not unusual for a filmmaker to know how well his last movie did at the box office. But it is strange for him know how well it did in Allentown.

On the telephone from his New York office, Bruce Sinofsky is quoting numbers he seems to have committed to memory. "We did \$ 2,300 in a week," he says, describing the box-office performance of 1992's "Brother's Keeper" during its 19th Street Theatre run. "That's good. Allentown loves us."

Sinofsky is not participating in idle boasting. He's just answering a question about the commercial viability of his and partner Joe Berlinger's second documentary, "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills." The movie, which begins a week-long run tomorrow at the 19th Street, has been even more critically acclaimed than "Brother's Keeper." But audiences have been reluctant to line up for this chilling portrait of murder in a small Southern town.

The 2-1/2-hour movie is, at times, difficult to watch, but after it's over you'll be glad you kept your eyes open. What propels "Paradise Lost" is the brutal slaying of three 8-year-old West Memphis, Ark., boys -- Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore.

After the mutilated bodies were discovered on May 6, 1993, in a shallow creek along an interstate, the small town demanded justice. The police delivered three teen-agers accused of belonging to a devil-worshipping cult and killing the boys in a satanic ritual. There was no hard evidence linking Jessie Misskelley Jr., 17, Jason Baldwin, 16, and Damien Echols, 18, to the crimes, but the slightly retarded Misskelley made a confession after 10 hours of questioning.

Originally broadcast on HBO, the documentary is being distributed by the filmmakers' own company after independent studios such as Miramax and October Films turned it down, primarily because of the grim subject matter.

"The people who go see 'Paradise Lost' are very moved by it, but it's hard to get people to go to a movie like this," admits Sinofsky. "I'll be very curious to see how we do in Allentown this time around. 'Brother's Keeper' was a bitter-sweet movie; 'Paradise Lost' is bitter."

At the heart of "Paradise Lost" is an indictment of a community that believes the teen-agers were guilty of murder simply because they owned books on witchcraft, dressed in black and listened to Metallica records. "These guys were weird, but there are lots of kids in Greenwich Village who are just as weird and nobody believes they're murderers," says Sinofsky, 40.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about "Paradise Lost" is that it's not a cut-and-dried dissection of the fallibility of the justice system a la Errol Morris' "The Thin Blue Line" (1988). It's impossible to watch Sinofsky and Berlinger's

SPOTLIGHT ON BRUCE SINOFSKY...JOEL BERLINGER;DOCUMENTARY 'PARADISE LOST' TASTE BITTER FRUIT IN 'PARADISE' Morning Call (Allentown, PA) January 18, 1997, Saturday,

movie and believe that the three teen-agers received a fair trial. But it's not impossible to watch the movie and believe they might be guilty of murder.

While making the movie, the filmmaker says he changed his mind about the boys' guilt and innocence several times. "From the news articles, we were sort of convinced that they were guilty," relates Sinofsky. "So when we got down to Arkansas, we expected to find a real-life 'River's Edge.' But instantly we realized that there was more than one perspective. I'm 95 percent certain these kids didn't do the crimes, but I can see how you could watch the movie and come to another conclusion."

Unfortunately, the fey Echols does little to help his own cause. In one of the movie's creepiest shots, the camera catches him vainly preening before a hand mirror, seemingly oblivious to the day's gruesome testimony.

"It's indicative of his personality; he is a narcissist," says Sinofsky about including the strange shot. "Teen-agers think they are indestructible. He firmly believed he didn't do the crime, so how could he be convicted of it? There's a certain smugness and arrogance to that. It's a casual indifference to what's going on."

In a way, "Paradise Lost" puts its viewers in the jury box by serving up crime-scene videos, courtroom testimony and interviews with all of the participants.

"The beauty is that our audience is given a context for the courtroom testimony which, unfortunately, the real jury didn't receive," notes Sinofsky.

Sinofsky and Berlinger found themselves becoming more than mere observers of the trial when the vaguely sinister Mark Byers, one of the victims' stepfathers, handed cinematographer Doug Cooper a bloody knife similar to the one used in the crimes.

"When Doug showed it to us, we couldn't believe it," recalls Sinofsky. "It put us in an odd position. We were concerned that if we turned the knife over, it would shut the film down because Mark would feel that he couldn't trust us anymore." In the end the filmmakers made "the civic decision" and handed the knife over to police.

As it turns out, the blood on the knife wound up matching both Byers' and his stepson's basic DNA type, but the police felt the evidence was inconclusive. It's unfollowed leads like the bloody knife that convinced followers of the case, including O.J. Simpson attorney Barry Scheck, that the teen-agers didn't receive a fair trial.

Since the movie was completed, Sinofsky and Berlinger have collected enough information for a sequel, which may end up on HBO.

On Dec. 2, 1996, the convictions of all three defendants were upheld by the Arkansas State Supreme Court -- an unhappy footnote to a tragic case. "West Memphis is one of the saddest places I've ever been," says Sinofsky. "In two years, the boys will wind up in federal court. But I'm not hopeful that they'll get off."

For information about "Paradise Lost" and updates on the appeals of Echols and Baldwin before the U.S. Supreme Court, the filmmakers have created a web page: <http://www.gothamcity.com/paradiselost>

Amy Longsdorf is a free-lance writer.

CORRECTION-DATE: January 21, 1997, Tuesday

CORRECTION:

*A Web site for the film "Paradise Lost" was incorrect in Saturday's entertainment section. The correct site is [http://](http://www.gothamcity.com/paradiselost/)

www.gothamcity.com/paradiselost/

GRAPHIC: PHOTO by UNKNOWN. CAPTION: Bruce Sinofsky, left, and Joe Berlinger made the documentary 'Paradise Lost,' which opens tomorrow at the 19th Street Theatre, Allentown.

LOAD-DATE: April 26, 1997

EXHIBIT A-111



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San Jose Mercury News (California)

DECEMBER 6, 1996 Friday MORNING FINAL EDITION

SECTION: EYE; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 866 words

HEADLINE: WHEN INNOCENCE DIES A CAPTIVATING TRUE TALE OF LIVES LOST, LIVES WASTED

BYLINE: STEPHEN WHITTY, Mercury News Film Writer

BODY:

IT IS an unspeakable crime
and yet, tragically, it is not unimaginable.

We have seen it too often on our front pages and late-night news for it to be that. A child disappears. A search is mounted. And when the hunt ends, it is because the police have found what no parent ever wants to see.

That grimly familiar story was played out in triplicate in West Memphis, Ark., in 1993, when the corpses of three missing 8-year-old boys were found by the banks of a muddy creek. The children had been bludgeoned and drowned. One had been sexually mutilated.

The crimes shocked the tiny town. When police and prosecutors triumphantly announced a month later that they had filed murder charges against three suspects, they were greeted with applause.

But then, suggests "Paradise Lost," another crime began.

"Paradise Lost: the Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," was directed by the terrific "Brother's Keeper" team of Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky. And it just may be the best documentary of the year.

It is certainly one of the most chilling. Because "Paradise Lost" is willing to look at other nightmares beyond the horrors of the crime itself. It's willing to examine the spectacle of a justice system more interested in closure than killers. It's willing to indict a small town's fear of the unknown and its horror of non-conformity.

In many ways, that's the theme underlying the film. West Memphis, Ark., was a close-knit, conservative, homogeneous community. Because these murders didn't reflect the town's image of itself, people seemed incapable of believing the murderers would. Trying to make the facts fit, the police looked for suspects who didn't.

They found them in three teenage boys. That the teens had never been in serious trouble before and had families who vouched for them didn't matter. The boys wore black T-shirts and listened to heavy metal; one boy was even called Damien, like that kid in "The Omen," and spent his spare time doodling pentagrams.

Obviously, they were members of a satanic cult, officials declared. After all, who else but a Satanist could have done such a thing?

The stories of other crimes prove that plenty of people can, however. And slowly "Paradise Lost" begins to hint that someone else may have been at work here, as well.

Berlinger and Sinofsky build their case carefully. We learn that, although the police knew a bloody stranger had been seen in town on the night of the murders, they never pursued the lead. We hear the suspects' parents trying to undo the demonization of their children ("Johnny Cash wears black, doesn't he?" one father protests weakly). And we see

WHEN INNOCENCE DIES A DEACTIVATING TRUE TALE OF LIVES LOST, LIVES WASTED San Jose Mercury News (California) DECEMBER 6, 1996 Friday MORNING FINAL EDITION

various parents of the murdered boys scream for vengeance, flirt for the camera and - in this true story's most amazing turn - join the list of suspects.

Eventually, one of the boys - a 17-year-old with a 72 IQ - confesses and implicates the other two. Although he refuses to stick to his story in court (and later complains that his confession had been coerced), the three boys go to trial. And the movie - now switching from news reports and jailhouse interviews to courtroom coverage - picks up speed.

Along with that increased pace comes a gathering feeling of doom. Just as it becomes clear that the state has no physical evidence at all, it grows even clearer that the prosecutors do not need it. They have anger on their side. They have fear.

They also have Damien Echols. Longhaired, literate, vaguely effeminate - this oldest of the three defendants must have been a favorite target of the good ol' boys of West Memphis. How did he ever survive high school, you may wonder. How did he even make it to 18?

On the stand, though, he moves beyond the taunts of schoolyard bullies into real danger.

It is partly a danger of his own making. Superior and smugly bored, Echols treats his accusers and their questions with elegant disdain; it is an attitude you can imagine he has worked hard to cultivate in this small town.

Unfortunately, it is precisely the wrong face to wear in court. Because what Echols doesn't see is that his calm comes across as complicity; what he's incapable of realizing is that his little lectures on the true nature of Wicca only convince everyone that he worships Satan himself.

Although Sinofsky and Berlinger are clearly convinced that these three teens did not get a fair trial, their film is fair to both sides. There are no staged re-enactments, or "ambush" interviews. There is no shortage of bad behavior or suspicious attitudes on the part of anyone. Even if the filmmakers have made up their minds, the film allows us to make up our own.

There have been developments in the case since this film was first screened at festivals and shown on HBO. Both the victims' families and the defendants' have faced disasters and divorce. Arguments over the facts continue, and appeal efforts drag on. Reportedly, local feeling about the crimes still runs so high that, when supporters tried to set up a fund for the three teens, no Arkansas bank would accept the account.

But two facts remain incontrovertible: Three lives were stolen in West Memphis in 1993. And three other lives were thrown away.

NOTES: Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills

(star)(star)(star)(star)

* Rated: No MPAA rating (but might be R for gore, language, adult situations)

* Directors: Bruce Sinofsky and Joe Berlinger

* Running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes REVIEW

GRAPHIC: Photos (5);

PHOTO:

The victims: Steven Branch, left,

[961206 EY 7 1]

PHOTO:

Christopher Byers,

[961206 EY 7 2]

PHOTO:

Michael Moore.

[961206 EY 7 3]

PHOTO:

Authorities believe Damien Echols is a member of a satanic cult.

[961206 EY 6]

o

PHOTO:

Damien Echols, shown in this police mug shot, is the oldest of three defendants in the brutal Arkansas murders of three 8-year-olds.

[961206 EY 5]

LOAD-DATE: October 23, 2002

EXHIBIT A-112



Copyright 1996 Knoxville News-Sentinel Co.
Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee)

November 16, 1996, Saturday

SECTION: Family and Religion; Pg. B6

LENGTH: 444 words

HEADLINE: Documentary on W. Memphis child murders raises troubling questions

BYLINE: By Betsy Pickle, News-Sentinel film critic

BODY:

Nothing outrages a community more than having its children murdered, but "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" suggests that something should.

The film -- jointly produced, directed and edited by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky -- is a documentary that examines the aftermath of a triple homicide in West Memphis, Ark.

The tale begins in May 1993, when the mutilated bodies of three 8-year-olds -- Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore -- were found along a creek bank in an area known as Robin Hood Hills.

A month later, West Memphis police came up with Jessie Misskelley Jr., a 17-year-old with an IQ of 72, who confessed that he restrained one child and watched as Damien Echols, 18, and Jason Baldwin, 16, tortured and murdered the boys.

The filmmakers tune in to the media frenzy, which spirals out of control with reports of the suspects' involvement in satanic rituals and orgies. They spend time with the parents of the victims, whose grief fluctuates between despondency and biblical wrath. They seek out the parents of the accused and find loyalty and love.

And then there are the suspects themselves, average-looking heavy-metal fans who aren't so average in West Memphis. Says Echols: "We were the obvious choice because we stood out from everybody else."

Without slanting toward either side, Berlinger and Sinofsky raise the question of how much justice was available to the teenagers. In court, the lack of physical evidence is brushed aside. Echols' interest in Wicca and his penchant for the color black are made much of.

Told without narration, "Paradise Lost" unfolds suspensefully and cagily. There's not a superfluous shot in the 21/2-hour film. Berlinger and Sinofsky's incredible editing pulsates with tension and electricity. They avoid an obsession with details, concentrating instead on drama. The film has its lighter moments, though some of those are more surreal than strictly humorous.

The movie prompts two thoughts of spine-chilling proportions. One is that if Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley are innocent, the real killer or killers are still on the loose. The second, brought on by the recurring images of the victims' photographs, is that eight years on, the little boys probably would have turned out much like the teenagers accused of killing them.

While there's no way of knowing if the film will keep an innocent person from being put to death, at least it has raised questions -- and awareness. As disturbing as it is to watch "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," it's even more frightening to contemplate a world in which the film did not exist.

LOAD-DATE: November 18, 1996

EXHIBIT A-113



Copyright 1996 Knoxville News-Sentinel Co.
Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee)

November 15, 1996, Friday

SECTION: Detours; Pg. T10

LENGTH: 1591 words

HEADLINE: In Search of Reality; Filmmakers seek to pierce witch-hunt mentality in documentary of children's murders

BYLINE: By Betsy Pickle News-Sentinel film critic

BODY:

Filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky were plied with gifts of brownies and cakes from people in the rural upstate New York town where they shot their hit 1992 documentary, "Brother's Keeper."

In contrast, while making "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," Berlinger and Sinofsky were treated to icy stares and death threats as they followed the case of three teenagers who were arrested and tried for the murders of three 8-year-old boys in West Memphis, Ark.

"We paid a very high emotional price for this film," says Berlinger, speaking by phone from the Manhattan office of the duo's production company, Creative Thinking International.

"Paradise Lost," which opens today at Downtown West, carries the Berlinger-Sinofsky stamp of telling a nonfiction story in a dramatic style that steers clear of traditional documentary conventions.

Underscored by the churning, chilling strains of Metallica songs, the film depicts the determination of a community to find and convict those responsible for the May 5, 1993, murders of 8-year-olds Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, whose naked, mutilated bodies were found along a creek bank in a wooded area near an interstate.

A month after the slayings, Jessie Misskelley Jr., a 17-year-old with an IQ of 72, confessed to West Memphis police that he witnessed and helped restrain one child as 18-year-old Damien Echols and 16-year-old Jason Baldwin tortured, sexually abused and murdered the boys.

With allegations of satanic rituals -- tied in with descriptions of the teenagers' fondness for heavy-metal music and black clothing -- flourishing in the media, Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley quickly were tried and found guilty in the court of public opinion. Early in 1994, they were put on trial in the Arkansas court system as well.

Berlinger and Sinofsky, alerted to the case by HBO executive Sheila Nevins, with whom they were working on another project, traveled to West Memphis in the summer of 1994 to see if they had the makings of a film. They ended up spending nine months in Arkansas, returning to New York with 150 hours of film and videotape.

"We went down there thinking we were making a film about disaffected youth, sort of a real-life 'River's Edge,'" says Sinofsky. "We had no idea that this was gonna be the film we ended up making."

In fact, Berlinger and Sinofsky, who jointly produced, directed and edited both "Brother's Keeper" and "Paradise Lost," were apprehensive about making a movie about a murder case because they had already done that in "Brother's Keeper." The critically acclaimed 1992 film told the story of the three surviving elderly Ward brothers, centering on Delbert, accused of murdering his brother, Bill, as he slept in the bed the two had shared their whole lives.

In Search of Reality; Filmmakers seek to pierce witch-hunt mentality in documentary of children's murders Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee) November 15, 1996, Friday

"We really didn't want to be known as the murder-trial experts," says Sinofsky. But what they found in West Memphis, as they had in Munnsville, N.Y., was that their story was less about the murder or the trial than about the accused and their community.

"Now that both films are finished, I'm thrilled that we made this film . . . they're great companion pieces because they're the mirror images of one another," says Berlinger. "The community in upstate New York rejected stereotypes that the police were peddling and embraced the Ward brothers . . . The town exemplified very decent, core-American values.

"This film is the exact opposite. The community rushed to accept the stereotypes, thought ill of somebody based on their (everyday) behavior and refused to listen to some rational thinking, and this witch-hunt mentality took over.

"In 'Brother's Keeper' the system ultimately works, and in this film the system has failed miserably. . . it's naive to think that either film is America. Both things can happen. So it's good that we have a body of work that covers both ends of the spectrum.

"The filmmakers say it's not hard to understand why the tenor of community emotion was so different in the two films. In Munnsville, residents were dealing with a slightly suspicious death of a reclusive farmer whose illiterate brother was being railroaded toward a murder conviction.

In West Memphis, there was no doubt that murder had been committed, and against three schoolchildren whose parents were left to grieve and question in a relentlessly public forum.

Berlinger and Sinofsky, too, were deeply affected by the horror of the crime, especially since Berlinger's first child and Sinofsky's third were both born during the film's production.

"You'd go back to your hotel room at night, and sometimes you'd just want to cry because you've just been around such grief, and hatred towards the other side," says Berlinger, 35. "It was a hard film to make. There were very few warm and cozy moments.

"What bothered them as much as the murders was their observation that the accused teenagers were not receiving a fair trial.

"These kids were found guilty based on perception, not the reality of the situation," says Sinofsky, 40. "Our film is as close to the reality of the situation as ever will be presented about this case."

Berlinger and Sinofsky worked patiently to get access to the three teenagers, as well as to their families and the families of the victims. "Paradise Lost," made on a budget of only \$ 750,000, moves from the murder site to the courtroom, with side trips to the jail cells, trailer parks, support-group meetings and other venues where its subjects could be found.

While the accused typically maintained their innocence, what struck the filmmakers were points that were made effectively at trial:

That the confession of Misskelley was the result of leading questions posed by police during an interrogation that lasted more than 10 hours, though only two hours were recorded, and contained no self-generated narrative with information beyond what investigators already had;

That no definitive physical evidence was presented to tie Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley to the murders, especially in the form of a murder weapon or even blood;

That the prosecution's main "proof" of the young men's guilt -- which was echoed in sensational detail in the media -- was that "ringleader" Echols liked heavy-metal music, wore black clothing, dyed his hair black and read books about the occult and Wicca, or white witchcraft.

"This is poor man's justice," says Berlinger. "O.J.'s obviously guilty and got off, and these kids are probably innocent and got convicted.

"While 'Paradise Lost' elicited a positive response at the Hot Springs Film Festival last month and won widespread acclaim from critics in Arkansas, it didn't do well when it played in theaters in the state. Part of that can be attributed to the moviegoing public's general reluctance to go see documentaries, but Sinofsky believes that in Arkansas there was a greater prejudice at work.

In Search of Reality; Filmmaker seeks to pierce witch-hunt mentality in documentary of children's murders Knoxville News-Sentinel (Tennessee) November 15, 1996, Friday

"When people say that they don't want to see it because they don't want to relive it, or 'these kids are definitely guilty and why do I need to see it,' I think it's a cop-out," he says. "I don't think that they have to go see the film so we make money, but I think (they need to see it) for themselves.

"If -- God forbid -- the situation was happening to them, they would want people to be looking at their situation with their eyes open, not with their eyes closed. It's frustrating to me that people will not take the responsibility, especially people in Arkansas, who lived through this, to see the other side. . . . what we feel like we've presented is the antithesis of what the local press was reporting."

Financed by HBO, "Paradise Lost" made its debut at the Sundance Film Festival in January and has since been shown at more than 30 festivals, winning numerous awards. Following the pattern of such films as "The Last Seduction," "Red Rock West," "Anne Frank Remembered" and "The Celluloid Closet," all of which premiered on cable and went on to theatrical runs, "Paradise Lost" had three screenings on HBO in June before starting its theatrical run in September in New York.

Berlinger and Sinofsky are distributing the film themselves, as they did "Brother's Keeper." So far it has played in more than 50 cities, and the majority of its reviews have been positive, if not outright raves.

"But it's interesting," says Berlinger, who was swayed away from a pro-death-penalty stance because of what he saw while making the movie. "The harsher the criticism of the film, when it gets even more extreme, when people think that we've made fun of these people or that there's no reason to make a film about this group of people, that's when the viewer is bringing their extreme prejudice into the situation."

Almost all of the principal players in "Paradise Lost" have now seen the film, and Sinofsky says their reaction has been favorable.

"The question we always ask them is, did they regret letting Joe and Bruce into their lives?" says Sinofsky. "All of them have said, 'You did what you said you were gonna do, and we don't regret it.' By and large, everybody felt that we were fair and that our film represented pretty fairly what was going on."

"The one thing that always troubles me . . . is the contradiction," says Berlinger. "God forbid any kind of tragedy touch my life -- I would never allow filmmakers in to make a film about it.

"On the other hand, I think we are good stewards of the opportunity given to us. Even though it's a sensational story, our film is not sensational."

GRAPHIC: "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" examines the impact on West Memphis, Ark., of the murders of three 8-year-olds -- top row, from left, Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore -- and the subsequent prosecution of teenagers Jessie Misskelley, Damien Echols and Jason Baldwin. PHOTOS NOT RETAINED IN LIBRARY

(Color) New York-based filmmakers Bruce Sinofsky, left, and Joe Berlinger jointly produced, directed and edited the nonfiction film "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills." ; PHOTO NOT RETAINED IN LIBRARY

LOAD-DATE: November 18, 1996

EXHIBIT A-114



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The San Francisco Chronicle

NOVEMBER 15, 1996, FRIDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: DAILY DATEBOOK; Pg. C3

LENGTH: 587 words

HEADLINE: Dark Side of 'Paradise'
Murder trial film takes grim view of small-town justice

BYLINE: PETER STACK, Chronicle Staff Critic

BODY:

4 Star Rating

PARADISE LOST: THE CHILD MURDERS AT ROBIN HOOD HILLS: Documentary. Directed by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky. (Not rated. 150 minutes. At the Lumiere, the UC in Berkeley, the Lark in Larkspur.)

Lurid yet mesmerizing, "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" is an emotion-charged documentary depicting a grim side of small-town America and a court trial that may have clouded the truth in the wrenching aftermath of three particularly twisted child murders.

Filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, whose poignant documentary "Brother's Keeper" is a picnic by comparison, made "Paradise Lost," their latest film, for HBO, which aired it last June. Now the documentary is playing in theaters -- opening today at the Lumiere, the UC in Berkeley and the Lark in Marin.

The 2 1/2-hour film delves into a shattering year in the life of West Memphis, Ark., after three 8-year-old boys were mutilated and murdered. Graphic but brief footage of the grisly crime scene opens the documentary, and there are more shocking visual references later on in the trial sequences. Though the film is not rated, the images are unusually grim.

A TOWN'S PSYCHE

But the film dwells equally on the effects of the crimes on the psyche of the town where Jessie Misskelley, an undersized 17-year-old with an IQ of 72, implicated two of his buddies, Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, and Damien Wayne Echols, 18, in the murders. An angry community demanded immediate justice for the deaths of Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, whose nude bodies were found in a wooded creek along Interstate 40. One had been hog-tied, another skinned.

Police quickly arrested the teenagers, who were heavy-metal music fans with an interest in witchcraft. Were the boys devil worshippers? Did satanic ritual lead to the murders? Echols in particular drew locals' suspicion because he had an unusual haircut, had changed his name to Damien and had a penchant for black clothes.

"Paradise Lost" is artful and audacious filmmaking, but to some it may have the ring of the exploitive as well. The events of "Paradise Lost" were filmed as they occurred, including interviews with the dead children's family members, seized by a seething spirit of vengeance. With the cameras poking everywhere, the biggest event is the community outrage that condemned the three suspects before they ever stepped into a courthouse. The film reveals a town where poverty and inadequate education are everyday factors. Fundamentalist religion also plays a major role.

Dark Side of 'Paradise' Murder trial film takes grim view of small-town justice The San Francisco Chronicle
NOVEMBER 15, 1996, FRIDAY, FINAL EDITION

Gaining unrestricted access to the trial, the filmmakers show that police investigators simply lost key evidence. A knife that could have been the murder weapon, along with a potential suspect -- the eccentric stepfather of one of the murder victims -- were largely ignored in deliberations. The suspects always maintained their innocence.

IMPACT OF THE CAMERAS

Although the directors, noted for what they term nonfiction feature films, let their cameras wander, the question inevitably raised is whether the filming caused people to change their behavior while cameras rolled. If so, the film's own search for truth seems compromised -- but "Paradise Lost" succeeds as bitter drama nonetheless.

Berlinger will introduce "Paradise Lost" at the 7 and 9 p.m. screenings at the Lumiere tonight. He will also speak about the film at 8 p.m. tomorrow at the San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut St.; call (415) 552-8760 for information.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO,Damien Wayne Echols, one of the accused, in the documentary 'Paradise Lost'

LOAD-DATE: November 15, 1996

EXHIBIT A-115



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Austin American-Statesman (Texas)

October 31, 1996

SECTION: XL Ent; Pg. 52

LENGTH: 1325 words

HEADLINE: Justice denied?; Documentary filmmakers cast doubt on verdicts in Arkansas killings

BYLINE: ANN HORNADAY

BODY:

Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky made their first big splash in the world of movies with "Brother's Keeper," a graceful documentary released in 1992 about three brothers on an upstate New York farm who became entangled in a possible fratricide. "Brother's Keeper," which won the 1992 Sundance Film Festival audience award as well as a slew of honors from critics throughout the country, showed the grim side of life in a rural community, fraught with economic hardship and longstanding prejudices. But ultimately the film's darker material was redeemed by the unforgettable -- and highly lovable -- people of Munnsville, N.Y., that Berlinger and Sinofsky captured on camera.

No such characters emerge in the team's latest film. "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" (playing in Austin at the Dobie Theatre) tells a harrowing story of three 8-year-old boys who were mutilated and murdered in the impoverished community of West Memphis, Ark., and the three teen-agers who were convicted of the murders.

The 2 1/2-hour film introduces a range of characters, from the parents of victims Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, to the families of the accused teens (Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley, Jr., Charles Baldwin), as well as their legal team. But unlike "Brother's Keeper," which was studded with moments of great warmth and wisdom from its principals, "Paradise Lost" paints an unremittingly pathetic portrait of its lead subjects.

But the two films do share at least one similarity: In both cases, Berlinger and Sinofsky spent a great deal of time before a camera was even turned on, getting to know the people they would be filming over the coming months. In so doing, they created a rapport with their subjects that made possible moments of almost unheard-of intimacy.

"If you have good soil and you plant a seed and you water it, you get a good flower," explained Sinofsky when he and Berlinger were reached by phone at their office in New York. "That's what we do. We set the groundwork where they feel comfortable enough to allow their inner soul and personalities to come out."

ENTWINED IN SUBJECTS' LIVES

The process, said Berlinger, ensured that otherwise press-shy subjects of "Paradise Lost" allowed the camera into sensitive family meetings, legal strategy sessions and everyday occurrences that proved to be highly revelatory, like when two of the victims' fathers took the filmmakers along on some target practice. "It's just a cumulative effect of how we go into a situation," said Berlinger of the team's access to their subjects' most private moments. "We treat it like we're college exchange students, where we really immerse ourselves in peoples' lives, and treat our subjects in such a way that we became invited guests."

Still, the modus operandi has its costs: Berlinger and Sinofsky still find that they are entwined with the subjects' lives, which have been punctuated with even more tragedy since the murders in 1993.

Justice denied?; Documentary filmmakers cast doubt on verdicts in Arkansas killings Austin American-Statesman (Texas) October 31, 1996

Among the victims' families, Melissa Byers died last March of as-yet undetermined causes; Mark Byers was convicted of contributing to the delinquency of a minor for forcing two boys to settle a fight at knifepoint; Diane Moore was convicted of negligent homicide in a drunk driving accident; and Terry Hobbs (Steven Branch's step-father) pled guilty to shooting his brother-in-law.

Damien Echols' mother was at a party when her boyfriend shot an ex-boyfriend to death; and Jessie Misskelley Sr. was arrested for drug charges and possession of a firearm.

"It's a different kind of contact than it was with the people up in Munnsville, which was very informal," said Sinofsky of the periodic phone calls he and Berlinger make to the people of "Paradise Lost."

"The hard part is that the conversation tends to drift back to the event, or some current tragedy that's going on" Sinofsky continued. "Whereas when you talk to the people in Munnsville they tell you, 'We're doing this, we're doing that.' It's a different kind of talk."

"This film has a lot of nightmarish, unpleasant memories for us," added Berlinger, "and 'Brother's Keeper' was an utter delight to make and we have a very soft spot in our hearts for everything associated with it, including the people."

PUSHING A POINT OF VIEW

When "Paradise Lost" had its world premiere at the Sundance Film Festival last January, Berlinger had been circumspect regarding his goals for the film. When asked if the team wanted it to be like "The Thin Blue Line" -- Errol Morris' 1988 true-crime film that resulted in a falsely accused man being released from jail -- he demurred, saying that the filmmakers didn't have an opinion on the convicted teens' guilt or innocence.

What Berlinger couldn't say then was that that was the party line from Home Box Office, the film's executive producers, who commissioned the film. "It was decided by all the powers that be that we should not take any kind of stance and just say that this is a story, we're showing both sides, you decide," explained Berlinger. "That was more or less an HBO-mandated decision and we all agreed to it."

But now that the television window has closed -- "Paradise Lost" was shown on HBO in June -- Berlinger and Sinofsky have decided to take more of a stand. "It's a little disingenuous to have that kind of a stance with this kind of a film. Not disingenuous. It's wimpy. You can't walk away from this film without realizing that the filmmakers are at least saying that the kids deserve another trial, and there's a ton of reasonable doubt," said Berlinger. "Buried beneath the surface (of the film), and not too deeply, is the point of view that the kids didn't get a fair trial. And we are actively promoting that. We have a website (<http://www.gothamcity.com/paradiselost/>) that says that and we're not afraid to say that anymore."

A telling indication that "Paradise Lost" is succeeding is that it has convinced many people in Arkansas that the three teen-agers who were convicted -- all of whom affected pop-Satanic accoutrements like long hair, black clothing and death metal music -- were done a disservice.

"I think the most revealing one was that we got a phone call from Dr. Jarvis, who is the minister at the church we filmed that Mark Byers was singing at," recalled Sinofsky, "and he said, 'I wanted to let you know that a small number of my congregation who were there when you filmed came up to me (the day after the HBO broadcast) and said that they were having some second thoughts about the guilt of these three that were convicted. They felt that maybe they deserved another trial. That was an unsolicited call and we felt pretty good about it, because we always felt that only one half of the story was being told and that was the dark side.'"

MOVING ON TO FICTION

Still, the dark side seems to be what Berlinger and Sinofsky do best. They start filming another HBO documentary in December, and although they declined to shared details, Berlinger did allow that, "It will be the present tense unfolding of some American sub- culture."

But if the filmmakers have their way, that might be their last documentary for a while: Both Berlinger and Sinofsky have feature fiction scripts floating around the Fine Lines and Miramax of the world. Documentaries may be hotter than they've ever been, in no small measure due to Berlinger and Sinofsky's own efforts, but the movies are still the business of dreams.

Justice denied?; Documentary filmmakers cast doubt on verdicts in Arkansas killings Austin American-Statesman (Texas) October 31, 1996

"People talk about this Golden Age of documentaries and it's true but it's not really true," said Berlinger. "One quarter of one percent of the domestic box office gross in 1995 -- and that was with 'Hoop Dreams,' 'Unzipped' and 'Crumb' -- were documentaries. In reality, (nonfiction) is still a minor, minor pimple on the behind of the film business."

"But," said Sinofsky before ringing off, "it's a juicy pimple."

GRAPHIC: Damien Echols was one of three teens convicted in West Memphis, Ark., in the mutilation killings of three 8-year-old boys. 'Paradise Lost' explores the question of whether the teens got a fair trial. Lyman Ward on the Ward farm in a scene of 'Brother's Keeper,' which was filmed on a farm in upstate New York. The producers have fond memories of their experience of being embraced by townspeople. gannett suburban newspaper photo Bruce Sinofsky, left, and Joe Berlinger made 'Paradise Lost' after months of pre-camera work. They created a rapport with their subjects that made possible moments of almost unheard-of intimacy.

LOAD-DATE: November 26, 1996

EXHIBIT A-116



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October 29, 1996, Tuesday, Final Edition

SECTION: Part C; METROPOLITAN TIMES; ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT; MOVIES; Pg. C11

LENGTH: 682 words

HEADLINE: Brutal murders shock 'Paradise';
Documentary casts doubt on trial

BYLINE: Gary Arnold; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

"Paradise Lost," exclusively at the Key, tends to echo the ironic biblical connotations of "Brother's Keeper," the earlier small-town crime saga compiled by the documentary team of Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky. Once again, the factual circumstances prove gruesomely down to earth and close to home, exposing the vulnerabilities of people in "heartland" communities forced to cope with brutalities that sever pious and neighborly sentiments.

Mr. Berlinger and Mr. Sinofsky have begun to look like astute, artful specialists in post-mortem inquiry. "Brothers" explored events in a farm community in upstate New York. The new movie, originally shown on Home Box Office, which bankrolled almost a year of patient and methodical shooting, goes to the trailer-park enclaves of West Memphis, Ark. Its grim pretext is reflected in a subtitle: "The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills."

Robin Hood Hills is a wooded area near Interstate 40 in West Memphis. The mutilated bodies of three 8-year-old boys were recovered from a shallow creek in the woods on March 5, 1993. A month later, the police arrested three teenage boys who eventually were brought to trial. One suspect, 17-year-old Jesse Misskelley, voluntarily confessed and implicated two others, 18-year-old Damien Echols and 16-year-old Jason Baldwin.

By the time the filmmakers, based in New York City, were sufficiently intrigued to follow the case, they probably had forfeited the chance to document a key element that might have been impossible to document anyway: a prejudicial climate of opinion that grew up around the defendants, suspected of occult and satanic practices on the strength of hearsay and slightly notorious behavior, such as wearing black garb, reading literature about witchcraft and listening to heavy-metal music.

The filmmakers did arrive in time to gain the confidence of families on opposite sides of a case that provoked shock and bitterness. They also were allowed to monitor the prosecutors and defense attorneys and to videotape at least portions of two separate trials. Jesse Misskelley stood trial alone, Damien Echols and Jason Baldwin together.

Although they avoid formal editorial comment, the filmmakers obviously regard the verdicts as a miscarriage of justice. Indeed, they felt duty-bound to reveal a potential piece of evidence to the court that may cloud the verdicts. It seems pointless to play fictionalized games of suspense with a chronicle that cruelly has cost three young lives and might unjustly cost three others. I think it's fair to say that Mr. Berlinger and Mr. Sinofsky sincerely consider this case doubtful though officially closed.

Mr. Berlinger and Mr. Sinofsky seem to make things happen by hanging around and recording impressions from contradictory, sometimes antagonistic, participants. A constant in both movies is a fundamentally tragic recognition of how life inevitably mocks the dead and victimized. The camera is a shameful, embarrassing witness to certain kinds of human vanity and frailty in these circumstances.

"Paradise" bears witness to bloodthirsty threats of reprisal from parents of the victims and phenomenally oblivious lapses in the young defendants. For example, the filmmakers can't resist being fascinated by Damien's hair-combing while seated in court.

Some of the most affecting scenes focus on the reflective pathos of family members trying to live with catastrophe and loss. "Paradise Lost" is conscientious about summarizing an unsavory subject and balancing human interest with morbid curiosity. Nevertheless, it makes such a strong circumstantial case for despair that avoidance will always seem a sane, merciful option.

***** THREE STARS

TITLE: "Paradise Lost"

RATING: No MPAA rating (adult subject matter - documentary account of a murder trial that incorporates graphic police photos of victims and candid testimony about pathology; occasional profanity)

CREDITS: Directed, produced and edited by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky.

RUNNING TIME: 150 minutes

MAXIMUM RATING: FOUR STARS

GRAPHIC: Photo, The murders of three 8-year-olds - (from the left) Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore - in West Memphis, Ark., set off the court case that is the subject of "Paradise Lost."

LOAD-DATE: October 29, 1996

EXHIBIT A-117



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October 25, 1996, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: WEEKEND; Pg. N46

LENGTH: 1514 words

HEADLINE: Film Capsules

BYLINE: Desson Howe (unless noted)

BODY:

OPENINGS

THE GRASS HARP (PG) -- This stultifying adaptation of the Truman Capote novel is doomed to its dusty Southern cliches -- from drawling, sentimental narration to the appearance of Piper Laurie, who always seems to be on call as a Dixie eccentric. Set in a small Southern town in the 1940s, it's about Collin Fenwick (played at first by Grayson Fricke, then Edward Furlong), who is sent to live with his second cousins after his mother dies. Of the two spinster-cousins, Collin is more drawn to the romantic Dolly Talbo (Laurie) than the fussy, severe Verena (Sissy Spacek). Dolly indulges in small-town rebellion when she falls in love with the aging, dashing Judge Cool (Walter Matthau); she also drives the locals (and Verena) crazy, when she, Collin and their feisty maid (Nell Carter) decide to live in a treehouse. This sounds better than it actually is. As directed by Charles Matthau (Walter's son), "The Grass Harp," which also features lackluster appearances by Jack Lemmon, Roddy McDowell and Mary Steenburgen, is a stringless symphony for diehard fans of the southern-fried tradition only. Contains nothing offensive. Cineplex Odeon Outer Circle 2.

HIGH SCHOOL HIGH (PG-13) -- Jon Lovitz, as a naive and idealistic teacher, makes model students of the hooligans in this timid spoof of blackboard-jungle rot like "The Substitute," "Dangerous Minds" and "Lean on Me." Set at a tumbledown school named for Hizzoner Marion Barry Jr., the movie pits the optimistic Lovitz against the Dickensian principal (Louise Fletcher) and a local gangbanger. But he finds allies in the principal's pretty assistant (Tia Carrere) and a good kid with a tough demeanor (Mekhi Phifer). Though the genre deserves a good ribbing, producers and co-writers David Zucker and Robert LoCash of the "Naked Gun" trilogy haven't bothered to take aim at the target -- much less draw their weapons. In the end, they haven't the heart to stick it either to the kids or the lovable Lovitz. Poorly directed by Hart Bochner of "PCU," the urban comedy becomes what it set out to parody: a school of naught but unrealistic dreams. Contains lewd comedy, references to drug use and rude language. Area theaters.

-- Rita Kempley

PARADISE LOST: THE CHILD MURDERS AT ROBIN HOOD HILLS (Unrated) -- Questions about the filmmakers' motives arise immediately in this HBO documentary by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky (the team that made "Brother's Keeper"). The opening shot shows three murdered 8-year-old boys (one of them genitally mutilated) lying on a river bank, as music by Metallica plays on the soundtrack. These victims (Michael Moore, Steven Branch and Christopher Byers) were found in this condition at Robin Hood Hills in West Memphis, Ark., in May 1993. Berlinger and Sinofsky pursued this story to its bitter end, which includes two trials. They spend absorbing time with almost everyone involved. We meet the three suspects: 17-year-old Jessie Misskelley, who has an IQ of 72; Jason Baldwin, 16, a boyish individual with pointed teeth; and Echols Damien Wayne, 18, a self-absorbed, funereal, witchcraft fan, who dresses in black, acts mystically and loves Metallica. While these boys are being tried, we also meet a wide variety of involved people, including Mark Byers, the strange stepfather of one of the victims, who wears snakeskin boots, fires at pumpkins (while threatening revenge on the alleged killers) and who -- in one of the movie's most bizarre turns -- offers the filmmakers a knife, which has blood traces on it. Verdicts are returned on the three boys, and the question of Mark

Byers's potential involvement is also explored. But nothing leaves us with the certainty that justice has been done. Which seems to be Berlinger and Sinofky's point. Although the filmmakers can be faulted for moral rubbernecking and for providing a repellent mirror to a repellent subject, they have uncovered an American heartland story that chills you to the bone. Co-director and producer Berlinger will attend a 6:25 screening of the movie, Friday night. Contains macabre, disgusting murder footage and bereaved parents and friends undergoing excruciating emotional pain. At the Key.

THE PROPRIETOR (R) -- Jeanne Moreau stars as "one of the most famous women in the world," who decides to return to her native France when her long-lost mother's favorite hotel goes on the auction block. The movie's directed by Ismail Merchant, co-creator of all those Merchant/Ivory British-Homes-and-Gardens films. Fine Line Features declined to screen this for review. Cineplex Odeon Janus 3.

SMALL WONDERS (G) -- This moving documentary is the real "Mr. Holland's Opus," featuring Roberta Guaspari-Tzavaras, an East Harlem violin teacher who has created a marvelous program for youngsters despite great funding difficulties involving public officials who seem to think there's too much violins in urban schools. Guaspari-Tzavaras works in three of them, toting teaching materials to grade school boys and girls who show remarkable enthusiasm, dedication and discipline, as well as tremendous respect -- and love -- for their teacher. The film, directed by Allan Miller, follows the program from first-time students (chosen by lottery) being introduced to the instrument to a grand Carnegie Hall finale that concludes with some of Guaspari-Tzavaras's older students joining such classical music superstars as Itzhak Perlman, Issac Stern and Midori for an emotionally bracing rendering of Bach's "Double Concerto for Violins." In the end, "Small Wonders" affirms the power of the arts to affect lives, underscore self-worth and teach self-discipline -- as well as the lasting impact of a great teacher. Contains nothing offensive. Cineplex Odeon Dupont Circle 5.

-- Richard Harrington

STEPHEN KING'S THINNER (R) -- The title sounds like we're announcing novelist King's triumphant weight-loss plan. In fact, this horror movie, which is based on a Richard Bachman novel (Stephen King's pseudonym) is about overweight attorney William Halleck (Robert John Burke), who makes the mistake of killing a gypsy woman in a car accident. When the gypsy leader places a curse on Halleck, he starts to shed weight at a nightmarishly alarming rate. Paramount Pictures declined to screen this for review. Area theaters.

SURVIVING PICASSO (R) -- Producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala bring the customary polish, but no pizzazz, to this simplistic portrait of the artist as a dirty old man. Distilled from Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington's controversial biography, the turgid adaptation views Picasso (Anthony Hopkins) through the eyes of Françoise (Natascha McElhone), a 23-year-old painter drawn into a 10-year liaison with the charismatic Spaniard. Though Picasso, then in his 60s, was an acknowledged master of 20th-century art, the film offers few insights into the hows and whys of his canvases or sculptures. Instead, the filmmakers detail the tedious trials and tribulations of Françoise, the only lover or wife to break from the stingy sexist's orbit. Hopkins, like the painter he inhabits with such relish, easily dominates his costars, who include the earnest McElhone, the cerebral Julianne Moore, the bovine Susannah Harker, the devious Diane Venora and the ranting Jane Lapotaire. The production is gorgeously mounted in the tradition of such Merchant/Ivory films as "Howards End" and "The Remains of the Day." It's the wrong picture, but it is nicely framed. Contains female nudity, profanity. Cineplex Odeon Avalon 2.

-- Rita Kempley

TO GILLIAN ON HER 37th BIRTHDAY (PG-13) -- Gillian looks better after two years in the grave than most folks do above ground. It helps that the luminous, platinum-haired wraith is played by the luminous, platinum-haired Michelle Pfeiffer, whose husband Michael Pressman directed this dispirited "Ghost" for guys. Peter Gallagher, the comatose hunk of "While You Were Sleeping," has regained consciousness, but not his senses, as David, a grieving widower haunted by his wife's death . . . or perhaps by Gillian herself. While David finds the situation comforting, his strident sister-in-law (Kathy Baker) decides it's high time he got over his obsession with Gillian. To that end, she and her wisecracking husband (Bruce Altman) invite an attractive friend (Wendy Crewson) to join them for a Labor Day weekend reunion at David's Nantucket Island beach house. Frequent arguments mar the annual celebration, as the others try to make David see that his obsession is hurting his teenage daughter (Claire Danes). The gifted actress steals the show -- poor thing that it is -- as a child obliged to parent her dad, just when she has never needed a father more. Written by David E. Kelley, the screenplay, like many play adaptations, still creaks of the boards. It's blabby and cloistered, even when David ventures out to frolic at night with Gillian's blithe spirit. For all the moonlight and magic, the film scares up little in the way of enchantment. Area theaters.

-- Rita Kempley

Film Capsu. The Washington Post October 25, 1996, Frida, Final Edition

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The Times Union (Albany, NY)

October 3, 1996, Thursday, THREE STAR EDITION

SECTION: PREVIEW, Pg. P21

LENGTH: 1331 words

HEADLINE: Real-life drama a Filmfest headliner

BYLINE: AMY BIANCOLLI; Staff writer

BODY:

Bruce Sinofsky and Joe Berlinger, the award-winning documentary filmmakers behind 1993's "Brother's Keeper" and this fall's "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," have an unerring eye for the weird. Hermits, outcasts, dabblers in witchcraft, gun-obsessed men, dough-faced murder suspects and the lawyers intent on convicting them -- these are the characters peopling Sinofsky's and Berlinger's world, a world at once familiar and entirely, terrifyingly other.

Consider "Paradise Lost," a complex and unsettling examination of teenagers tried for the slaying of three 8-year-old boys in West Memphis, Ark. The film, to be screened at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Spectrum International Filmfest (with a discussion, led by Sinofsky, to follow; the movie will begin its regular run at the theater Oct. 11), is remarkable for its stark but compassionate gaze, which considers victims and suspects alike with manifest humanity.

None of it is easy to watch -- the rawness of grief expressed by the victims' families, mixed with a few sickening crime-scene photos, make for a rough 2 hours -- but it's harder not to watch, the sort of nouveau documentary (like last year's "Crumb") that welcomes the old truth-is-stranger-than-fiction maxim and finds in its odd embrace the basis for truly compelling cinema.

The result is a non-fiction work as involving, as satisfying, as instantly accessible as a conventional narrative film.

Which is, say the filmmakers, exactly the point.

"Not to pat ourselves on the back, but we go into each of our films with a desire to make a film that has a traditional fiction-like quality in the sense that it has a beginning, a middle and an end," said Sinofsky, speaking recently from the Manhattan office of his and Berlinger's production company, Creative Thinking International.

"We look for something that has conflict, because conflict is the classical definition of drama," said Berlinger.

"You can't predict what's going to happen, but when you have two diametrically opposing sides, you're going to have drama -- that's according to Aristotle." Like "Brother's Keeper," which follows the trial of a reclusive Madison County man accused of smothering his brother, "Paradise Lost" examines the course that justice takes after the bodies of three children are discovered, naked and mutilated, on the banks of a creek in a wooded patch of Arkansas.

Frustrated in their initial attempts to find a killer, police eventually arrest three high-school boys -- Jessie Misskelley Jr., Damien Wayne Echols and Jason Baldwin -- and charge them after obtaining Misskelley's confession. Misskelley, a tiny and seemingly guileless young man with an IQ of 72, is tried first; Echols and Baldwin's case follows.

And it is, in a sense, Echols and Baldwin's film. Although it's all remarkably balanced -- Sinofsky and Berlinger devote equal time and celluloid to prosecution and defense, victims and accused -- there is no doubt, as the action unfolds, that the pasty-looking teens behind bars are the film's most intriguing underdogs.

Echols, characterized by district attorneys as a satanist-in-training, emerges as an intelligent and surprisingly reflective kid who seems to realize that if he is convicted, it's because he fits a handy stereotype: he wears black, he listens to Metallica, he has toyed with witchcraft.

Baldwin is Echols' best friend and fellow metal head; he is pale and small and shaken. The threat of conviction (and the possibility of the death penalty) hangs above them, amorphous and terrifying.

"Paradise Lost," produced for HBO and originally broadcast on the pay-cable network in June, was filmed from June 1993 through March 1994. Sinofsky and Berlinger first read of the case in a small New York Times article published the day after the arrest.

"Joe and I went down there thinking we were making a film about three kids who had definitely done this crime," said Sinofsky. "And frankly . . . at the courtroom, at a pretrial hearing, we bought into the stereotypes and all the myths that had been created.

"When (Echols) turned toward the press there was a chill that went through Joe and myself. It's when perception becomes reality.

"But when we met him months later in jail, we found he was a thoughtful and intelligent and even somewhat effeminate 18-year-old," he said. "In the next four months we got to be pretty close to him."

Sinofsky said he is "98 percent" convinced that the accused teenagers did not commit the murders. In that sense, he said, the film is as much a commentary on the American justice system as it is riveting (albeit horrifying) entertainment, a condemnation of a lopsided court system that appears to assign a much heavier burden of proof to prosecutors trying a wealthy or educated suspect.

"We were rooting for them, knowing it was swimming uptide. . . . Our hope was that reason and light would creep into the jury," Sinofsky said. "But we'd be watching these jurors yawning and doodling -- one man was playing hang man. They'd already decided.

"If all you read for six months was propaganda -- it's not that different, in a way, from what was going on in Nazi Germany. In this place, these kids were portrayed as Hannibal Lecter Juniors of Arkansas."

As Echols himself allows, he was indeed a dabbler in demonic symbols. "He was also a dabbler in Christianity or Buddhism or black magic or white magic," said Sinofsky. "If he was in Greenwich Village or the hipper parts of Albany, he wouldn't be looked at. But in Arkansas, he didn't have a chance. . . . If the letter of the law is reasonable doubt, they certainly didn't show reasonable doubt.

"These kids didn't get a fair trial. Is Damien weird and capable of this? Maybe. I think there's a possibility he might have done something like this. But I didn't see it or feel it."

Among the supporting players in "Paradise Lost" is John Mark Byers, stepfather of one of the slain boys, a surpassingly odd man who pretends the accused teens are bullet-ridden pumpkins in one scene and leads his congregation in prayer in the next.

The most disturbing images in the film are those of the dead children: Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore. But Byers' cries for bloody vengeance are nearly as horrific -- and when he gives the filmmakers a bloody knife as a Christmas present, the movie takes a sudden, wild turn.

"I think the beauty of what Joe and I do is, when we see a story that interests us, we jump off a cliff and hope there's a soft landing," Sinofsky said. Berlinger agreed, using a slightly different image: "We like to jump out a window and hope there's a mattress on the other side -- that's the exciting, the challenging, the difficult, the annoying thing, all rolled up into one."

What's next for them? There may be a chance, Sinofsky said, of directing an episode of "Millennium" or "The X-Files." Beyond that, their work "will always be a present-tense narrative. . . .

"We're fascinated by American subcultures and the underbelly and underclass of America, which, I think, has remarkable stories of people in emotional upheaval. There's remarkable material that can be captured. It's safe to say our stories will always have an edge -- there will always be a dark rim around the pictures that we make.

Real-life drama a Film at headliner The Times Union (Albany, NY) October 3, 1996, Thursday,

"It was fascinating to be in the eye of the storm, and that's where we want to be," Sinofsky said. " 'Brother's Keeper' was a joy to make, and this ('Paradise Lost') was a nightmare -- because every day was dark and sad and blue and very rarely were there any moments of levity or joy. It was a hard film to make. It was a fascinating film to make.

"The strength of the film is, we didn't blink. We didn't turn away when things got hard. That's a credit; when the storm comes, we don't close all the windows and hide. We're in the middle of the storm."

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GRAPHIC: Creative Thinking International Inc. , LOREN EIFERMAN BRUCE SINOFSKY, left, will discuss his latest film, "Paradise Lost," at the Spectrum International Filmfest Monday. Co-filmmaker Joe Berlinger is at right.

LOAD-DATE: October 4, 1996

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October 2, 1996 Wednesday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: TEMPO; Pg. 1; ZONE: CN

LENGTH: 2244 words

HEADLINE: IN SEARCH OF EVIL

BYLINE: By Mark Caro, Tribune Staff Writer.

BODY:

Did 3 teens, reportedly driven by satanic worship, mutilate and kill 3 8-year-old boys?

Documentary filmmakers traveled to Arkansas to explore the case but found a different story--one maybe even more disturbing

The crime was so horrific, so seemingly indicative of America's ugliest underbelly, that documentarians Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky knew they'd found their next project.

Three 8-year-old boys had been found slain--one boy's genitals having been mutilated--by a riverbank in West Memphis, Ark. Three local teenage boys, reported to be Satan worshipers, were charged with the murders.

Berlinger and Sinofsky's previous feature was 1992's acclaimed "Brother's Keeper," which chronicled the trial of an uneducated farmer charged with--and ultimately acquitted of--the murder of a brother. By examining a younger generation, the filmmakers figured this new project would provide a stark contrast to that ultimately uplifting story.

"We went down there thinking we were making a film like a real-life 'River's Edge' about disaffected youth," Berlinger, 34, says while in Chicago with Sinofsky. "When we got down there ourselves, we saw that nothing was as the press had been reporting it."

What they found was a story that in many ways proved to be even more disturbing--and continues to leave a trail of tragedy more than two years after filming was completed.

The New York-based filmmakers saw police video of the crime scene, with the three pale victims laid out in the woods like broken store mannequins, not a drop of blood in sight. That gut-churning footage would become the opening of their documentary "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," now playing at the Music Box, 3733 N. Southport Ave.

They heard the anguish and wrath of the victims' families and of West Memphis' residents. They were told tales about the three defendants--particularly Damien Echols--involving blood drinking and devil worship.

They were able to take their cameras almost everywhere: to a shooting range where the stepfather and father of two of the victims were blowing away a pumpkin that they pretended was, in turn, each of the defendants; into an argument among a defendant's family and girlfriend over whether they would

support him if he had done the crime; into strategy discussions between defense attorneys and their youthful clients and/or families; and into the courtrooms.

What they failed to see or hear over 10 months and two murder trials was physical evidence that would link Echols, 18, Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, and Jessie Misskelley Jr., 17, to the murders. The prosecutors' case relied on the confession of Misskelley, whose IQ was measured as 72 and whose incriminating statements followed hours of interrogation without a lawyer, and the teens' gothic attire, affinity for heavy metal music and Echols' admitted practice of Wicca, a form of witchcraft.

In the grief-stricken, vengeance-minded climate of eastern Arkansas, that was enough.

"The local press did a great job over six months basically polluting the jury pool," says Sinofsky, 40. "The 12 members of the first jury (which tried Misskelley) and the second jury (which tried Echols and Baldwin together) were predetermined to find these kids guilty, and it didn't really matter what was presented in court."

Echols is now on Death Row pending his appeal. Misskelley and Baldwin were sentenced to spend the rest of their lives in prison; Misskelley's confession was upheld by the Arkansas Supreme Court in April and Baldwin also is awaiting results of an appeal.

Disturbing facts

So "Paradise Lost" became another documentary that, like Errol Morris' "A Thin Blue Line" (1988), purports to show a miscarriage of justice. But while "A Thin Blue Line" makes a clear case on behalf of a Texas death row inmate whose murder conviction subsequently was overturned, "Paradise Lost" presents a far murkier truth.

"We embrace ambiguity, not because we want to confuse people but because, unless you're an eyewitness to an event, there's no one answer to a situation," Berlinger says.

Disturbing facts about the defendants--such as Echols' blase attitude toward his defense and his professing to like being known as a "bogeyman"--coexist with stories of lazy police work that suggest other possible suspects may have gone unnoticed.

"The mission of the film is not like 'A Thin Blue Line' in which we're clearly advocating that the wrong people are in jail," Berlinger says. "The point of view is that due process was not served, and these kids deserve another trial. The mission of the film is much more experiential.

"We're non-fiction storytellers. We like to follow a real case in the present tense, letting the drama unfold and to allow an audience to have the same experience that we had in covering a situation."

Part of that experience involved spending countless hours with grieving family members, such as Melissa Byers, the mother of castrated victim Christopher Byers, who seethes on camera about the defendants: "I hate those three--and the mothers that bore them."

"Melissa might be for over an hour just talking about her child and what she misses and the anger, the sadness--every emotion you can imagine you're experiencing in that hour," Sinofsky says. "And then when you're done, you sit with her for two or three hours until she's collected, and then you leave and it's 2 in the morning."

Part of that experience involved trying to get a handle on the film's most curious character--Christopher's stepfather, Mark Byers--while avoiding becoming ensnared in the case themselves. Mark Byers is first shown at the crime site raging biblically. We later see him singing sweetly in church,

calling out defendants' names as he riddles a pumpkin with bullets and testifying in the Echols/Baldwin trial that he had beaten Christopher with a belt just hours before the murder.

He also gave a film crew member the gift of a knife, which had a blood stain on it. The filmmakers turned it over to the police, and lab tests found that, in a rare occurrence, the blood is a DNA match for both son and stepfather, thus offering no conclusive evidence whether it was involved in the murders.

Part of the experience involved being appalled by the local media, like the TV reporter shown asking Pam Hobbs, mother of victim Steven Branch, whether she was considering suicide "to join Steven." Sinofsky also tells of a reporter who, on the Mother's Day a week after the murders, waited outside church to ask Diane Moore, mother of victim Michael Moore, "How does it feel to spend your first Mother's Day without your son?"

"Part of the access we got was because of the insensitivity the local press was showing," Sinofsky says. "They just trusted that what they were saying was not going to be on the news that night and was not going to be manipulated."

Local tempers flared

Many local reporters didn't appreciate watching the film crew getting access to meetings otherwise closed off to the press. "There was a lot of tension and a lot of anger over how everyone seemed to bend over backwards for the film crew and wouldn't do it for the regular press," says Kathleen Burt, who covered the case for the West Memphis Evening Times.

Another reporter, who asked not to be named, complains that the documentarians "paid for their information" by giving money to the families involved.

Berlinger acknowledges that they and HBO, which partially financed the movie (it originally aired on the cable network in June), paid each of the six victims' and defendants' families an "honorarium" of \$7,500.

"Both sides were in terrible need, and one of the families on the victims' side six months into it was bugging us for money," Berlinger says. "We just felt it was appropriate (given the time the families were taking off to be filmed). It was not buying our access. We had been filming six months before anybody was asking for money."

He adds that none of the lawyers, investigators or the judge was paid.

The filmmakers' experience culminated in their sitting in the courtroom being "dumbfounded" at how jury members seemed to pay no heed to valid defense points, such as how the lack of blood at the crime scene might indicate that the murders had taken place elsewhere or that the surgical precision of the mutilation would seem beyond the capacity of a teenager using a knife in the dark.

"The jury was sitting there doodling or worse," Sinofsky says. "A couple of guys were yawning or picking their noses and not paying attention to this."

In a sense, Berlinger and Sinofsky put the viewer in another jury box with their presentation of the trial, although they have boiled down 75 hours of trial footage to 55 minutes used in the film. "We really tried to be even-handed," Berlinger says. "If we took something out from the prosecution's case that we determined ultimately didn't have a lot of weight, we took something out of the defense's case."

Local reporters mostly approved of the depiction given the limitations. "They didn't leave out anything that I myself found to be important," says Mara Leveritt, who covered the trial for the Arkansas Times.

"I think it portrayed it pretty well," Burt says, though she would have liked to see Echols' death-penalty sentencing hearing in which his

psychologist reported that months before the murders, the defendant had claimed that he obtains super powers by drinking human blood.

Since "Paradise Lost" was first shown, an Indiana University of Pennsylvania doctoral student in criminology has started the West Memphis Three Support Fund for the defendants. And the movie has its own web site (<http://www.gothamcity.com/paradiselost/>) featuring information about the cases.

The filmmakers say their involvement is ending with their promoting the movie, which they are distributing themselves.

"Our agenda really isn't to get these kids out of jail," Berlinger says.

"If that's the byproduct, then so be it."

In a sense "Paradise Lost" became a fitting counterpart to "Brother's Keeper." In the earlier film, Berlinger says, "the community rallied around one of their own and rejected the stereotypes that the police were trying to sell. The exact opposite happened in the community of West Memphis.

"In 'Brother's Keeper,' the justice system prevailed, it worked, he was acquitted. In this film the system failed miserably, and the community was guilty of incredibly prejudicial thinking. Both Americas exist."

THE FAMILIES WERE NO STRANGERS TO TROUBLE

"We played a high emotional price for making this film," Joe Berlinger says. "I still have some images that are stuck in my brain that I can't get out. Our wives were pregnant while we shot the film, and we had children during the editing of the film, and during the first year of my daughter's life, I would tuck her in each night and flash on images from the film."

But any price they paid pales next to what the families involved have undergone--not only with the murders and trials but since filming ended.

- Melissa Byers, Christopher's mother, was charged last October with aggravated assault for holding some carpenters at gunpoint because they wouldn't install her carpet until she moved her furniture. The previous year, she and husband Mark Byers were charged with burglary for allegedly stealing \$20,000 of antiques from a neighbor's house and trying to sell them at a pawn shop.

She died March 28 after falling asleep on her couch, and six months later, the Arkansas Medical Examiner's office still has not released toxicology results to reveal a cause of death.

- Mark Byers also was convicted last year of contributing to the delinquency of a minor by forcing two kids at gunpoint to fight to settle an argument.

- Diane Moore, mother of victim Michael Moore, was sentenced to five years probation Sept. 9 for negligent homicide in a June 1995 drunk-driving accident that killed a pedestrian.

- Terry Hobbs, father of victim Steven Hobbs, pleaded guilty in February to an assault misdemeanor for shooting his wife's brother in the abdomen in Nov. 1994. The brother-in-law reportedly was confronting Hobbs over his beating of wife Pam Hobbs.

- Damien Echols' parents, who had separated, were both at a riverside party in September 1994 when mother Pam Echols' then-current boyfriend, Bryan McFadden, shot to death her previous boyfriend, Richard Ellison. The charge was reduced from capital murder to manslaughter, and McFadden was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

- Jessie Misskelley Sr., father of his namesake defendant, was arrested July 21 and charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm; he'd been convicted on drug charges years earlier. The case is still pending.

"There was a cloud over all these people's lives before this happened,"

Bruce Sinofsky says, "and it will continue till the day they die."

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS 7PHOTO: Damien Wayne Echols; PHOTO: Jessie Misskelly Jr.; PHOTO: Charles Jason Baldwin; PHOTO: Steven Branch; PHOTO: Christopher Byers; PHOTO: Michael Moore; PHOTO: Mark Byers and his wife Melissa, parents of one of the victims. AP photos (above and top).

LOAD-DATE: October 2, 1996

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September 27, 1996 Friday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: FRIDAY; Pg. K; ZONE: CN; Take 2. FRIDAY'S GUIDE TO MOVIES & MUSIC. Movie review.

LENGTH: 773 words

HEADLINE: FASCINATING 'PARADISE' TAKES A DISTURBING LOOK AT AN UNSPEAKABLE CRIME

BYLINE: John Petrakis.

BODY:

On May 6, 1993, the lifeless bodies of Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore -- three 8-year-old boys from the rural town of West Memphis, Ark. -- were found in a shallow river bed near Interstate Highway 40, in an area known as Robin Hood Hills. The boys had been murdered and mutilated; Byers had been castrated.

The town went into shock, and as the days dragged on, pressure increased on local law authorities to find the killers. One month later, the police got their first break when 17-year-old Jessie Misskelley Jr., a local high school dropout with an IQ of 72, confessed that he had been at the crime scene but hadn't done any of the killing. For that, he implicated two other teenagers from West Memphis -- Damien Echols, 18, and Jason Baldwin, 16, -- known in the community as oddballs for their interest in devil worship and satanic ritual.

Echols was a perfect suspect. He always wore black, dyed his hair black, and was partial to heavy metal bands such as Metallica, whose dark, suggestive lyrics had already drawn the ire of conservative groups around the country.

Once the "satanic cult murders" angle became known, the story drew national attention, including that of filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, who already had delved into an offbeat murder trial in their well-received 1992 documentary "Brother's Keeper."

For the next two years, Berlinger and Sinofsky made regular trips to West Memphis, where they got to know the accused, the families, the lawyers, the townsfolk and everyone else associated with the grisly crime. What they have come up with is a documentary that works well on two separate levels.

One level is the trial itself (actually two trials, since Misskelley was tried separately), complete with mediocre attorneys, inarticulate witnesses and assorted experts, like the specialist in satanism who received his "doctorate" without taking a single class on the subject.

As the trials progress, it becomes clear that these teenagers are such outcasts in their own community that it is nearly impossible for them to get a fair, impartial verdict. Echols, in particular, with his soft-spoken, sometimes creepy observations and effeminate manner, looks like a dead duck from the opening gavel, even though the prosecution doesn't have a shred of physical evidence to prove the boys were even at the crime scene.

But it is on the second, more personal, level that "Paradise Lost" truly succeeds, as it peeks into the chain-smoking, trailer-park living, Bible-misquoting lives of the friends and families of the victims and the accused.

Take, for example, the mother of Steven Branch, who seems ecstatic that

she's going to be interviewed "on TV!" about the murder and mutilation of her son. Or Michael Moore's father, who starts working on his pistol-shooting in case the trial doesn't go his way. Or Misskelley's father, who can't seem to figure out whether or not to stand by his son because his ex-wife and current girlfriend are at odds on the issue.

And there's Christopher Byers' stepfather, Mark. When we first meet him, he's stalking around the woods where the boys were found like a mad Jeremiah, spouting the philosophy of an eye for an eye and celebrating how the accused are going to burn in hell. We next see him piously singing in church, not long after he has unloaded a round of ammo into a pumpkin, having fantasized that he was firing at the supposed killers.

Byers' stepfather is the one who gives the filmmakers a hunting knife as a gift -- a knife that has blood on it that, when the filmmakers turn the knife over to the police, is found to match the blood of his own stepson.

At 135 minutes, "Paradise Lost" is a bit too long, and despite the filmmakers' best efforts to keep things straight, there are times when the story gets confused.

Despite its flaws, "Paradise Lost" is a fascinating and disturbing look at an unspeakable crime and the toll it takes on those affected by it. Ultimately, however, it is hard to find anyone to care for or admire in the whole affair.

"PARADISE LOST"

(star) (star) (star)

Directed, produced and edited by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky; photographed by Robert Richman; music by Metallica. A Home Box Office Presentation of a Hand-To-Mouth Production; opens Friday at the Music Box Theatre. Running time: 2:15. No MPAA rating. Adult themes and disturbing photos. Not recommended for children.

LOAD-DATE: September 27, 1996

EXHIBIT A-121



Copyright 1996 Newsday, Inc.
Newsday (New York)

September 20, 1996, Friday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: PART II/WEEKEND; Page B13

LENGTH: 613 words

HEADLINE: MURDER AFTERMATH IS ANOTHER CRIME

BYLINE: By John Anderson. STAFF WRITER

BODY:

(3 1/2 stars) STAR STAR STAR 1/2 PARADISE LOST. (U) Three small boys turn up dead and mutilated in an Arkansas creek, three teenagers are tried and the criminal justice system is found guilty. Disturbing journey into nonfiction hell. Directed by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, the makers of "Brother's Keeper." 2:30 (graphic murder-scene photos, adult situations and language). At the Quad Cinema, 13th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, Manhattan. THREE 8-YEAR-OLD BOYS are found slaughtered in an Arkansas woods. Three unsavory looking suspects are brought in, as allegations of satanic worship saturate the airwaves. Parents are grieving, the public is seething, the case seems open and shut. And the movie audience has become a lynch mob.

Yes, we viewers are righteously sandbagged at the outset of "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," but that's OK. In chronicling the 1993 slayings and trial, Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky - directors of the highly acclaimed "Brother's Keeper" - have made a movie less about simple guilt or innocence than presumptuousness, stupidity and prejudice. Making their audience complicit, even for a few moments, isn't a bad technique.

"Paradise Lost" is far more ambiguous and certainly less uplifting than "Brother's Keeper," but what Berlinger and Sinofsky prove again is their unmatched talent for gaining access to people caught up in tragedy. The parents of the victims expose themselves alarmingly, raging for vengeance; the families of the suspects plead for reason - a quality entirely absent from the proceedings.

West Memphis police broke open the case by wresting a confession out of Jessie Misskelly Jr. - a tiny 17-year-old with an IQ of 72. He implicated Jason Baldwin, 16, and his best friend, Damien Echols - a highly intelligent 18-year-old who wore black, listened to heavy metal and dabbled in earth-worshipping white magic (Damien's most grievous offense is being smarter than everyone else in tacky West Memphis). Published mug shots made them look like members of the Manson family. Their eccentricities were exploited for maximum effect by the prosecution. The families of the victims never have a doubt that it was these three who killed their babies. And the trial had all the character of the Spanish Inquisition.

Produced originally for HBO (where it had a month-long run this summer), "Paradise Lost" is as important a film as will be seen this year. It has its faults: Some of the principals undergo physical changes that make them hard to identify as the case progresses. There are questions raised about trial procedure: Given that there was no physical evidence linking the three to the crime, did the defense ever make a motion to dismiss? An O.J.-educated public may want to know these things.

The most frightening thing about "Paradise Lost" isn't the violence that's been committed (the film presents its own alternate suspect), but rather that people's lives are in the hands of such raging incompetents. The look on one prosecutor's face when he hears in court that his "expert" on the occult is a mail-order PhD is priceless. The judge virtually dozes off and the district attorney, who's set to retire and wants to go out on a win, never let's facts interfere with his case.

There are no heroes in "Paradise Lost," but plenty of villains. Some of the critics who came down on the film at the Sundance festival this year thought that the filmmakers were ridiculing Arkansas "trailer trash." But there's no regionalism here. What Berlinger and Sinofsky do is hold up a mirror to America as a whole. And it's not their fault if the picture isn't pretty.

GRAPHIC: Photos- Top row, three 8-year-old boys, 1) Steven Branch, 2) Christopher Byers, 3) Michael Moore, from left - who were found mutilated in an Arkansas creek, and 4-6) the three teenagers who were accused of killing them.

LOAD-DATE: September 20, 1996MOVIES. REVIEW. PARADISE LOST. CHILDREN (78%); EVIDENCE (77%); VERDICTS (77%); INVESTIGATIONS (76%); MOVIES. REVIEW. PARADISE LOST. CHILDREN (78%); EVIDENCE (77%); VERDICTS (77%); INVESTIGATIONS (76%);

EXHIBIT A-122



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The Record

September 20, 1996; FRIDAY; ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: LIFESTYLE / PREVIEWS; Pg. 039

LENGTH: 573 words

HEADLINE: THE RITUALS OF MURDER;
FOLLOWING A TRAIL OF TEARS AND ANGER

SOURCE: Wire services

BYLINE: JERRY TALLMER, Special to The Record

BODY:

MOVIE REVIEW

(three stars)

PARADISE LOST: Directed, produced, and edited by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky. Photographed by Robert Richman. Music by Metallica. 150 minutes. Unrated. At the Quad in Manhattan. Originally shown at Lincoln Center's New Directors/New Films and on HBO.

He was a loner, an 18-year-old who in the Southern Baptist community of West Memphis, Ark., tried to become a Roman Catholic. He read books on witchcraft. He was into heavy metal ("It makes me feel more alive"). He always wore black.

A few years earlier, he changed his name from Wayne Echols to Damien Wayne Echols. No, he was to testify under cross-examination, not after Damien in "The Omen"; after Father Damien, the saint of the leper colonies.

Of all the people in "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," an extraordinary documentary opening today, Echols, a quiet-spoken, pretty boy with a Veronica Lake hairdo he primps in a courtroom mirror, is easily the most intriguing. Did he do it? We may never know.

On the night of May 5, 1993, the bodies of three 8-year-olds, Christopher Byers, Steven Branch, and Michael Moore, were discovered mutilated and hogtied with their shoelaces in a creek beside Interstate 40 in the Robin Hood Hills section of West Memphis. The Byers boy had been emasculated.

Arrested and tried for the triple slayings, or "ritual murders," were Echols, his best friend Jason Baldwin, then 16 but looking a baby-faced 12, and Jessie Lloyd Misskelly Jr., then 17 with an IQ of 72, and manifesting it.

Filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, who had previously scored with "Brother's Keeper," went to West Memphis immediately after

reading the story in the newspapers. They and their crews were given wide access to the courtroom, prisons, family meetings, lawyers strategy meetings, and the living rooms of the parents of the dead kids and the accused.

Their 150 hours of raw film have been boiled down to 150 minutes, pretty long for a documentary, but I don't think you'll notice it; you'll be too gripped by every last little detail. Like when Damien's father, who looks a lot like Pat Buchanan, says angrily, "We're not trash... So what if he wore a black trench coat and T-shirt? I like black myself."

If Echols is at one pole, Melissa and John Mark Byers, the mother and stepfather of Christopher, are at the other. Right at the top of "Paradise Lost" is Melissa Byers snarling, "They crucified my boy, humiliated him, and I hate them for it."

Her husband, who is bearded, pony-tailed, and clad in blue overalls, rages on and on about the devil, orgies, how when the accused die, he's going to thank God and spit on their graves.

Later we learn that Mark Byers beat Christopher with a belt on the afternoon of the killings, and that he inexplicably gave a bloodstained hunting knife to "Paradise Lost" co-director Berlinger as a present.

That knife, and some vague testimony about a different suspect at the Bojangles restaurant that same night, haunts the case.

Because Misskelly turned state's evidence, implicating the two others in a confession filled with contradictions, he has a separate trial.

Echols was sentenced by Judge David Burnett to die by lethal injection. Baldwin got life. Miskelly got life plus 40 years. All sentences are on appeal. And it really happened.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO - "Paradise Lost" directors, from left, Bruce Sinofsky and Joe Berlinger.

LOAD-DATE: September 20, 1996

EXHIBIT A-123



Copyright 1996 The Patriot Ledger
The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, MA)

August 30, 1996 Friday ROP Edition

SECTION: FEATURES; Pg. 17

LENGTH: 1533 words

HEADLINE: TOWN on trial ;
FILMMAKERS' STARTLING LOOK AT 'SATANIC' CHILD MURDER CASE HIGHLIGHTS BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL

BYLINE: Constance Gorfinkle, The Patriot Ledger

SOURCE: The Patriot Ledger

BODY:

If the O.J. Simpson murder trial weren't enough to convince the American people that our system of jurisprudence is in serious need of an overhaul, "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" should clinch it. A documentary by Bruce Sinofsky and Joe Berlinger, it's a stunning follow-up to their 1993 documentary "Brother's Keeper," which examined the weird relationship among three brothers in rural upstate New York that came to light when one of them died under mysterious circumstances.

As dramatic as any work of fiction, "Paradise Lost" is one of the 60 or so features included in the 12th Annual Boston Film Festival, which opens next Friday. Sinofsky and Berlinger will attend the festival screening of "Paradise Lost," scheduled for Sept. 12.

Like "Brother's Keeper," it is an amazingly intimate film that looks hard at a community in crisis. But, while the first movie was absolutely inspiring in the goodness and generosity it revealed about the brothers' neighbors, "Paradise Lost" is about small-town meanness, prejudice and fear in the wake of a terrible triple murder. And it's about opportunists who exploit those tendencies to further their own ambitions.

Sinofsky, a native of Newton who summered in Hull as a boy, and Berlinger pull no punches right from the opening frames. The sequence -- a police video of a crime scene that shows the naked, mutilated bodies of three young boys -- is so unnerving it reverberates for the entire film.

"We struggled over the use of that material," said Sinofsky during a phone interview from New York.

"We were especially concerned about the families of the victims themselves. They had never seen this footage; it was not put into evidence. But, you know, the film is 150 minutes long, and there's only about 2 1/2 minutes of the boys."

Sinofsky and Berlinger ultimately decided to include the disturbing footage because "we felt it was important for the audience to see the horrific nature of this crime -- one, because it would stay in your mind forever, and, two, it would be cheating the audience to have people talking about (the victims) being skinned alive and being beaten beyond recognition, without the audience seeing them for themselves. Because (some of the more lurid descriptions) were just not true."

The impetus for "Paradise Lost" was a

small New York Times article sent to Sinofsky and Berlinger by a representative of Home Box Office about three teenagers who had been arrested in West Memphis, Ark., for the murders of three 8-year-old boys. But it wasn't until Sinofsky and Berlinger read local coverage of the crime that they knew they had the material for a feature documentary.

TOWN on trial ; FILMMAKERS' STARTLING LOOK AT 'SATANIC' CHILD MURDER CASE HIGHLIGHTS
BOSTON FILM FESTIVAL The Patriot Ledger (Quincy, MA) August 30, 1996 Friday

According to those reports, the prosecution's case seemed to be based on a theory of Satanic cultism that had the three defendants sacrificing the little boys to the devil.

Strange as it may seem, that theory is somewhat comforting at first. The crime is so terrible that the audience, as well as the victims' families, needs the satisfaction of seeing someone pay. But as the trial proceeds, it becomes clear that these defendants are more on trial because they're outsiders who wear black and like heavy metal music than because the state has any concrete evidence against them.

But the point of the film, says Sinofsky, is not to make a case for or against the defendants. "This film is not about guilt or innocence; it's about prejudice; it's about stereotypes; it's about small-town justice; it's about the legal system; it's about the power of the press.

"It's about so many things beyond guilt or innocence. It's about how families (of both victims and defendants) deal with stress and tragedy."

As they did with "Brother's Keeper," Sinofsky and Berlinger, long before they set up their cameras, spent much time in West Memphis just getting to know the people. The result was extraordinary access to the principals in the case, who allowed the filmmakers into their homes and, more importantly, into their confidence. An unexpected outcome of this closeness was a gift of a knife to one of the film crew by a father of one of the victims. The knife turned out to have blood on it and could possibly be the murder weapon. That created a crisis of conscience for the filmmakers.

On the one hand, they didn't want to be responsible for raising suspicion about the man who had given them the knife, nor did they want to jeopardize the trust among the townspeople they had worked so hard to achieve. "Plus, we didn't want to become part of the story."

"But we knew we had a civic responsibility," Sinofsky said.

Though initially worrisome for the filmmakers, the appearance of the knife turns out to be one of the most dramatic aspects of the film and generates the kind of suspense not usually found in documentaries. But if their true stories resemble fiction, that's what they're after, says Sinofsky.

"There's a whole pace to our films that's more akin to fiction than documentaries," he continued. "It's why we use helicopter shots and Metallica on the soundtrack," which, besides creating a mood of mystery and danger, is a reference to the musical tastes of one of the accused boys.

"We don't mess with chronologies and things like that, but we do admittedly enhance the dramatic nature of the story, not untruthfully, but we elevate it beyond what somebody else might do. And we think about those things in the editing room. How do we make this more entertaining, as well as thoughtful and provocative?"

"Most documentary filmmakers don't do that, and that's why most documentaries don't make their way to the big screen."

"Paradise Lost," in fact, was aired just a few months ago on HBO to strong reviews.

Four million people saw the film on television.

"But it's the theatrical release that solidifies our support and attention," says Sinofsky, who adds that "if only 500,000 people see it in theaters, it will be a runaway success as an independent film."

Based on the success of "Brother's Keeper," "Paradise Lost" has generated much interest among distributors. But as they did with the earlier film, Sinofsky and Berlinger will distribute "Paradise Lost" themselves, mainly because they figure they can make roughly \$ 500,000 in profit if they do it on their own, whereas, given Hollywood's creative bookkeeping, if anyone else distributed the film, "we probably wouldn't see a penny," says Sinofsky.

Given the partners' fondness for creating dramatic appeal in their films, it's no surprise that both have fiction scripts now making the Hollywood rounds. They're also negotiating with the producers of "The X Files," Fox Television's hit science fiction series, to co-direct a couple of episodes next spring.

"They're great fans of our movies," said Sinofsky.

But the partners have no intention, he adds, of ever giving up documentaries, and, in fact, will begin a new one in the fall as part of a three-picture deal with HBO.

"We want to keep a leg in both camps; we're just trying to branch out."

A guide to the major offerings

Sinofsky and Berlinger are among about 30 celebrities coming to town with their movies.

The festival will open on Sept. 9 with "Shine," a charming drama based on the life of Australian pianist David Helfgott that tells the story of a brilliant young musician driven to the edge of madness by his authoritarian father, a survivor of Auschwitz who's afraid to give up his son to his music. Lynn Redgrave, a star of the film, will present it at the festival.

The most important personality to appear at this year's festival will be Gena Rowlands. Winner of this year's Excellence in Film Award, Rowlands is best known for powerful performances in the films of her husband, John Cassavetes. Her film in the festival is another Cassavetes production, "Unhook the Stars," directed and co-written by her son, Nick Cassavetes.

To be screened Sept. 12, "Unhook the Stars" is a charming drama in which the still-beautiful Rowlands gives a touching performance as a woman who begins to understand her troubled relationships with her own children when she takes on the care of a little boy whose battling parents are on the verge of divorce. That understanding finally liberates her to live her own life.

Also on hand will be Providence director Michael Corrente, who has made a brilliant version of David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "American Buffalo." To be screened on Sept. 9, "American Buffalo" is about a couple of small-time hoods who talk about robbing a coin collector. That's all it is -- talk. But as written by Mamet and performed by Dustin Hoffman, Dennis Franz (of "N.Y.P.D. Blue") and Sean Nelson ("Fresh") that talk is riveting for all of the film's 88 minutes, which is especially amazing since Corrente has pretty much confined all the action to the play's one set, a junk shop.

The festival, which runs through Sept. 19, will hold screenings at Copley Place, 100 Huntington Ave., Boston, and at Kendall Square Cinema, One Kendall Square, Cambridge.

Complete screening schedules are available at all Sony theaters and the Kendall Square Cinema. Scheduling information also is available by calling 266-2533.

GRAPHIC: Art illustration,[Line shot of Wayne Damien Echols's police department photo]

Photo,Jessie Loyd Misskelley and Charles Jason Baldwin are two of the three defendants tried for the gruesome murder of three 8-year-old boys in a small Arkansas town. The incident inspired the new documentary, "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills."

Photo,Loren Eiferman photo - Bruce Sinofsky and Joe Berlinger offer a disturbing look at small-town prejudice and justice in the documentary, "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills."

Photo,Michael Moore, Age: 8

Photo,Christopher Byers, Age: 8

Photo,Steven Branch, Age: 8

LOAD-DATE: October 21, 1996

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June 22, 1996

SECTION: Pg. p38(2) Vol. V22 No. N3 ISSN: 0009-7004

ACC-NO: 19267116

LENGTH: 1520 words

HEADLINE: Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills.

BYLINE: Cross, Alice

BODY:

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills opens with grisly police footage of the naked bodies of three eight-year-old boys as they are retrieved from a shallow creek. Some of the shots are close, allowing us to see the broken bodies of the victims, bonds still tied to their ankles and wrists. Metallica music swells in the background as we cut to aerial shots of the surrounding highways in West Memphis, Arkansas. Layered onto the soundtrack are a news bulletin emphasizing that the children may have been sexually mutilated and the voice of one of the mothers asking us to "imagine all the evil" done to the victims. It is thus quickly established that the focus of Paradise Lost - an attention-grabbing murder in rural America - is the same as in Brother's Keeper, directors Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky's earlier documentary, but that the tone is altogether different.

For a film about a possible murder, Brother's Keeper was surprisingly sweet and gentle. Its cinema-verite style did not demand that much happen. The audience got to know the Ward brothers, to see them in their full eccentricity and to consider, as did the open-minded community among whom the brothers had lived all their lives, whether Delbart might really have smothered his older, ailing brother, and whether he would have understood it to be criminal if he had. Paradise Lost is much more sensational and much harder to sit through. Within weeks of the murders, three young men are arrested. One of them, Jessie Misskelley, a seventeen-year-old with an IQ of seventy-two, confesses to the police that he restrained one of the children while two of his friends - sixteen-year-old Jason Baldwin and eighteen-year-old Damien Echols tortured and murdered the boys in a Satanic orgy. Although the police maintain that their case is strong, it quickly becomes clear that there are major inconsistencies in Misskelley's confession and that other evidence linking the three to the crime is weak and circumstantial. It also becomes clear that these young men, particularly Damien Echols, are misfits in West Memphis, reviled even before the murders for wearing black, sporting weird haircuts, and listening to heavy metal music. In a community where the Devil is as real to many as the bicycles retrieved with the children's bodies, any deviance is suspect, and Echols' Bad Boy affectations now serve to condemn him and his friends.

As in Brother's Keeper, Berlinger and Sinofsky allow the audience to see that determination of guilt or innocence in court is not the same thing as guilt or innocence itself. You get the kind of defense you can afford, and for these three young men from the wrong side of the tracks in a crossroads area that seems more truckstop than community, that's not saying much. Where the film is most successful is in its sevenhanded acknowledgment of the anger and grief felt both by families of the victims and the accused. In sequences that are sometimes parallel-edited, the viewer sees each constituency look for comfort from relatives, vent its rage at the unfolding tragedy, and accuse the law of looking out for the interests of the other side. This dual perspective of events is most powerful in moments like the one where Damien Echols holds his infant son for the first, and possibly last, timewhile the parents of the murdered Michael Moore look on in anguish and outrage.

Berlinger and Sinofsky reserve their scorn for the media circus that surrounds the two trials (Misskelley was tried separately). As the newscast voice-over in the opening sequence suggests, the press leaps to the possibility of sexual mutilation and Satanic worship. They keep the public eye on the sensational aspects of the case, publishing grisly details from Misskelley's confession, and badgering the victims' families. At one point, Pam Hobbs, mother of Steven Branch, flees as photographs of her child's body are shown in court. Outside, she leans against her husband, crying softly when, suddenly, we hear the clicking of shutters. The camera pulls back to show a horde of photographers and news people taking pictures and waiting to interview her about how it felt to see her child's dead body.

There is a problem here, of course. The audience is asked to condemn others what Berlinger and Sinofsky have done themselves - capitalize on the sensational aspects of the case and intrude on someone's grief for the sake of getting a story. Was it really necessary to open with the crime scene footage? To show us the photographs of the children's hog-tied bodies during the trial? To follow the weeping Pam Hobbs? By ignoring their own presence as filmmakers, even as they raise questions about the ethics of taking pictures and shaping the public's response to the case, they deny their own moral quandary.

Their dilemma is made even more complicated when John Mark Byers, stepfather to Christopher Byers, gives one of Berlinger and Sinofsky's crew members a knife with what appears to be blood on the upper part of the blade. A title tells the viewer simply that they handed the knife over to the police. Later, we listen as the defense uses it to suggest that Byers may have murdered the children. Since we hear backroom discussions about testimony, about evidence not allowed, and so on, throughout the film, why not hear how the filmmakers determined that the blood might be connected to the murders? Why not learn which crew member was given the knife? Also, wouldn't such an action seem a betrayal to Byers, who, up to this point in the film, has obviously allowed the filmmakers easy access to him and his wife and who, as the gift of the knife suggests, might have regarded the team as friends? Did the filmmakers at any point discuss their decision with him?

After he is made to explain the presence of the blood on the knife in court, Byers is interviewed by the media. He keeps turning their foolish questions back on them: How would you feel? What would you do? He pleads with them to use common sense and complains that "A lot of times things are presented in the paper that people did not say." In the context of the film, this comment seems directed solely at the cloddish press surrounding him at that minute. That his newfound cynicism might reasonably have come in part from the actions of Berlinger and Sinofsky is not acknowledged.

The title *Paradise Lost* suggests, of course, Lucifer, the angel who chooses hell rather than conform to the dictates of heaven. The Lucifer of the documentary is Damien Wayne Echols, and like his predecessor in Milton's poem, he is the most compelling figure in the film. A misfit who has never "been into sports or stuff like that," he understands the community's disdain for him and has chosen to flaunt his difference rather than camouflage it. After abandoning Catholicism, he takes up Wicca, or white witchcraft, a decision sure to raise eyebrows in small-town America, and then refuses to be saved at a local revival meeting. He assumes the name Damien, perhaps in honor of the priest who worked with lepers, perhaps in honor of the Satanic character in *The Omen*. Nothing about Damien seems simple or clear, and, as he wisely points out, "People try to destroy what they don't understand." When he and Jason giggle together about turning the lights out the night the police come to arrest them, they seem like Beavis and Butthead types who could hardly orchestrate a trip to the local video store, let alone carry out the almost clue-free murders of the three children. At the end of the film, though, when he declares that he is glad to be the "West Memphis bogeyman," who will be remembered "even after I die," one has to wonder briefly how far this alienated and deeply narcissistic young man would go to achieve infamy.

It is this openness to different interpretations of events and people that has been most compelling about the work of Sinofsky and Berlinger. The subjects in both films are allowed all their complexity and contradiction, so the audience must sift through the various details and responses to decide for themselves the culpability of the central figures. Although it is finally hard to believe that the three youngmen in *Paradise Lost* could really have murdered the children, one is as troubled by their strange passivity as by their convictions on such scanty evidence. When one of his lawyers asks Jason Baldwin privately whether he thinks that codefendant Damien might have murdered the children, he is unable to respond. Does this silence suggest guilty knowledge or a dimwitted struggle to guess what he is supposed to say? Did the police take advantage of Misskelley's suggestibility and low IQ, or did he state what indeed happened the night the children were murdered?

Although Berlinger and Sinofsky have been somewhat coy when asked in interviews whether they think the three are innocent, they have arranged to show the film to lawyers like Barry Scheck, ostensibly to help the three appeal their

convictions. Certainly, as they've shown in this dark and disturbing documentary, there are many questions about the case still to be answered. - Alice Cross

GRAPHIC: photograph
illustration

LOAD-DATE: January 30, 2006

EXHIBIT A-125



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Los Angeles Times

June 10, 1996, Monday, Home Edition
Correction Appended

SECTION: Calendar; Part F; Page 1; Entertainment Desk

LENGTH: 1357 words

HEADLINE: HOWARD ROSENBERG / TELEVISION;
HEAVY-METAL MONSTERS?;

HBO's Stunning 'Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills' Documents the Impact of Deadly Stereotypes on an Arkansas Community
FOR THE RECORD

BYLINE: HOWARD ROSENBERG

BODY:

West Memphis, Ark., is a quiet community of 28,000 in a region where a local TV station boasts of being one of the "good neighbors you can turn to." Here in this east Arkansas version of conservative, small-town U.S.A., just across the Mississippi River from Tennessee and urban Memphis, folks speak in twangs, God is not just for Sunday and families gather for outdoor barbecues that spill over with frivolity and cute little Huck Finns.

Three of them--8-year-olds Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore--are presently on the screen, their nude bodies as rigid and alabaster-pale as museum statues, beside a shallow creek in Robin Hood Hills, a clump of woods along a busy interstate.

Accused of slaying these second-graders in a grisly, ritualistic sacrifice are three odd-behaving teenagers whose passion for heavy-metal music and black clothes stamp them as Satanists. Obviously devil worshippers, obviously guilty.

So begins HBO's "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," another stunning crime documentary from Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, whose earlier "Brother's Keeper" on PBS was about as good as nonfiction films get.

Just as mesmerizing, but darker, more troubling and much longer at 2 1/2 hours, is "Paradise Lost," a banner of tattered Americana that Berlinger and Sinofsky artfully unfurl, again minus narration, by joining verite sequences and formal interviews into a twisting, serpentine tale of intriguing ambiguity and paradoxes.

These guys really can tell a story, in this case a revealing X-ray of a small community that addresses the universality of human contradictions, all of it to a background of heavy metal by Metallica. The band donated the music because, according to HBO, it shares the filmmakers' belief that the case against the defendants was deeply flawed and circumstantial.

Berlinger and Sinofsky consider "Paradise Lost" a companion to "Brother's Keeper." The latter was a 1992 film set in rural New York, where four aging, unworldly bearded brothers had lived weirdly on their dairy farm--even sharing the same bed--without much outside contact or notice until one died and another was accused of murdering him. In a startling tactic, the prosecution implied that creaky Delbert Ward and his dead brother were lovers, but his neighbors stood by him and he was ultimately acquitted, an eccentric but apparently innocent man riding his flatbed off into the sunset.

*

How are these companion films? Because one community rejected stereotypes, the other, West Memphis, embraced stereotypes, filmmakers Berlinger, 40, and Sinofsky, 34, said by phone from New York recently.

The stereotyped defendants in "Paradise Lost" are Jessie Misskelley Jr., 17, described in the film as having an IQ of 72; baby-faced Jason Baldwin, 16; and Damien Wayne Echols, 18, who is Jason's best friend and reportedly is interested in so-called "white magic."

Seemingly the dominant member of the trio, Damien is a bizarre narcissist who wears his dark hair almost girlishly swooped to one side of his round face, and at one point during a break in his trial is shown obsessively preening with a hand mirror used to search for bombs under courtroom seats.

The police claimed to have a confession from Jessie implicating Jason and Damien. It didn't help that Damien was also the name of the antichrist in those popular "Omen" movies about demonic evil.

"If these kids lived in Manhattan, people wouldn't have looked twice at them," Sinofsky said. But West Memphis isn't Manhattan.

*

Berlinger and Sinofsky learned of the case through a New York Times article just after the teenagers were charged in 1993. Instantly convinced that "these kids were pretty much guilty," Berlinger said, they flew south to scout film possibilities. The local media were pouring it on, he said, at one point not only asking one of the victims' mothers how she felt celebrating Mother's Day without her murdered son but also spewing a steady barrage of stories about rumored blood drinking, demonology and homosexual orgies on the part of the defendants.

"The portrait of them was so black, so monstrous, that we bought into the stereotype," Berlinger said. "And when we first saw Damien turn to us and the rest of the press in the courtroom, there was a chill, as if he was Hannibal Lecter. While we were down there, there was never a voice in the dark saying these kids didn't do it. Not until we met their families and saw the humanity of their families was a whole different picture visible for us to see."

That picture is available to the TV audience tonight, as is the perspective of the prosecutors and victims' families. The film raises questions about the prosecution's case but never delivers its own verdict.

Meanwhile, the filmmakers' camera is omnipresent, in jail and in lawyer-client strategy sessions, chronicling trials (Jessie was tried separately from Jason and Damien), intimate chats (such as Jessie's phone conversation with his girlfriend) and anger pouring from parents.

None more so than from Christopher's mother, Melissa Byers, almost in meltdown when expressing to the lens her venom toward those she believes murdered her son: "I hate these three. And . . . the . . . mothers . . . that . . . bore . . . them!"

Even more explosive are sequences with Christopher's stepfather, Mark Byers, a wild-talking zealot in a Bunyan-esque beard and snakeskin boots--one moment sweetly singing hymns in church from the pulpit, the next pumping bullet after bullet into a fat pumpkin that he envisions being the accused slayers ("Hey, Jason, I want you to smile for this!").

*

Fascinating curves appear without warning, one coming when "Paradise Lost" discloses that someone prominent in the film inexplicably has given a crew member a gift of a knife on which there appears to be dried blood. Omitted from the film is the crisis that Berlinger and Sinofsky say this created for them, fearing that this could be one of the knives used on the victims (no murder weapons had been found).

"We felt we might have to shut down," Sinofsky said. "We felt that by turning this knife over to the police, we would be exploding all the trust we had built up with the people, and that doors we had taken so long to open would now be shut. Also, we didn't want to get sucked into our own story."

Ultimately, he said, the filmmakers acted responsibly by heeding "this little voice called civic responsibility" and turning over the knife, whose link to the case is never quite clarified in the film, unfortunately.

HOWARD ROSENBERG / THE VISION; HEAVY-METAL MONSTERS?; E. J.'s Stunning 'Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills' Documents the Impact of Deadly Stereotypes on an Arkansas Comm

As it turned out, the incident did not sour the filmmakers' relations with the good neighbors of West Memphis. In fact, almost as mystifying as the knife is how a couple of Jewish guys from New York were able to parachute into a Bible Belt realm so alien to them and, over time, establish such rapport that they and their camera were granted astonishing access in the courtroom and behind the scenes.

The access issue created a brouhaha at a screening of "Paradise Lost" for lawyers in New York last month, the attendees including two members of the O.J. Simpson criminal defense team, Peter Neufeld and Barry Scheck.

"I'm appalled," the New York Post quoted Scheck as bellowing when the film ended. "This case was not tried in court, it was tried on HBO." The Post said another attorney agreed, calling the film "media manipulation."

*

Berlinger and Sinofsky, who were there, confirm the Post account, noting, however, that the West Memphis trials occurred more than two years before tonight's premiere of their film and insisting that their filming of intimate lawyer-client chats did not influence the course of the case.

Just how much even the most unobtrusive TV camera alters reality is an ongoing question to which there is no easy answer. As for media manipulation, though, Scheck and other attorneys on both sides of the Simpson case would know something about that.

* "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" airs at 8 tonight on HBO. It is also scheduled for a theatrical release in Los Angeles on Oct. 5.

CORRECTION-DATE: June 15, 1996, Saturday

CORRECTION:

Documentarians--Filmmaker Joe Berlinger is 34 and Bruce Sinofsky is 40. Their ages were swapped in a story Monday about their HBO documentary "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: The Victims: Steven Branch PHOTO: Christopher Byers PHOTO: Michael Moore PHOTO: The defendants: From left, odd-behaving teens Jessie Misskelley Jr., Damien Wayne Echols and Jason Baldwin.
PHOTOGRAPHER: Photos from HBO PHOTO: "Paradise Lost" filmmakers Bruce Sinofsky, left, and Joe Berlinger.
PHOTOGRAPHER: Gannett Suburban Newspapers

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 1996

EXHIBIT A-126



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Found on Miami.com
The Miami Herald

June 10, 1996 Monday FINAL EDITION

SECTION: LIVING; Pg. 1C

LENGTH: 531 words

HEADLINE: A RIVETING LOOK AT CHILD MURDERS

BYLINE: ROBIN DOUGHERTY Herald Television Critic

BODY:

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills, 8 p.m., HBO cable channel

The best-kept secret among movie buffs is that, when it comes to edge-of-your-seat drama -- not to mention edgy storytelling -- documentaries are better than Hollywood feature films any day.

A fantastic example of this shows up on HBO tonight. Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills is about as far removed as you can get from the good-for-you documentaries you suffered through in fifth grade. (In fact, it generated quite a buzz among festival-

goers at Sundance earlier this year.)

It's the story of how the community of West Memphis, Ark., reacted when three local teenagers were arrested for the gruesome murders of

three 8-year-old boys in 1993, allegedly as part of a satanic ritual.

Paradise Lost isn't an easy film to watch. It opens with footage from the crime scene, introduces us to the bereft parents of the slain boys, lets us get to know the defendants' families, and ushers us through the trial. The cameras are still running when police officers recount how the children died.

But the power of filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky (they made the spellbinding 1992 film Brothers' Keeper) draws you into the subtle politics of the trial and the town itself. Paradise Lost is riveting because it suggests that the community was willing to look beyond evidence and fairmindedness, and instead scapegoat three individuals who merely seemed suspicious.

The defendants are 16-year-old Jason Baldwin, a small kid who looks nearly as young as the victims; Jessie Miss-kelley Jr., a mentally challenged 17-year-old who confessed to watching his cohorts rape and murder the victims; and "Damien" Wayne Echols, whose black wardrobe, heavy-metal albums and interest in witchcraft are used to convince the jury that he engaged in occult behavior.

The film unfolds in two stages -- Jessie's trial and the trial of Jason and Damien. During the second one, there's an 11th-hour turn-of-events that points the finger at another member of the community. (The most powerful dynamic in the movie is how your opinions of almost everyone involved change radically over the 2 1/2 hours.)

But long before the verdicts come in, the filmmakers treat us to people's unguarded moments. We eavesdrop on Jessie confessing a sexual fantasy to his girlfriend from the jailhouse pay phone. The mother of one victim appears before the TV camera seemingly intoxicated, wearing her son's Cub Scout scarf draped on her hair. The stepfather of another boy, a charismatic lay reader at his church, pumps bullets into a pumpkin he pretends is the head of a defendant.

The most compelling character is Damien. He comes across as a sympathetic, authority-suspicious loner, more akin to J.D. Salinger than Satan. The prosecution's case against him is nothing short of cockamamie. (In fact, no physical evidence ever links the teens with the crime.) His wardrobe and his page-boy-gone-bad haircut wouldn't get a second look in South Beach.

What is Damien guilty of? Many will agree with Damien's father, who points out, "So what if he wears a black trenchcoat? I like black myself."

NOTES: TELEVISION

GRAPHIC: photo: Steven Branch, Jessie Misskelley Jr., Christopher Byers, Damien Echols, Michael Moore, Jason Baldwin (all-n)

LOAD-DATE: October 25, 2002

EXHIBIT A-127



Copyright 1996 The Chronicle Publishing Co.
The San Francisco Chronicle

JUNE 10, 1996, MONDAY, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: DAILY DATEBOOK; Pg. E2

LENGTH: 976 words

HEADLINE: HBO's Chilling 'Child Murders'
Graphic documentary shows town's pain, rage

BYLINE: PETER STACK, Chronicle Staff Writer

BODY:

In a daring move, HBO will present tonight one of the most disturbing, provocative documentaries ever shown on television. "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" is 2 1/2 hours long and airs at 8 p.m.

A real-life "River's Edge," the HBO-produced film covers a year in the small town of West Memphis, Ark., after three 8-year-old boys were mutilated and murdered. Graphic but brief footage of the grisly crime scene opens the documentary, and there are further shocking visual references later on.

In the case, a horrified, angry community demanded immediate justice for the deaths of Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, whose nude bodies were found in a wooded creek along Interstate 40.

Police quickly arrested three local teenagers, fans of heavy-metal rock music, and accused them of the murders. They were alleged to be devil worshipers, participants in a satanic ritual that culminated in the three slayings.

'CONDEMNED' BEFORE TRIAL

"The teens were condemned by public opinion before they ever stepped into a courthouse," said Joe Berlinger, 34, who made the film with Bruce Sinofsky, 40.

The film goes far beyond the crimes themselves to explore a community in which poverty and inadequate education are common. Religion also played a role in the story.

"The town and the local media talked of nothing but blood drinking, devil worship, homosexual orgies, demons," Sinofsky said in a telephone interview from the partners' Manhattan production office last week. "But the suspects, one of whom wore a Metallica T-shirt, always maintained they were innocent.

"We first heard about the case through a newspaper article. Our first inclination was to make a film about disaffected youth -- how could kids be so troubled that they would do something like murder three 8-year-olds?"

"But when we got to Arkansas, we found it wasn't all cut and dried. The boys were convicted in the public's mind from day one, but when we started to talk to people, we realized the state's case was full of holes. We were looking at a town in pain, and we were looking at poor man's justice -- it's what happens when you don't have a dream team.

"That's when it got fascinating for us."

Berlinger and Sinofsky are famous for what they call "nonfiction feature films" of courtroom cases they first encounter in simplistic news accounts. When they start to poke around, talking to people in the usually rural towns where the cases take place, they uncover ambiguities and misunderstandings.

HBO's Chilling 'Child Murders' \ graphic documentary shows town's pain, rage Th .n Francisco Chronicle JUNE 10, 1996, MONDAY, FINAL EDITION

Their best-known work is "Brother's Keeper," released in 1992. It looked at two elderly brothers who lived together in poverty in upstate New York, and the court case that resulted from the death of one. The film, released in theaters, was a huge hit for a documentary -- with a gross of \$ 1.5 million, it did better at the box office than "Hoop Dreams."

"We never take cameras to a community until we've visited a lot of people and have talked about a case, talked to everybody we can who's involved," said Berlinger. "So we begin by not filming, because you have to avoid this feeling that you're in their faces."

"You have to build relationships," said Sinofsky. "You have to build trust. Otherwise, we're just two long-haired guys from New York City trying to exploit a situation."

The people of Arkansas open up in amazingly candid ways in "Paradise Lost." Much of the film is devoted to the agonizing despair, bitterness and hatred felt by some of the parents of the dead boys. The stepfather of one of the dead boys, John Mark Byers, sings in a local church, but sputters a chilling line of invective against the suspects, then target-shoots at pumpkins pretending he is blowing them away. Berlinger and Sinofsky also got unusual footage of the anguished families of the accused (and later convicted) killers and the defendants themselves. Two weeks before the trial began of 17-year-old Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., 16-year-old Charles Jason Baldwin and Damien Wayne Echols, 18, the film makers obtained permission to film the entire trial.

"When we started out, we had no idea how far this story would go," said Berlinger. "As film makers, we're always looking for dramatic building blocks, but when people began to open up, and when we got such incredible access to the trial and the defendants, everything began to pile up. We filmed more than 150 hours of footage, and through the whole process, HBO, our producers, kept giving the green light."

An initial budget of \$ 500,000 swelled to \$ 750,000.

AGONIZING DECISION

The partners agonized over including the graphic footage from a police video and color stills shot at the crime that both film makers say "still gives us nightmares."

"We decided to use the material, but only briefly, because it was important to show the nature of the crimes," said Berlinger.

"TV is full of violence, but it's sanitized and people are desensitized to it. The community's outrage about this case thrived on rumor and innuendo, yet in reality, it was people's imaginations about what had been done to the boys that fanned the flames," said Sinofsky.

"We wanted to give the film that look at brutal reality, to not make it something you could dismiss. But then move on with the story."

"Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" has not been shown to anyone in West Memphis, but will air there tonight too.

"We don't know what the reaction will be," said Berlinger, "though we have continued to stay in touch with the families."

The film also has been booked to play in 150 theaters this fall, including several screens in Arkansas.

'PARADISE LOST'

"Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," by film makers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, airs at 8 p.m. today on HBO.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO (3),(1) Bruce Sinofsky and Joe Berlinger directed 'Paradise Lost, The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills', (2) Jason Baldwin was one of the three convicted, (3) Michael Moore was one of the victims

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 1996

EXHIBIT A-128



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Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

June 10, 1996, Monday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: LIFESTYLE, Pg. 3D

LENGTH: 588 words

HEADLINE: FASCINATING EVIL;
DOCUMENTARY CHRONICLES A GRUESOME CRIME, A COMMUNITY'S REACTION AND THE;
CONVICTION OF THREE TEEN-AGERS.

BYLINE: TOM JICHA; TV/Radio Writer

BODY:

HBO presents an America Undercover documentary tonight that is like a tragic auto wreck. It is grotesque to look at, but once it captures your attention, you find it's almost impossible to turn away.

Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills doesn't sneak up on you. It opens right in your face as law enforcement agents in West Memphis, Ark., discover the gruesome remains of three 8-year-old boys who have been raped, then murdered and sexually mutilated. "Imagine all the evils you can think of," an observer says. "That's how these three boys died."

What is left of their bodies, abandoned in a creek in a wooded area not far from their homes, is not camouflaged. It's as disturbing a series of scenes as has ever been presented on TV.

What kind of monsters are capable of such horrific acts? Within a month, police arrest three teens, none terribly bright, all admittedly involved in satanic worship and addicted to heavy metal music.

Although the evidence against them, especially a confession by one which implicates the other two, initially seems compelling, Paradise Lost plays it down the middle, a strategy that gained filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky extraordinary access to both sides of the case.

Cameras are allowed into pretrial planning sessions of prosecutors and defense lawyers as well as into the courtroom. Even more remarkable, the families of both sides open up to Berlinger and Sinofsky. On one particular Sunday, the filmmakers are in church with the parents of a victim in the morning, then at a barbecue with the family of one of the accused in the afternoon. Members of each faction seem anxious to have their feelings aired.

Their reflections are heart-rending at times. The only thing worse than having your child murdered is the knowledge that your offspring could be guilty of such a heinous act. At other times, it's like Mayberry gone mad. Rural Southerners, who fit the most negative stereotypes of the region, shoot rifles at targets they confess they wish were the accused. The satanism connection is treated as if the devil himself were a codefendant.

Jesse Misskelley, 17, who confessed, is tried separately from his two codefendants, Damien Echols, 18, and Jason Baldwin, 16. Eventually Misskelley renounces his confession, saying it was coerced.

Echols denies culpability, but his credibility is compromised by a perpetual smirk. He is clearly the dominant personality of the trio, and his attitude evokes a feeling that if he didn't commit this crime, he probably has committed others almost as bad. The father of a child out of wedlock, he mockingly says his son's first words will probably be "capital punishment."

FASCINATING EVIL; DOCUMENTARY CHRONICLES A GRUESOME CRIME A COMMUNITY'S REACTION AND THE CONVICTION OF THREE TEEN-AGERS. Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL) June 10, 1996, Monday,

Baldwin comes across as the kind of kid who would meekly go along with the crowd. His defense is that he is being prosecuted because of guilt by association, although he stops short of acknowledging that the other two are guilty of anything.

The filmmakers' neutrality extends to focusing on alternatives to the guilt of the youths. One possibility offered for consideration is the involvement of the father of one of the dead second-graders. The underlying theory, that Misskelley, Echols and Baldwin have been railroaded because they are different, is strictly for those who believe O.J. was the victim of a police conspiracy.

The thoroughness of the piece extends its length to a challenging 2 1/2 hours. However, the time you spend watching is nothing compared to how long you will be troubled by what you see.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS 6, Steven Branch; Christopher Byers; Michael Moore; TOP: Three 8-year-old boys in West Memphis, Ark., were sexually attacked, murdered, mutilated and dumped in a creek in a wooded area not far from their homes.; Jessie Misskelley; Damien Echols; Jason Baldwin; LEFT: Three teen-agers who were admittedly into satanic worship were convicted of the slayings. Families of both victims and suspects welcomed the filmmakers.

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 1996

EXHIBIT A-129



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The Washington Post

June 10, 1996, Monday, Final Edition

SECTION: STYLE; Pg. B01

LENGTH: 615 words

HEADLINE: Monsters in Our Midst; HBO's 'Paradise Lost': A Gruesome Reality

BYLINE: Tom Shales, Washington Post Staff Writer

BODY:

If you feel like spending 150 minutes in Hell, HBO has just the movie for you. "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills" is total immersion in a wretched world where something very horrible happened. It's a chilling and unforgetting study of a time, a place and a tragedy.

The time was 1993, the place West Memphis, Ark., and the tragedy was the murder of three little boys -- unusually brutal murders, even by American standards. In the film, premiering at 8 tonight on HBO, producer-directors Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky investigate the killings and their aftermath in a stark and clinical way.

"Paradise Lost" is long, slow, often horrific and definitely not for children; HBO was irresponsible in scheduling it to start as early as 8 p.m. Even many adults will find it rough going. But it does offer a gripping portrait of one crime's awful reverberations in the backward, backwoods community in which it occurred.

Berlinger and Sinofsky elect to show us the victims right at the start of the film -- videotape and photos of the three mutilated bodies lying in a ditch behind the Blue Beacon Truckwash. Unfortunately, the producers make a clumsy mistake by accompanying this grisly scene with jarringly irreverent music by the rock group Metallica.

Metallica's pretentious rumblings are used throughout the documentary because one of the three teenagers charged in the crime is a devotee of such morbid-minded heavy-metal bands. But at this point in the film, it seems appallingly tasteless.

What prosecutors try to prove as the case unfolds is that the teenagers were not only into heavy-metal music but also Devil worship, and that the murders were part of some obscene satanic rite.

The case takes bizarre twists involving, among other things, a mysterious stranger glimpsed nearby on the night of the crime and a seemingly abusive father who has a brain tumor. The filmmakers themselves come into possession of a knife that may have been used in the murders and turn it over to the judge.

Berlinger and Sinofsky apparently had virtually unlimited access during the months the case wore on. They take their cameras even into private meetings between lawyers and clients -- almost everywhere but into the jury room. We also meet the parents of the three slain second-graders (Christopher, Michael and Stevie) and of the accused boys (Jessie, Jason and Damien).

Christopher's mother says of the suspects, "I hate these three and the mothers that bore them." Michael's father says his son was "killed by real monsters." Stevie's mother appears severely traumatized; a local TV reporter matter-of-factly asks her if she's considered suicide.

Strangest of the lot is Christopher's stepfather, a Bible-brandishing Baptist minister who shouts Gospel at the scene of the crime, sings from the pulpit in his snakeskin boots and uses a rifle to shoot up a pumpkin in his back yard, glee-

fully pretending the pumpkin represents, in turn, each of the three accused teenagers. Stevie's mother says, "I believe I'd try to kill them, too . . . probably shoot 'em, then cut 'em up."

The ripple effect of the murders is to contaminate most of those who are connected to them, whether they are relatives of the victims or of the accused. By the end of the film, verdicts have been returned on all three young men, but deep doubts remain.

"Paradise Lost" is apparently meant to be an ironic -- or at least sarcastic -- title, since this sad, dreary corner of the world is by no stretch a paradise. It's a nest of trailer parks and beer bellies and Confederate flags. That something very horrible happened here seems, finally, not all that surprising.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Murder victims Steven Branch, top, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore.

LOAD-DATE: June 10, 1996 June 10, 1996

EXHIBIT A-130



Copyright 1996 The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)
The Post and Courier (Charleston, SC)

June 7, 1996, Friday, POST AND COURIER EDITION

SECTION: TV, Pg. 4

LENGTH: 361 words

HEADLINE: Fame too cheap in 'Paradise Lost'

BYLINE: Frank Wooten Of The Post and Courier

BODY:

"Now, even after I die, people are gonna remember me forever."

That's how Damien Echols sums up the self-satisfying realization that his name and his alleged deeds will live on after his earthly demise.

What did Echols, at age 18, do to achieve this immortality of sorts?

He raped, murdered and mutilated three 8-year-old boys in West Memphis, Ark.

At least an Arkansas jury ruled that he did (he still denies it).

"Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," airing at 8 Monday night on HBO, chronicles a grisly criminal case that shook a small town, a case authorities describe as Satanic ritual torture and slaughter.

This 2-hour "America Undercover" documentary goes inside - and outside - the courtroom to reveal all sides of the bitterly contested legal battles.

"Paradise Lost" also reveals how easily you can shed the dreaded anonymity of modern life by committing a heinous act.

Warning: This is rough going.

As Joe Berlinger (who directed with Bruce Sinofsky) explains in an HBO release:

"The film opens with police crime-scene video of the dead bodies on the day they were discovered in the shallow creek along Interstate 40. We feel that this material is not gratuitous - that the footage is essential to the opening of the film.

"Why? Our society has become so desensitized to news reports of violent crime that we felt it was important that the viewer really feels and emotionally recognizes the horrific nature of the crime."

Horrific it is.

Though the filmmakers have their doubts, Echols was convicted and sentenced to death by legal injection. Accomplice Jessie Misskelley, 17 at the time of the killings, got life plus 40 years. Accomplice Jason Baldwin, 16 at the time, got life without parole.

Echols' death sentence can't bring back little Stephen Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore.

And to hear Echols smugly tell it from his jail cell, his death, whenever it comes, won't erase his grisly measure of fame.

Fame too cheap in 'Fame' 'Lise Lost' The Post and Courier (Charleston, S.C.) June 7, 1996, Friday,

"It'll be sort of like I'm the West Memphis bogeyman," Echols tells viewers. "Little kids will be looking under their bed(s) before they go to bed - Damien might be there."

LOAD-DATE: June 8, 1996

EXHIBIT A-131



Copyright 1996 Boston Herald Inc.
The Boston Herald

June 6, 1996 Thursday FIRST EDITION

SECTION: TELEVISION; Pg. 059

LENGTH: 727 words

HEADLINE: Finding America's lost; HBO 'Undercover' series captures chilling tragedy

BYLINE: By Monica Collins

BODY:

An HBO documentary, "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," rattles in your head and weighs down your heart long after the chilling film ends.

Nothing more upsetting than reckoning with murdered children. Nothing more disturbing than realizing that we're really killing ourselves.

Finely textured despite its blunt impact, "Paradise Lost" (premiering Monday as part of HBO's distinctive "America Undercover" series) is a stark, true story about the butchering of three young boys in West Memphis, Ark., in May 1993 and of the judicial aftermath, culminating in the conviction of three teen-agers. That is the surface story.

The murky undercurrents give "Paradise Lost" its intense resonance. For the murdered children, there was never any paradise to lose. And this film becomes a journey through America lost - a story of fractured families, a broken judicial system, sloppy cops and maddeningly irresponsible media.

The slain boys' families are as fragmented as the killers' clans - amalgams of stepparents, single mothers, girlfriends, boyfriends, half-sisters, common-law wives, illegitimate children. Amid the cigarette smoke, alcohol and fast food, these people eke out an existence in West Memphis, a downtrodden town bounded by an interstate and laced with trailer parks and neon churches. But this is not God's country. Evil pervades the atmosphere of West Memphis.

Steven Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, 8-year-old boys on bikes, met that evil in the woods alongside the interstate. There, the boys were found dead, naked, hog-tied, raped and mutilated.

"Paradise Lost" shows the crime scene, as recorded by the police, at the beginning of the film. It is a sight too gruesome to sit through passively.

After the killings were discovered, the shocked populace of West Memphis naturally clamored for swift justice. And the police quickly obliged by arresting three teen-age boys who were well-known to them.

Jessie Misskelley, Damien Echols and Jason Baldwin were the misfits of West Memphis. After Misskelley confessed, the police and prosecutors figured they had the case all wrapped up. However, there was virtually no physical evidence.

All that blood, all that mayhem and yet there was nothing marking the killers at the crime scene, except a couple of fibers.

Filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky went to West Memphis after the suspects were arrested in 1993. They stayed until the defendants were convicted in 1994. Along the way, they worked like skillful documentarians, insinuating themselves into the community, becoming so much a part of the place that they gained the confidence of both the suspects' families and the murdered boys' kin.

Finding America's lost; HBO 'Uncover' series captures chilling tragedy The Boston Herald June 6, 1996 Thursday

They captured such indelible scenes as two fathers of the murdered boys taking target practice. The men, Todd Moore and Mark Byers, shoot a pumpkin to bits while they pretend to pound Jessie Misskelley and the other two suspects.

The shooting incident comes after the elder Byers has sung beautifully at his local church as well as lectured the filmmakers about Satan at the crime scene. Later, it is revealed that Byers gave one of the HBO crew a knife with blood traces on it as a present. DNA testing shows the blood could possibly be from him or his murdered stepson. Mark Byers is the creepiest denizen of West Memphis.

And there's a carefree barbecue at the Misskelleys' trailer home where Jessie Sr. puts steaks on the grill. The family gathers so the filmmakers can record them all singing "Happy Birthday" to Jessie Jr. in jail. One person not singing, however, is Lee Rush, the elder Misskelley's girlfriend. She's on the porch of the trailer, wringing her hands, watching the merriment from afar.

These subjects soon learn to forget the camera. Only Pam Hobbs seems smitten. Hobbs, the mother of Steven Branch, shows up for her first TV interview after the murders wearing a bright red dress and giggling, "Whee, I'm on TV," she exults to the local reporter. He then asks her whether she's contemplating suicide to join her son in heaven. At first, she doesn't know what he's talking about.

"Paradise Lost" presents a jumble of tragic miscues. The film is more about loss among the living than the dead.

HBO's "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders At Robin Hood Hills" premieres Monday at 8 p.m. It repeats on June 13, 16, 20 and 25.

LOAD-DATE: June 12, 1996

EXHIBIT A-132



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The New York Times

March 26, 1996, Tuesday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section C; Page 16; Column 4; Cultural Desk

LENGTH: 812 words

HEADLINE: FILM FESTIVAL REVIEW;
In the Shadows of Hell and Hatred

BYLINE: By JANET MASLIN

BODY:

In making "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky discovered the kind of small-town nightmare that is a documentary film maker's dream. In this sad, lurid and darkly transfixing story, they locate all the elements of true crime reporting at its most bitterly revealing.

They also deliver a rich and painfully intimate portrait of West Memphis, Ark., a town torn apart by the strong emotions captured on screen. "West Memphis can go to hell," one party to this story exclaims angrily. "West Memphis is hell," somebody else replies. This mesmerizing two-and-a-half-hour documentary by the makers of "Brother's Keeper" often appears to corroborate that claim.

The genesis of "Paradise Lost" was the horrific 1993 murder of three 8-year-old boys, one of whom was genitally mutilated by his killer. Arrests soon followed: three teen-agers with well-known tastes for pop satanism -- i.e., books on witchcraft, Metallica records -- were charged with the crime. The confession of one suspect, Jessie Misskelley, a tiny 17-year-old with an I.Q. of 72, implicated two of his friends, Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, and Damien Wayne Echols, 18. Damien's affectations of demonic spookiness had made him especially unpopular around town.

The arrests unleashed a wave of cathartic hatred from the victims' families, who became instant local celebrities in the process. Pam Branch, the mother of one of the dead boys, showed up in a red dress to vamp for a handsome television reporter, who asked her whether she was having suicidal thoughts. (It didn't look that way.) John Mark Byers, the stepfather of another victim, let the film makers watch him boast about vengeance while shooting holes in a pumpkin ("Oh, Jessie, I done blowed you half to Tucson!"), croon for his church congregation and take Polaroids at the dead boy's grave.

The film makers may have begun this project with the thought of simply indicting small-town prejudice, since the nonconformity of the three suspects provoked their neighbors' venom. ("Johnny Cash wears black, doesn't he?" Damien's father asked plaintively, trying to defend his son against the charge of wearing sinister clothes.) But it soon became clear that this case had a complicated, unpredictable life of its own.

Watching closely, dividing itself between revealing interviews and courtroom drama, "Paradise Lost" takes many surprising turns while building a circumstantial argument against someone other than the three teen-agers -- someone who, astoundingly, had a knife that may have been the murder weapon and gave it to the film makers as a gift. Even before they decided to turn that knife over to investigators, Mr. Berlinger and Mr. Sinofsky had, by training their outsiders' camera on the hard lives and harder attitudes of West Memphis, themselves become part of this story.

The film also looks on as adolescent arrogance, while not a criminal offense, helps one of the teen-age suspects possibly dig his own grave. When one of the boys giggles that he has been only half-listening in court, his lawyer says tartly, "Maybe they'll only halfway kill you if they convict you."

The film makers probe their material deeply, developing exceptionally ready access to sources on either side of this case. Their camera is everywhere: in the courtroom, in jail, at lawyers' conferences, at family gatherings and among the press. ("How're you feeling right now?" is a typically cruel question from one reporter.)

In assembling their film, they heighten some of its drama by withholding certain facts until strategic moments. But the cumulative credibility and persuasiveness of "Paradise Lost" are not compromised. Without trivializing the killings they came to investigate, the film makers carefully study the tattered social fabric that is the backdrop for an unthinkable crime.

"Paradise Lost" will be shown tonight at 6 and Thursday at 9 P.M. as part of the New Directors/New Films series. In addition, it will be broadcast by Home Box Office on June 10 and will have a theatrical release in the fall.

PARADISE LOST

The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills

Directed, produced and edited by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky; director of photography, Robert Richman; music by Metallica; a Home Box Office presentation of a Hand-to-Mouth Production. At the Roy and Niuta Titus Theater, Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53d Street, Manhattan, as part of the New Directors/New Films series of the Film Society of Lincoln Center and the Museum of Modern Art. Running time: 150 minutes. This film is not rated.

WITH: Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., Damien Wayne Echols, Charles Jason Baldwin, Pam and Terry Hobbs, Melissa and John Mark Byers, Todd and Diane Moore, Shelby Misskelley, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Sr., Lee Rush, Gail Grinnell, Pam Echols and Joe Hutchison.

LOAD-DATE: March 26, 1996

EXHIBIT A-133



Copyright 1994 Sun-Sentinel Company
Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

March 21, 1994 MONDAY, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL, Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 739 words

HEADLINE: TOT DIES IN SCALDING

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

A Brooklyn foster mother who put a 2-year-old girl into a tub of scalding water was charged with second-degree murder, housing police said.

Norma Douglas, 32, waited nearly two days before taking her niece to the hospital, said Lt. Thomas Sbordone, a spokesman for the housing police. The girl, Ditaya Douglas, died on Friday night at Cornell Medical Center's burn unit with second-and third-degree burns on a third of her body.

Irish march in Boston

BOSTON - There was a St. Patrick's Day celebration on Sunday in South Boston - minus an Irish gay and lesbian group.

A hastily organized motorcade of more than 200 vehicles briefly cruised the traditional route of the St. Patrick's parade, which organizers canceled this year after a court ordered them to allow the gay group to march.

The unofficial observance lasted less than an hour.

Amish trial to begin

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, Pa. - Edward Gingerich, accused of murdering his wife on a quiet Amish farm in northern Pennsylvania, goes on trial today.

Gingerich, who has a history of mental problems, was arrested on March 18, 1993, as he walked down a country road with his 3-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son. The body of his wife, Katie, had been found in his Rockdale Township farmhouse.

Defense lawyer Donald Lewis, who plans an insanity defense, and Assistant District Attorney J. Wesley Rowden would not comment on the case.

Teen sentenced to death

JONESBORO, Ark. - A teen-ager was sentenced to death on Saturday for the murder of three 8-year-old boys whose bodies were found naked, hogtied and battered.

Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted of three counts of capital murder. The jury recommended death for Echols and life in prison without parole for Baldwin.

The victims - second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore - disappeared on May 5 while riding bicycles through a West Memphis neighborhood.

False wall found in cabin

ESTILL FORK, Ala. - A false wall was discovered on Sunday in the remote mountaintop cabin of a man suspected of 15 murders in six states.

"We're not commenting on anything we found behind the wall," Jackson County investigator Chuck Phillips said. "But, you know, why would anybody have a false wall?" Digging continued at several of 15 potential grave sites around the cabin of Frank T. Potts, 50, who is being held in Lakeland on an unrelated charge of sexual battery against an 11-year-old girl.

Farrakhan tells of plot

FRESNO, Calif. - Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan says enemies who link him to the assassination of Malcolm X are plotting his murder.

"They've already determined that I must die," Farrakhan said in a four-hour speech on Saturday night. He did not name the conspirators. Farrakhan denied he was involved in the 1965 slaying of Malcolm X.

Charges filed in crash

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. - Vehicular manslaughter charges have been filed against the driver of a pickup truck that crashed in an irrigation ditch, killing 12 passengers.

Wendever Ordonez, 23, will be arraigned on the charges this week, Deputy District Attorney Steve Sinfeld said.

Ordonez was driving the pickup on Interstate 15 when it crashed on March 9. The truck was carrying 19 passengers who apparently entered the United States illegally, authorities said.

King civil trial to begin

LOS ANGELES - The final chapter in the Rodney King case begins on Tuesday when the trial gets under way in King's multimillion-dollar civil suit against the city of Los Angeles.

The city has admitted liability for King's beating. The trial will determine only the amount of damages.

King's suit demands payment for alleged permanent injuries and mental suffering inflicted by police officers on March 3, 1991.

Activist's son killed

MODESTO, Calif. - The son of a longtime San Francisco anti-crime activist was shot to death in what police called a random act of violence.

Sulu Palega Jr., 21, and two members of his church basketball team were leaving a Jack-in-the-Box restaurant early Saturday when the occupant of another car shouted something, then fired a shot that struck Palega in the head. Sulu Palega Sr. was an original member of the Mission Rebels, a multiracial group formed in the 1950s to fight street violence in urban neighborhoods, said San Francisco police Officer Art Tapia.

LOAD-DATE: August 8, 1994

EXHIBIT A-134



Copyright 1994 Charleston Newspapers
Charleston Gazette (West Virginia)

March 20, 1994, Sunday

SECTION: News; Pg. P2C

LENGTH: 494 words

HEADLINE: TEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH IN ARK. SLAYINGS

BODY:

JONESBORO, Ark. (AP) _ A teen-ager was sentenced to death Saturday for the murder of three 8-year-old boys whose bodies were found naked, battered and hogtied. An accomplice was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted Friday of three counts of capital murder. The same jury that convicted them recommended death by injection for Echols and life in prison without parole for Baldwin.

The victims, second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles through their West Memphis neighborhood. Their bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

When Circuit Judge David Burnett asked Baldwin if there was any reason he should not impose the sentence, Baldwin said, "Because I'm innocent."

When asked the same question, Echols replied, "No, sir."

A witness said two of the 8-year-olds were raped and one was castrated. Prosecutors presented evidence suggesting Echols was a devil worshipper and Baldwin his loyal follower.

The jury found two mitigating circumstances in Echols' case, including that he was "under extreme emotional or mental disturbance," but said that was outweighed by the cruelty and depravity of the murders.

Burnett set Echols' execution date for May 5, exactly a year after the boys were killed.

Steve Branch's mother, Pam Hobbs, was pleased with the sentences but said Echols did not deserve to die on the same date as her son.

Baldwin's mother, Gail Grinnell, said her son was innocent.

"He should be coming home," she said.

The jury heard about 2½ hours of testimony from defense witnesses for Echols before beginning deliberations on the sentences. No one testified for Baldwin. Prosecutors sought the death penalty for both youths.

Echols' father, Joe Hutchison, said he blamed himself for his son's problems. "I've had regrets for eight years," he said. "I didn't do what I should have done."

The prosecution pointed out that in interviews with a psychologist, Echols referred to himself as another Ted Bundy or Charles Manson and said, "People will remember me."

Paul Ford, an attorney for Baldwin, reminded jurors that Baldwin has no prior criminal history. "You've already decided that Jason Baldwin will die in prison," he said. "The question is how he will die there. I ask for mercy."

Echols and Baldwin were arrested June 3 after a friend, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., made incriminating statements to police. Misskelley, 18, was convicted in a separate trial of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. He is serving a prison sentence of life plus 40 years.

Misskelley said he watched Echols and Baldwin beat the boys, rape two of them and castrate one. At one point, Misskelley said, he chased down Michael and prevented him from escaping.

LOAD-DATE: January 31, 1995

EXHIBIT A-135



Copyright 1994 The Dallas Morning News
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

March 20, 1994, Sunday, STATE EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; AROUND TEXAS & SOUTHWEST; Pg. 21A

LENGTH: 213 words

HEADLINE: AROUND TEXAS & SOUTHWEST

BYLINE: From Wire Reports

BODY:

Jury suggests execution of teen in boys' deaths

JONESBORO, Ark.- A jury recommended the death penalty Saturday for one teen-ager convicted of murdering three 8-year-old boys, and recommended life without parole for the other youth convicted in the slayings. Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted Friday of three counts of capital murder. The victims, second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles through their West Memphis, Tenn., neighborhood. Their nude, hogtied, battered bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day. The same jury that convicted Mr. Echols and Mr. Baldwin recommended the death penalty for Mr. Echols and life in prison without parole for Mr. Baldwin.

Border patrols boosted as spring harvest nears

BROWNSVILLE, Texas- With the approach of the spring harvest in South Texas, border agents are beefing up patrols along the Rio Grande. U.S. Border Patrol agents from Mercedes and Port Isabel will be showing force in Brownsville in an effort to curb illegal river crossings there, said Fred Rangel, a spokesman for the Border Patrol in McAllen. Bridge crossings will not be affected, said Joe Galvan, the international bridge system director.

LOAD-DATE: March 21, 1994

EXHIBIT A-136



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Los Angeles Times

March 20, 1994, Sunday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 4; Column 3; National Desk

LENGTH: 337 words

HEADLINE: 19-YEAR-OLD MURDERER OF 3 BOYS SENTENCED TO DEATH;
COURTS: A 16-YEAR-OLD ACCOMPLICE IS GIVEN A LIFE TERM IN ARKANSAS. THE BATTERED
VICTIMS WERE ALL SECOND-GRADERS.

BYLINE: By from Associated Press

DATELINE: JONESBORO, Ark.

BODY:

A teen-ager was sentenced to death Saturday for the murder of three 8-year-old boys whose bodies were found naked, battered and hogtied. An accomplice was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted Friday of three counts of capital murder. The same jury that convicted them recommended death by injection for Echols and life in prison without parole for Baldwin.

The victims, second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles through their West Memphis, Ark., neighborhood. Their bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

When Circuit Judge David Burnett asked Baldwin if there was any reason he should not impose the sentence, Baldwin said: "Because I'm innocent."

When asked the same question, Echols replied: "No, sir."

A witness said two of the 8-year-olds were raped and one was castrated. Prosecutors presented evidence suggesting that Echols was a devil worshiper and Baldwin was his loyal follower.

Burnett set Echols' execution for May 5, exactly a year after the boys were killed. However, an appeal is automatic and the execution date was set as a matter of record only.

The jury heard about 2 1/2 hours of testimony from defense witnesses for Echols before beginning deliberations on the sentences. No one testified for Baldwin.

Echols' father, Joe Hutchison, said he blamed himself for his son's problems. "I've had regrets for eight years. I didn't do what I should have done."

The prosecution pointed out that in interviews with a psychologist, Echols referred to himself as another Ted Bundy or Charles Manson and said "people will remember me."

Echols and Baldwin were arrested on June 3 after a friend, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., made incriminating statements to police. Misskelley, 18, was convicted in a separate trial of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. He is serving a prison sentence of life plus 40 years.

LOAD-DATE: March 21, 1994

EXHIBIT A-137



Copyright 1994 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

March 20, 1994, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 23; Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 201 words

HEADLINE: Death Penalty Recommended for Teen-Ager

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: JONESBORO, Ark., March 19

BODY:

A jury recommended the death penalty today for one teen-ager convicted of murdering three 8-year-old boys and life in prison without parole for a second youth convicted in the slayings.

Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted on Friday of three counts of capital murder. The victims, second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles through their West Memphis neighborhood. Their nude, hogtied, battered bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

A witness said two of the 8-year-olds were raped and one was castrated. Prosecutors presented evidence suggesting Mr. Echols was a devil worshipper and the younger teen-ager his loyal follower.

The jury found two mitigating circumstances in the Echols case but said that was outweighed by the cruelty and depravity of the murders, and recommended death by injection.

The jury cited the younger youth's age and his lack of a criminal record, leading to the recommendation of a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

The two were arrested on June 3 after a friend, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., made incriminating statements to police officers.

LOAD-DATE: March 20, 1994

EXHIBIT A-138



Copyright 1994 Sentinel Communications Co.
Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

March 20, 1994 Sunday, 3 STAR

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A22

LENGTH: 110 words

HEADLINE: JURY RECOMMENDS DEATH FOR 1 KILLER, LIFE FOR ANOTHER

DATELINE: JONESBORO, ARK.

BODY:

A jury recommended the death penalty Saturday for one teen-ager convicted of murdering three 8-year-old boys and recommended life without parole for another youth convicted in the slayings. Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted Friday of three counts of capital murder. The same jury that convicted Echols and Baldwin recommended the death penalty for Echols and life in prison without parole for Baldwin. The victims - second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore - disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles in their West Memphis neighborhood. Their bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

COLUMN: OTHER NEWS TO NOTE
SOUTH

LOAD-DATE: March 22, 1994

EXHIBIT A-139



Copyright 1994 The Baltimore Sun Company
The Sun (Baltimore)

March 20, 1994, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 17A, IN THE NATION

LENGTH: 489 words

HEADLINE: Two Green Berets get Medal of Honor

SOURCE: FROM WIRE REPORTS

BODY:

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Army has approved the first bestowing of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War for two Green Beret sergeants who jumped into the middle of a fierce Somalian firefight Oct. 3 and were killed defending the crew of a downed Army helicopter.

Pentagon officials said Army Secretary Togo West last week approved the nation's highest award for valor to Special Forces Master Sgt. Gary Gordon, 33, of Lincoln, Maine, and Sgt 1st Class Randall Shugart, 35, of Blain, Pa.

Although still subject to the recommendation of Defense Secretary William Perry, the Army action represents the major hurdle for the awards, defense officials said. They were approved by the top secret Delta Force and Special Operations commanders after an extensive investigation of events surrounding the deaths.

Jury recommends death for teen-ager

JONESBORO, Ark. -- A jury recommended the death penalty yesterday for one teen-ager convicted of murdering three 8-year-old boys and recommended life without parole for a second youth convicted in the slayings.

Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted Friday of three counts of capital murder. The victims, second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles through their West Memphis, Ark., neighborhood. Their nude, hogtied, battered bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

Echols was sentenced to die by lethal injection on May 5, but an appeal under Arkansas law is automatic and the execution date was set as a matter of record only.

Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, was given a life term.

4 die as planes collide in midair

SAN ANTONIO, Texas -- Four people were killed yesterday when two vintage World War II-era planes collided in the air near downtown San Antonio, authorities said.

Police and fire officials said the planes apparently touched wings while performing in an air show near the Alamodome sports complex.

According to broadcast reports, one of the planes hit a building and exploded, killing the two people in the aircraft.

No one on the ground was reported hurt.

Humor columnist in critical condition

ATLANTA -- Syndicated humor columnist Lewis Grizzard experienced extensive brain damage after heart surgery and his chances of recovery were very small, hospital officials said yesterday night.

Mr. Grizzard was in critical but stable condition at Emory University Hospital after his fourth major heart operation in 12 years.

Mr. Grizzard, 47, writes for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and his column is syndicated to 450 newspapers nationwide.

Mr. Grizzard's living will requests that his life not be prolonged in the event of massive brain damage, the hospital said.

Mr. Grizzard married his fourth wife, Dedra Kyle, in the hospital Wednesday.

LOAD-DATE: September 20, 1994

EXHIBIT A-140



Copyright 1994 The Times-Picayune Publishing Co.
Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA)

March 20, 1994 Sunday, THIRD

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. A19

LENGTH: 157 words

HEADLINE: JURY CALLS FOR DEATH FOR TEEN KILLER

DATELINE: JONESBORO, ARK. (AP)

BODY:

A teen-ager was sentenced to death Saturday for the murder of three 8-year-old boys whose bodies were found naked, battered and hogtied. An accomplice was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted Friday of three counts of capital murder. The same jury that convicted them recommended death by injection for Echols and life in prison without parole for Baldwin.

The victims, second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles through their West Memphis neighborhood. Their bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

When Circuit Judge David Burnett asked Baldwin if there was any reason he should not impose the sentence, Baldwin said, "Because I'm innocent."

When asked the same question, Echols replied, "No sir."

A witness said two of the 8-year-olds were raped and one was castrated.

LOAD-DATE: March 22, 1994

EXHIBIT A-141



Copyright 1994 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

March 20, 1994 Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 24; ZONE: C

LENGTH: 295 words

HEADLINE: ARKANSAS TEEN FACES DEATH SENTENCE IN MURDER OF 3 BOYS

BYLINE: Associated Press.

DATELINE: JONESBORO, Ark.

BODY:

A jury recommended the death penalty Saturday for one teenager convicted of murdering three 8-year-old boys, and recommended life without parole for a second youth convicted in the slayings.

Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, each were convicted Friday of three counts of capital murder. The jury recommended death by injection for Echols and life in prison without parole for Baldwin.

The victims, 2nd-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles through their West Memphis neighborhood. Their nude, hogtied, battered bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

Prosecutors presented evidence suggesting Echols was a devil worshiper and Baldwin his loyal follower.

The jury found several mitigating circumstances in Baldwin's case, saying he was "under unusual pressure or influences or under domination of another person." The jury also cited Baldwin's age, his lack of a criminal record and said he was an accomplice.

Judge David Burnett set Echols' execution date for May 5, exactly a year after the boys were killed.

Echols' father, Joe Hutchison, said he blamed himself for his son's problems. "I've had regrets for eight years," he said. "I didn't do what I should have done."

The prosecution pointed out that in interviews with a psychologist, Echols referred to himself as another Ted Bundy or Charles Manson and said, "people will remember me."

Echols and Baldwin were arrested June 3 after a friend, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., made incriminating statements to police. Misskelley, 18, was convicted in a separate trial of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. He is serving a prison sentence of life plus 40 years.

LOAD-DATE: March 20, 1994

EXHIBIT A-142



Copyright 1994 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

March 19, 1994, Saturday

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS; Section A; Page 3

LENGTH: 480 words

HEADLINE: AROUND THE SOUTH REGION IN BRIEF Killers of 3 boys face sentencing today

BYLINE: by Mike Smith

BODY:

Jurors return today for the sentencing phase of the trial of two West Memphis, Ark., teenagers convicted Friday of murdering three second- graders in a satanic ritual.

A jury of eight women and four men deliberated about 11 1/2 hours over two days before convicting Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, of the murders of Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, who disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles near their homes. The trial was held in Jonesboro.

Echols and Baldwin could be sentenced to death or to life in prison for the murders. A co-defendant, Jessie Misskelley Jr., was convicted in a separate trial and was sentenced to life plus 40 years. He told police of Echols's and Baldwin's roles in the killings but did not testify against them.

GOVERNORS 'UNSEATED': Thursday proved to be a bad day for sitting governors - or for governors trying to sit. Mississippi Gov. Kirk Fordice had to beat a retreat from a cow he was supposed to milk at a salute to farmers in Jackson when the cow refused to go along with the photo opportunity. And Alabama Gov. Jim Folsom had to make a fast recovery as a chair collapsed underneath him at a bill-signing ceremony in Montgomery.

FRIDAY WAS NO BETTER: Alabama Gov. Jim Folsom found himself under fire from a civil rights leader for signing a proclamation designating April as Confederate History and Heritage Month. Folsom said he had not read the proclamation when he signed it. Meanwhile, the governor announced that Mercedes-Benz would not become the official state limousine, despite an agreement the state signed to land the German automaker's first U.S. plant. And a lawyer for the state told a judge that Alabama's agreement to buy 500 vehicles from the plant when it's up and running was merely puffery. That provision of the agreement with Mercedes has been challenged in court as a violation of the state's purchasing policies.

SUPREMACISTS SUED: The mother of a black Persian Gulf War veteran who was shot to death by a white supremacist in a Neptune Beach, Fla., parking lot has sued a church affiliated with the killer, saying it publicized her son's death to raise money. Connie Mansfield, mother of the late Petty Officer Harold J. Mansfield Jr., 22, filed the suit against Church of the Creator. George Loeb, a leader of the church, is serving a life sentence for the 1991 slaying. His associates say the church has disbanded.

ELSEWHERE "Today" show critic Gene Shalit was hospitalized with a broken right leg after being clipped by a car Thursday night as he crossed a street in St. Pete Beach, Fla. . . . Rail traffic along the East Coast was detoured following a collision Thursday night between a logging truck and a freight train near Coosawhatchie, S.C. The truck driver, Charlie Clay Smith, 37, was charged with driving around warning gates at the Jasper County rail crossing.

LOAD-DATE: March 20, 1994

EXHIBIT A-143



Copyright 1994 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

March 19, 1994, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 10; Column 6; National Desk

LENGTH: 105 words

HEADLINE: Two Teen-Agers Convicted Of Killing 3 Arkansas Boys

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: JONESBORO, Ark., March 18

BODY:

After weeks of testimony that included evidence of devil worship, two teen-agers were convicted today of murdering three boys who had been abducted.

The killers, Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, were each convicted of three counts of capital murder in the deaths of the three second graders from West Memphis: Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, all 8. The boys disappeared on May 5 riding their bikes. Their bodies were found the next day.

A third youth, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., 18, was convicted last month of murder in the case and is serving a prison sentence of life plus 40 years.

LOAD-DATE: March 19, 1994

EXHIBIT A-144



Copyright 1994 News & Record (Greensboro, NC)
News & Record (Greensboro, NC)

March 19, 1994, Saturday, ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: GENERAL NEWS, Pg. A4

LENGTH: 121 words

HEADLINE: TWO TEENS CONVICTED OF KILLING THREE BOYS WHO WERE BIKE RIDING

DATELINE: JONESBORO, ARK.

BODY:

Teenagers Convicted of Murdering Three 8-Year-Old Boys Two teenagers were convicted Friday of killing three boys who were abducted and beaten while on a bike ride through their neighborhood.

Jurors deliberated a little less than two days before convicting Damien Echols and Charles Jason Baldwin of three counts each of capital murder. They face the death penalty or life without possibility of parole.

Echols, 19, and Baldwin, 16, were convicted of killing West Memphis second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore.

The three 8-year-olds disappeared May 5 while riding their bicycles near their homes in their West Memphis neighborhood. Their bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

GRAPHIC: North

LOAD-DATE: August 18, 1994

EXHIBIT A-145



Copyright 1994 San Jose Mercury News
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San Jose Mercury News (California)

March 19, 1994 Saturday MORNING FINAL EDITION

SECTION: FRONT; Pg. 9A

LENGTH: 74 words

HEADLINE: TWO CONVICTED OF KILLING THREE 8-YEAR-OLD BOYS

BYLINE: Mercury News Wire Services

BODY:

Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Baldwin, 16, were convicted Friday in Jonesboro, Ark., of killing three boys who were abducted while on a bike ride through their neighborhood. They face the death penalty or life without parole. West Memphis second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, all 8 years old, disappeared May 5. Their bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day. They were reportedly tied up and beaten.

NOTES: National News in Brief

LOAD-DATE: October 25, 2002

EXHIBIT A-146



Times Publishing Company
St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

March 19, 1994, Saturday, Early Tampa Edition

SECTION: NATIONAL; NATION IN BRIEF; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 934 words

HEADLINE: He's lawyer, American, Marine captain

SOURCE: Compiled from Times Wires

DATELINE: WASHINGTON; LOS ANGELES; ALTURAS, Calif.; DETROIT; JONESBORO, Ark.

BODY:

Bruce Yamashita got a new Marine-style haircut and donned a fresh uniform Friday to join the Marine Corps, the military service he said had ostracized him five years ago because of racial discrimination.

Yamashita, 38, a Washington lawyer of Japanese ancestry, was commissioned a captain in the Marine Corps Reserves in ceremonies held in the House Armed Services Committee room before lawmakers, civil rights representatives, Pentagon officials and supporters from his native Hawaii.

"It is with great pride that I wear this uniform today," Yamashita said after the ceremony. "It means much more to me now than ever I could have imagined five years ago."

Yamashita was drummed out of officer candidate school at Quantico, Va., in April 1989, only two days before graduation, on grounds of "leadership failure."

He appealed, saying he was the victim of persistent racial harassment and physical abuse during the training program. The Pentagon eventually admitted wrongdoing and commissioned Yamashita as a captain.

Woman acquitted in husband's castration

LOS ANGELES - A woman who castrated her husband with a pair of scissors was acquitted Friday of mayhem and assault with a deadly weapon.

A seven-woman, five-man jury deliberated three days before reaching its verdict in the trial of Aurelia Macias, 36, of Los Angeles. The panel was unable to reach a verdict on a lesser charge of battery filed against Mrs. Macias for the Sept. 20, 1992, attack on her husband, Jaime.

Mrs. Macias' lawyer argued that she was a battered wife who was about to be raped by her husband and believed her life was in danger when she cut off his testicles. Prosecutors accused Mrs. Macias of inventing a battered wife defense similar to that presented by Lorena Bobbitt, the Virginia woman who cut off her husband's penis. A jury acquitted Bobbitt by reason of temporary insanity.

Deputy District Attorney Larry Longo said Mrs. Macias purposely castrated her husband because of jealousy over his affairs.

The couple is said to have reconciled since the attack and Mrs. Macias did not want to press charges against her husband.

Court upholds parole of rapist in county

ALTURAS, Calif. - A state appeals court threw out a rural judge's order thwarting the parole of a serial rapist whose presence enraged residents.

The appellate court on Friday blocked the temporary restraining order issued the day before by County Judge Guy Young.

Young, acting at the request of local District Attorney Ruth Sorensen, had ordered the state Corrections Department to halt Melvin Carter's three-year parole pending an April 1 hearing.

Sorensen indicated she would continue the court fight to keep Carter out of Modoc County. He remained in a minimum-security prison camp near Alturas, the seat of Modoc County in northeastern California.

Local officials and residents want Carter, who has served 12 years in prison, paroled elsewhere. The state wants him to serve his parole in Modoc County.

Mich. abortion law blocked temporarily

DETROIT - A federal judge temporarily blocked Michigan from enforcing a law that would require 24-hour waiting periods for women who want abortions.

The new law, scheduled to take effect April 1, also would require that women seeking abortions be given material on the risks of the procedure and be shown drawings of fetuses.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds issued a temporary order blocking enforcement of the law until a full hearing can be held on its constitutionality.

Two teens guilty in Ark. boys' murders

JONESBORO, Ark. - Two teenagers were convicted Friday of killing three 8-year-old boys who were abducted and beaten while on a bike ride through their neighborhood.

Jurors deliberated a little less than two days before convicting Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, of three counts each of capital murder in the May 5 killings of West Memphis second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore.

Echols and Baldwin face the death penalty or life without possibility of parole.

A third teen, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., 18, led police to his two friends. He was convicted last month of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. He is serving a sentence of life plus 40 years. Woman acquitted in husband's castration

LOS ANGELES - A woman who castrated her husband with a pair of scissors was acquitted Friday of mayhem and assault with a deadly weapon, but jurors failed to reach a verdict on the lesser charge of battery.

The prosecutor said he would seek to have Aurelia Macias, 36, retried on the battery charge.

She testified that she cut off her husband Jamie's testicles on Sept. 20, 1992, because he was about to rape her and she feared for her life. She also said she had been beaten and abused throughout her 17-year marriage.

Prosecutors accused Mrs. Macias of inventing the battered-wife defense because she had seen it successfully used in the case of Lorena Bobbitt, the Virginia woman who cut off her husband's penis. A jury acquitted Bobbitt by reason of temporary insanity.

Deputy District Attorney Larry Longo said Mrs. Macias purposely castrated her husband because of jealousy over his affairs.

Her public defender said the case should never have been tried because the couple has reconciled and Jaime Macias did not want his wife prosecuted. He did not testify against her.

He's lawyer, American, Marine c...ain St. Petersburg Times (Florida) March 19, 1994, Saturday, Early Tampa Edition

GRAPHIC: BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO, Associated Press; Bruce Yamashita is commissioned a Marine captain on Friday in Washington by former Marine Ernest Kimoto.

LOAD-DATE: March 21, 1994

EXHIBIT A-147



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The Washington Post

March 19, 1994, Saturday, Capital Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A2; AROUND THE NATION

LENGTH: 141 words

HEADLINE: Addenda

SERIES: Occasional

BYLINE: From News Services

BODY:

#The United States sent 86 Mexican citizens serving criminal sentences back to Mexico in exchange for 11 U.S. citizens from Mexican prisons, Attorney General Janet Reno said. Both groups will serve out their sentences in their native lands.

#Jurors in Jonesboro, Ark., convicted Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, of three counts each of capital murder for abducting and brutally beating West Memphis, Ark., second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore while on a bike ride through their neighborhood. Echols and Baldwin face the death penalty or life without possibility of parole.

#Cleveland and Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials began a search for three children who may have been exposed to radioactive material. The children had been seen playing with a container contaminated with Cesium 137.

LOAD-DATE: March 18, 1994

EXHIBIT A-148



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Chicago Tribune

March 19, 1994 Saturday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 16; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 228 words

HEADLINE: 2 TEENS CONVICTED IN SLAYINGS OF 3 ARKANSAS BOYS

DATELINE: JONESBORO, Ark.

BODY:

Two teenagers were convicted Friday of killing three boys who were abducted and brutally beaten while on a bike ride through their neighborhood.

Jurors deliberated a little less than two days before convicting Damien Echols and Charles Jason Baldwin of three counts each of capital murder. They face the death penalty or life without possibility of parole.

Echols, 19, and Baldwin, 16, were convicted of killing West Memphis 2nd-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore.

The three 8-year-olds disappeared May 5 while riding their bicycles near their homes in their West Memphis neighborhood. Their bodies were pulled from a drainage ditch the next day.

The boys reportedly were tied up and beaten.

Echols and Baldwin were arrested June 3 after a friend, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., made incriminating statements to police.

Misskelley, 18, was convicted last month of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. He is serving a prison sentence of life plus 40 years.

The jury that convicted Echols and Baldwin will begin deliberations Saturday to determine whether they should be sentenced to death or life in prison.

During their trial, prosecutors presented evidence suggesting Echols was a devil worshiper and Baldwin was his loyal follower.

Witnesses testified that both bragged about the killings.

LOAD-DATE: March 19, 1994

EXHIBIT A-149



Copyright 1994 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

February 5, 1994, Saturday

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS; Section A; Page 3

LENGTH: 466 words

HEADLINE: Around the South REGION IN BRIEF Killer of 3 boys gets life in prison

BODY:

Jessie Misskelley Jr. was convicted Friday in the beating deaths of three West Memphis, Ark., boys, but the jury cleared him of capital murder charges, and he was sentenced to life plus 40 years in prison.

Misskelley, 18, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Michael Moore, whom Misskelley admitted chasing down, and of second-degree murder in the killings of Steve Branch and Chris Byers. The boys, all second-graders, had disappeared from their homes May 5, and their nude bodies, battered and hog-tied, were found the next day in a drainage ditch. Two of the boys had been raped, and one was castrated.

Prosecutors relied on statements Misskelley made after his arrest, while the defense hammered away at discrepancies between those statements and actual evidence. Two co-defendants, Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, are to stand trial together later this month.

- **MOBILE HOME IMPROVEMENT?** The Department of Housing and Urban Development has proposed rules requiring that mobile homes sold after July 13 in Florida, southern Louisiana and coastal North Carolina withstand winds up to 110 mph. The new rules, adapted in the wake of Hurricane Andrew, would require mobile homes in other coastal states to withstand 100-mph winds. The standard now is 60 mph.

- **INCENTIVE:** An anonymous donor has offered a \$ 150,000 reward to anyone who can provide information by Tuesday on the whereabouts of Ylenia Carrisi, 23, an Italian tourist who disappeared in New Orleans. But police in New Orleans say that Carrisi, a granddaughter of the late actor Tyrone Power, was identified as the woman seen jumping into the Mississippi River on Jan. 6.

- **MOVING DAY:** Junius Wilson, 96 - the man North Carolina forgot - moved into a home he can call his own after being warehoused in a mental facility for the past 68 years. Wilson, who is deaf but not mentally ill, moved into a three-bedroom cottage on the grounds of Cherry Hospital near Goldsboro. At age 28, Wilson was charged with assault with intent to commit rape, declared insane, sent to the hospital and castrated. The criminal charge was dropped, but Wilson continued to live in the hospital. Threatened with a lawsuit in 1992, the state agreed to take care of him.

ELSEWHERE

U.S. Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) apologized for referring to African leaders as "cannibals." . . . A federal appeals court ruled that the Internal Revenue Service can force Knoxville, Tenn., lawyer Bob Ritchie to disclose the names of clients who paid him \$ 10,000 or more in cash. . . . A Florida judge ruled that abortion foe Michael Griffin is competent to stand trial Feb. 21 in the slaying of a physician outside a Pensacola abortion clinic. . . . City elections are today in New Orleans.

- Compiled by Mike Smith

GRAPHIC: Photo: Mug shot of Jessie Misskelley Jr.

LOAD-DATE: February 8, 1994

EXHIBIT A-150



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Los Angeles Times

February 5, 1994, Saturday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 21; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 559 words

HEADLINE: DROPOUT FOUND GUILTY IN DEATHS OF 3 BOYS;
CRIME: JESSIE LLOYD MISSKELLEY JR., 18, IS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR THE BRUTAL SLAYINGS. TWO OTHER DEFENDANTS AWAIT TRIAL IN ARKANSAS.

BYLINE: By LYNDA NATALI, SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

DATELINE: CORNING, Ark.

BODY:

An 18-year-old high school dropout was found guilty Friday in the brutal murders of three 8-year-old boys.

"It doesn't change anything for my son, who was tortured and murdered!" Melissa Byers shouted after Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr. was found guilty of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. "He (Misskelley) deserves to be tortured! He murdered three 8-year-old babies!"

Misskelley was sentenced to life in prison.

Second-graders Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore disappeared May 5, 1993, while riding their bikes in their West Memphis, Ark., neighborhood. Their nude, battered and hogtied bodies were found the next day in a drainage ditch less than a mile from their homes.

According to medical examiners, Branch and Moore drowned after suffering fractured skulls. Byers, who was castrated during the attack, bled to death.

During seven days of often graphic and emotional testimony, the boys' parents sat in the one-story county courthouse as the prosecution showed more than 40 gruesome photographs taken at the crime scene.

Witnesses, some choking back tears, described how the boys' skulls were shattered and how their bodies were sexually mutilated.

The discovery of the bodies grabbed headlines and set into motion a massive police hunt that ended with Misskelley's confession last June.

Misskelley -- who did not testify at his trial -- had told police that he watched as two other defendants, Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, and Damien Wayne Echols, 19, killed the boys.

Because of the publicity surrounding the case, the trial was moved about 120 miles north of West Memphis to the small town of Corning.

West Memphis police Detective Bryn Ridge testified that before Misskelley confessed to being present at the murders, he had talked about belonging to a cult.

Police Inspector Gary Gitchell testified that Misskelley confessed after police played him a tape-recorded message in which an unidentified young boy said: "Nobody knows what happened but me."

The defense charged that the tape was one of many measures used by the police to coerce Misskelley's confession.

DROPOUT FOUND GUILTY IN DEATHS OF 3 BOYS; CRIME: JESSIE LIND MISSKELLEY JR., 18, IS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR THE BRUTAL SLAYINGS. TWO OTHER DEFENDANTS AWAIT TRIAL IN ARKANSAS. Los Angeles Times

His attorneys, Daniel Spidham and Gregory Crow, also argued that Misskelley wasn't at the scene of the crime. Several of his friends testified that he had been at a wrestling match the night the boys died.

"There is no physical evidence linking little Jessie Misskelley to the crime scene, not even a little bit," Spidham said in closing arguments Thursday as his client sat with his head down, nervously swaying back and forth. "No fingerprints, footprints, no hairs, nothing."

But the prosecution's most powerful weapons were Misskelley's own words. During the confession, he gave details about the injuries inflicted on the children.

And most damning was his admission that he helped capture Moore as the second-grader tried to escape. "If this defendant didn't chase down Michael Moore, he would have gotten to go home and be with his parents," prosecutor Brent Davis told the jury in his closing statement Thursday. "Jessie Misskelley Jr. didn't let Michael Moore get away. He chased him down like an animal."

"A guilty verdict for one is a start," Chris Byers' father, John, said Friday as he hugged his crying wife. "There are still two more to go."

Baldwin and Echols face trial later this month.

LOAD-DATE: February 6, 1994

EXHIBIT A-151



Copyright 1994 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

February 5, 1994, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 7; Column 2; National Desk

LENGTH: 255 words

HEADLINE: Youth Is Convicted In Slaying of 3 Boys In an Arkansas City

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: CORNING, Ark., Feb. 4

BODY:

A teen-ager was convicted today in the slayings of three 8-year-old boys from West Memphis, Ark. He was spared the death penalty by a jury that rejected the most serious charge, capital murder.

The teen-ager, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., 18, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of a boy whom he had admitted chasing down. He was convicted of second-degree murder in the deaths of the other two boys.

Late this afternoon, Judge David Burnett of Circuit Court sentenced Mr. Misskelley to life and 40-year sentences to run consecutively, virtually insuring that he will spend all his life in prison. The first-degree murder conviction carried a maximum penalty of life in prison. The second-degree murders carried a maximum penalty of 20 years each.

Two other defendants are to be tried later.

The victims, Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, all second-graders, disappeared from their West Memphis neighborhood on May 5. Their bodies, nude, battered and hogtied, were found the next day.

Mr. Misskelley told the police in two tape-recorded interviews that he had watched as his two friends beat the boys, raped two of them and castrated one. The prosecution said the slayings might have been part of a Satanic ritual.

The case was tried in Clay County Circuit Court in this Northeast Arkansas town about 100 miles from West Memphis after Mr. Misskelley's court-appointed lawyer requested a change of venue.

The two other defendants are Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16.

LOAD-DATE: February 5, 1994

EXHIBIT A-152



Copyright 1994 Sentinel Communications Co.
Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

February 5, 1994 Saturday, 3 STAR

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A14

LENGTH: 115 words

HEADLINE: JURY CONVICTS TEEN-AGER IN DEATHS OF 3 BOYS, ALL 8

DATELINE: CORNING, ARK.

BODY:

A teen-ager was convicted on Friday in the slayings of three 8-year-old boys but was spared the death penalty by a jury that rejected the most serious charge, capital murder. Jessie L. Misskelley Jr., 18, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Michael Moore. He was convicted of second-degree murder in the deaths of the other two boys, Steve Branch and Chris Byers. The three boys, all second-graders, disappeared from their West Memphis neighborhood May 5. Their nude, battered and hogtied bodies were found the next day. Misskelley was the first of three teens to be tried in the killings. Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, face trial later.

COLUMN: OTHER NEWS TO NOTE
SOUTH

LOAD-DATE: February 5, 1994

EXHIBIT A-153



Copyright 1994 Sun-Sentinel Company
Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

February 5, 1994 SATURDAY, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL, Pg. 6A

LENGTH: 325 words

HEADLINE: TEEN GUILTY IN SLAYINGS OF THREE 8-YEAR-OLDS

BYLINE: Sun-Sentinel wire services

DATELINE: CORNING, Ark.

BODY:

A teen-ager was convicted on Friday in the slayings of three 8-year-old boys but was spared the death penalty by a jury that rejected the most serious charge, capital murder.

Jessie Misskelley Jr., 18, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of a boy whom Misskelley admitted chasing down. He was convicted of second-degree murder in the deaths of the other two boys.

"An animal like that needs to be locked up," said Mark Byers, stepfather of victim Chris Byers.

"Nothing will bring back my son," said Pam Hobbs, mother of another victim. "But I'm satisfied the jury found him guilty."

Chris Byers, Steve Branch and Michael Moore, all second-graders, disappeared from their West Memphis neighborhood on May 5. Their nude, battered and hogtied bodies were found the next day.

Misskelley was the first of three teens to be tried in the killings. Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Baldwin, 16, face trial later.

Prosecutors relied heavily on Misskelley's taped statements to investigators. The defense said he was manipulated into making those statements.

"Jessie didn't tell police anything they didn't know," defense attorney Dan Stidham said in closing arguments on Thursday. "They led him through this entire recorded statement."

Misskelley told police in two recorded interviews that he watched as his two friends beat the boys, raped two of them and castrated one boy.

In his closing remarks, Prosecutor Brent Davis said Misskelley admitted chasing down one of the victims when he tried to get away.

"If this defendant does not chase down Michael Moore and bring him back, Michael Moore lives," Davis said. "But he chased him down like an animal and as a result Michael Moore is dead, Steve Branch is dead and Chris Byers is dead."

The first-degree murder conviction, for the death of Michael, carries a potential penalty of up to life in prison. Second-degree murder carries a penalty of five to 20 years.

LOAD-DATE: August 18, 1994

EXHIBIT A-154



Copyright 1994 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

February 5, 1994 Saturday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 332 words

HEADLINE: TEEN GUILTY IN MURDERS OF 3 BOYS;
ARKANSAS YOUTH GETS LIFE SENTENCE FOR ROLE IN KILLINGS

BYLINE: Associated Press.

DATELINE: CORNING, Ark.

BODY:

A teenager who said he watched two of his friends beat, hog-tie and kill three 8-year-old boys was convicted of murder Friday, but spared the death penalty.

Jessie Lloyd Misskelley, 18, was found guilty of one count of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of Michael Moore, Steve Branch and Chris Byers. The Clay County Circuit Court jury returned its verdict after 10 1/2 hours of deliberations.

Circuit Judge David Burnett sentenced Misskelley to life in prison plus 40 years. The teen could have been sentenced to death if convicted of capital murder in the three slayings.

Two other teens accused of beating and hog-tying the boys and throwing them in a ditch last May are to be tried together on capital murder charges later this month.

Misskelley told authorities he watched as Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, beat the boys, raped two of them and castrated one boy.

At one point, Misskelley said, he chased down Moore after he tried to escape and brought him back to the murder scene. He was convicted of first-degree murder in Moore's death.

The parents of Steve Branch and Michael Moore were composed as the verdict was read, but Mark and Melissa Byers sobbed openly. Misskelley's parents also wept as the verdict was read.

"The only satisfaction would be if one of them could die and my son could come back," Mark Byers said as he left the courthouse.

Misskelley sat expressionless with his eyes glued to the defense table as Burnett announced each verdict.

While being sentenced, he stood between his lawyers, with his hands in his pockets and his head cocked slightly to the right.

Defense attorneys Dan Stidham and Greg Crow said they would appeal to the state Supreme Court. During the trial, they had alleged that West Memphis police interrogators manipulated Misskelley into confessing to a crime he did not commit.

Echols and Baldwin are to be tried later this month in Jonesboro, Ark.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO; PHOTO: Jessie Lloyd Misskelley, 18, sits in a Corning, Ark., courtroom Friday as he is found guilty in the murders of three 8-year-old boys. AP photo.

LOAD-DATE: February 5, 1994

EXHIBIT A-155



Copyright 1994 Chicago Sun-Times, Inc.
Chicago Sun-Times

February 4, 1994, FRIDAY, FINAL MARKETS

SECTION: NEWS; PLUS NEWS; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 470 words

BODY:

EVERS SLAYING TRIAL: The assassination of civil rights leader Medgar Evers 30 years ago is "a scar that will never go away" and it is not too late for jurors to do the right thing, prosecutor Bobby DeLaughter told the jury in the Jackson, Miss., trial of Byron De la Beckwith. Defense attorney Jim Kitchens countered that three police officers placed Beckwith 90 miles away from Evers on the night he was shot. The jury was expected to begin deliberations later today in the third trial of Beckwith, whose two trials in 1964 both ended in hung juries. Now 73, he could get life in prison.

GAY BIAS POLICY: The Clinton administration has taken strong action to protect homosexual federal employees from discrimination, Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) said. He released a letter from James King, director of the federal Office of Personnel Management, setting grievance procedures that gay federal employees can use if they think they have been victims of discrimination. Frank said that before King's letter there was no clear-cut grievance policy short of a lawsuit for gay federal employees who contend they have suffered discrimination at work.

MURDER CONVICTION: Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., 18, was convicted in Conway, Ark., in the slaying of three 8-year-old boys, but was spared the death penalty by a jury that rejected the most serious charge, capital murder. Misskelley was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of a boy whom Misskelley admitted chasing down. He was convicted of second-degree murder in the deaths of the other two boys. Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, all second-graders, disappeared from their West Memphis neighborhood May 5. Their nude, battered and hogtied bodies were found the next day.

HEALTH CARE REFORM: Hillary Rodham Clinton said while touring Children's Hospital of Philadelphia that it's time to "start talking some sense" and cut through flawed objections thrown up by insurance companies and other critics of President Clinton's health reform plan. She said insurance companies have "rigged the system" against families and small businesses and created a paper work explosion in the health care bureaucracy.

BUDGET BLUES: White House budget chief Leon Panetta told a Senate committee that the Clinton administration has been tightfisted in preparing a \$ 1.5 trillion budget for 1995 that eliminates or shrinks hundreds of programs. Clinton sends lawmakers his budget next week. Officials said the budget would slash mass transit aid to cities, loans for rural America, Army Corps of Engineers projects and uranium enrichment research. The budget also will seek to trim 100,000 federal jobs by year's end, mostly through buyouts and attrition, and cut \$ 1.4 billion from travel expenses and other government administrative costs, Panetta said.

LOAD-DATE: February 4, 1994

EXHIBIT A-156



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REUTERS

Reuters News

January 28, 1994 Friday

LENGTH: 361 words

HEADLINE: Expert gives gruesome testimony in child murder case.

BYLINE: By Steve Barnes

BODY:

CORNING, Ark, Jan 27 (Reuter) - Wounds consistent with attempted anal rape and forced oral sex were inflicted on three eight-year-old Arkansas boys prior to their murders, and the penis of one was "carved off," possibly before he was killed, a forensic pathologist testified Thursday.

Dr Fred Peretti, Arkansas associate medical examiner, testified for the state in the trial of Jessie Misskelley, Jr, 18, who is charged with capital murder in the May 1993 deaths of the three West Memphis, Arkansas, boys.

"The entire genital area is missing," Peretti said, referring the jury to an autopsy photograph of Christopher Byers. "Around the genital area you can see multiple gouging-type wounds, stab wounds and cutting wounds."

Such irregular wounds commonly occur when the knife "is being twisted and the victim is moving," he said.

The penis of a second victim was bruised, Peretti said, possibly by use of a constricting instrument or cord.

Peretti told the jury Byers and the two other victims, Steve Branch and Michael Moore, all suffered fractured skulls or multiple blows to the head in addition to numerous cuts, abrasions and bruises. All had been submerged since death, though drowning was a contributing factor in the deaths of two of the boys, Peretti affirmed.

All the dead had been "hog-tied," Peretti testified, with wrists tied to their ankles by shoelaces.

Confronted with the savagery of the victim's wounds, the defence tried to establish that anal rape had not occurred, despite Peretti's testimony that all three victims had numerous scratches and abrasions in the anal area.

Peretti acknowledged that no semen was found in the rectums or the mouths of the victims, but said its absence did not rule out anal penetration of some kind.

Some parents of the victims fled the courtroom, shaken by the forensic testimony. Mark Byers, a parent who remained to hear the evidence said, later, "I had to hear what they did to my child. I know my child isn't suffering now."

Misskelley's two co-defendants, Damien Wayne Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, are to be tried in February. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for all three.

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LOAD-DATE: January 5, 2005

EXHIBIT A-157



Copyright 1994 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

January 27, 1994, Thursday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4A

LENGTH: 543 words

HEADLINE: Trial begins in slayings of three Arkansas boys

BYLINE: Gary Fields

BODY:

Dana Moore said Wednesday that the last time she saw her son and his two friends alive, they were on their bikes, riding down the street. She sent his sister to catch him because it was time for dinner.

"I just said, 'Well I missed them,' " Moore said quietly. "I went back and waited for him to see if he'd come back. He didn't come back."

Moore's comments came in Corning, Ark., during the first day of testimony in the trial of Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., 18, accused in the deaths of Chris Byers, Steve Branch and Michael Moore, all 8.

Police say Misskelley and two other defendants tortured and mutilated the boys in a Satanic rite.

The boys' nude bodies were found in a drainage ditch less than a mile from their West Memphis, Ark., homes last May 6, their hands and feet bound with shoelaces.

Deputy prosecutor John Fogleman said two of the boys drowned and one bled to death after his genitals were cut off. All three had fractured skulls, he said.

At one point during testimony, the victims' families had to leave when pictures of the boys' bodies were shown to the jury.

The crime has changed the way of life of residents of West Memphis, a blue-collar city of 28,000.

Sarah Kirkley, principal of Weaver Elementary, where the boys went to school, says anger is the prevailing emotion.

"It's getting everything stirred back up because we're now hearing details of what was actually done to these little boys," Kirkley says. "We know now they did suffer and they were alive when most of this was done to them."

Kirkley sees other evidence.

"At our school we've seen a big difference in parents picking up children now, rather than letting them walk even though we are a neighborhood school and no one lives more than a mile away."

In opening statements, Fogleman said Misskelley told investigators things only a witness would know.

Defense lawyer Dan Stidham told the jury that Misskelley is innocent, and that his client was coerced into implicating himself.

Misskelley's father, Jessie Misskelley Sr., attended the trial. He said he spent a few minutes with his son before the proceedings began, and that he visited with him Sunday.

"He was crying when we talked to him Sunday," the elder Misskelley said. "He's scared, afraid they're going to railroad him."

Misskelley's trial was moved to Corning, 110 miles away, because of pretrial publicity. West Memphis and Memphis, Tenn., are separated by the Mississippi River.

The other defendants, Damien Echols, 19, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, are scheduled for trial Feb. 22 in Jonesboro, 65 miles northwest of West Memphis. They have pleaded innocent. All three could face death sentences if convicted.

Thomas Blomberg, professor of criminology at the University of Florida, says West Memphis residents must not give in to hysteria.

"I think the unusual nature of this case, with these three young children, really gets at the public's imagination," Blomberg says. He has seen the transformation before.

"Tallahassee (Fla.) was . . . a small, sleepy Southern town. People left their doors unlocked and walked around at all hours. It was welcomed into the real world with Ted Bundy.

"It was a transition that occurred overnight, and it was a major transition."

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC, b/w, Elys A. McLean, USA TODAY (Map, Arkansas); PHOTOS, b/w, Danny Johnston, AP (2)

EXHIBIT A-158



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Reuters News

January 20, 1994 Thursday

LENGTH: 420 words

HEADLINE: Jury selection begins in "satanic" murders trial.

BODY:

CORNING, Ark, Jan 19 (Reuter) - Jury selection began under tight security Wednesday for the murder trial of one of three Arkansas teen-agers charged in the sexual abuse and murder of three eight-year-old boys.

Four jurors had been selected when court recessed until Thursday for the murder trial of Jessie L Misskelley, Jr.

Misskelley is being charged, along with three others, of sexually abusing and then murdering the three boys in May 1993.

The dead children were found, bludgeoned and bound, in a water-filled ditch after an intensive, two-day search of West Memphis, a small city across the Mississippi River from Memphis, Tennessee.

The victims were Michael Moore, Christopher Byers and Steve Branch. Police say at least two of the boys were sexually assaulted, and the genitals of one were removed.

The crime held the community of 29,000 in terror until the defendants -- Misskelley, 18, Michael "Damien" Echols, 19, and Charles Baldwin, 16 -- were arrested a month later.

The state is seeking the death penalty against all three defendants.

"There can be some healing, but only when they're not breathing any longer," Mark Byers, father of one of the victims, said Wednesday of the defendants. "No justice is justice enough for what they did."

Circuit Judge David Barnett, who is hearing the case, seemed to acknowledge the tension by attempting to defuse it.

"This will not be 'Perry Mason'; it won't be 'L.A. Law'; it's not going to be 'People's Court,' and it's not going to be 'Night Court,'" Barnett said in an opening statement from the bench.

Barnett has ruled admissible a statement Misskelley gave police following his arrest in June.

In the tape-recorded statement, portions of which were played at a preliminary hearing last week, Misskelley is heard describing how the victims were raped, sodomized and finally thrown into a water-filled ditch the night of May 5, 1993.

Detectives have indicated they believe at least one of the defendants was active in a small ring of youthful Satan worshippers.

The judge granted a defence motion for a change of venue and ordered the trial moved some 150 miles (241 km) north of West Memphis to the small community of Corning, Arkansas, just south of the Missouri border.

Jury selection beg. in "satanic" murders trial. Reuters News Janu. 20, 1994 Thursday

The bizarre nature of the killings as well as the ages of both victims and defendants has brought correspondents and camera crews from across the country to Corning, a town with a population of 3,400

A dozen television satellite trucks flank the small Clay County, Arkansas, courthouse.

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LOAD-DATE: January 5, 2005

EXHIBIT A-159



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Reuters News

January 14, 1994 Friday

LENGTH: 388 words

HEADLINE: Tape played in court details Arkansas child murders.

BYLINE: By Steve Barnes

BODY:

MARION, Ark, Jan 13 (Reuter) - An Arkansas courtroom was stunned Thursday night as the taped statement of an accused teen-aged multiple murderer was played for a judge who must decide if it can be entered into evidence at the young man's trial next week.

Jessie Lloyd Misskelley, Jr., 18, described how the three victims, each eight years old, were raped, sodomized and finally thrown into a water-filled ditch the night of May 5, 1993 at West Memphis, Arkansas.

In the taped statement, Misskelley is heard implicating his two co-defendants, Michael "Damien" Echols, 19, and Charles Baldwin, 16.

"I saw Damien hit this one boy real bad," Misskelley is heard to say, "and he started screwin' him and stuff."

At another point in the questioning, Misskelley was asked if his co-defendants had oral sex with the victims. Misskelley replied, "Yes. One of them stuck his thing in the boy's mouth, and the other one -- while the other one got the other one up the butt and stuff."

According to testimony in a preliminary hearing last year, one of the victims -- authorities have not identified which one -- was mutilated, his penis and testicles severed.

Other testimony by police has suggested that at least one of the three defendants is believed to have engaged in Satan worship.

The dead -- Michael Moore, Christopher Byers and Steve Branch -- were found, bludgeoned and bound, in a water-filled ditch after a two-day search of this small city, located across the Mississippi River from Memphis, Tennessee.

"How did they keep the boys quiet?" a police detective asks Misskelley on the tape. "Put their hands over their mouths," Misskelley is heard, "then stuck a shirt in their mouths."

The three defendants, all of West Memphis, have remained in separate jails for security reasons. The state has announced it will seek the death penalty against all three.

The defendants have been denied bond, and have been ordered to submit hair, blood and saliva samples.

Echols and Baldwin are to be tried together following Misskelley's trial, for which jury selection is to begin Tuesday, January 18. Circuit Judge David Burnett, citing pre-trial publicity about the killings, granted a defence motion for a

Tape played in court details Arkansas child murders. Reuters News January 14, 1994 Friday

change of venue, and the case will be heard at Corning, Arkansas, a small northeast Arkansas town near the Missouri border.

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LOAD-DATE: January 5, 2005

EXHIBIT A-160



Copyright 1993 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

September 28, 1993, Tuesday

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS; Section A; Page 3

LENGTH: 455 words

HEADLINE: REGION IN BRIEF Trial moved for trio accused of murdering 8-year-old boys

BYLINE: Compiled by Paula Schwed

BODY:

Because of extensive publicity, a Marion, Ark., judge decided Monday to move the trials of three teenagers accused of killing three 8-year-old boys.

Crittenden County Circuit Judge David Burnett agreed to move the trials two counties away, and he reserved the right to move them again if he finds it impossible to seat a fair jury. He set a Feb. 21 trial date.

Michael Echols and Jessie Misskelley Jr., both 18, and Charles Baldwin, 16, are charged with three counts of capital murder in the deaths of Steven Branch, Michael Moore and Christopher Byers. The boys' bodies were found with hands and feet bound in a ditch near their West Memphis homes in May. They disappeared while riding their bicycles. Police said they died from blows to the head.

The defendants have been held without bond since their arrest.

-A HEAP OF GOLD: Investors squared off against insurance companies Monday before a Norfolk, Va., federal judge deciding who gets to keep a treasure worth perhaps \$ 1 billion. Investors who backed the salvage of the SS Central America are asking to keep 95 percent. Insurance companies argued that 25 percent would be generous. The Central America, carrying 578 passengers, sank in a hurricane in September 1857 while carrying a shipment of California gold to New York to head off a bank panic. The cargo - more than 3 tons of gold - was discovered in 1988 about 160 miles off Charleston, S.C.

-A FOGGY FINISH: For the shortcut he took to the finish line in a 1990 horse race at Lake Charles, La., jockey Sylvester Carmouche was convicted of perjury in a state court. During his 1991 misdemeanor trial, the jockey denied that he took advantage of a thick Louisiana fog to win the Delta Downs. But last year, in trying to persuade the Louisiana Racing Commission to let him race again, he confessed. His suspension was not lifted, and prosecutors charged him with perjury, for which he got a suspended three-year prison term.

ELSEWHERE

Mercedes-Benz officials say they will announce Thursday where the company will build a \$ 300 million assembly plant. Competitors include Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Mebane, N.C.; Summerville, S.C.; and Athens. A published report last week indicated that the North Carolina site already had been chosen. . . . Former New York Chief Judge Sol Wachtler is due to surrender today to a federal prison in Butner, N.C., to begin a 15-month sentence for harassing his former lover.

Tug crew clean and sober

Baggage is loaded from the site of last week's Amtrak train tragedy in Alabama. Tests showed no trace of alcohol or drug use by the four crew members of the tugboat at the center of a wide investigation. The train plunged into a bayou as a bridge crashed, killing 47 people.

REGION IN BRIEF Trial moves for trio accused of murdering 8-year-old boys Atlanta Journal and Constitution
September 28, 1993, Tuesday

GRAPHIC: Photo caption only: Baggage is loaded from the site of last week's Amtrak train tragedy in Alabama. / Associated Press

LOAD-DATE: September 29, 1993

EXHIBIT A-161



Copyright 1993 Sentinel Communications Co.
Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

September 28, 1993 Tuesday, CENTRAL FLORIDA

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A18

LENGTH: 123 words

HEADLINE: TRIAL OF 3 TEENS IN BOYS' SLAYINGS MOVED BY JUDGE

DATELINE: MARION, ARK.

BODY:

The trials of three teen-agers accused of killing three 8-year-old boys will be moved because of extensive publicity, a judge decided Monday. Crittenden County Circuit Judge David Burnett agreed to move the trials two counties away and reserved the right to move them again if he found it impossible to seat a fair jury. Charles Baldwin, 16, and Michael Echols and Jessie Misskelley Jr., both 18, are each charged with three counts of capital murder in the deaths of Steven Branch, Michael Moore and Christopher Byers. The boys' bodies were found with hands and feet bound in a ditch near their West Memphis homes in May, a day after they disappeared while riding their bicycles. Police said they died from blows to the head.

COLUMN: OTHER NEWS TO NOTE
SOUTH

LOAD-DATE: September 29, 1993

EXHIBIT A-162



Copyright 1993 The Times-Picayune Publishing Co.
Times-Picayune (New Orleans, LA)

August 5, 1993 Thursday, THIRD

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. A16

LENGTH: 123 words

HEADLINE: TEENS PLEAD INNOCENT IN SLAYINGS

DATELINE: MARION, ARK. (AP)

BODY:

Three teen-agers charged with killing three 8-year-old boys pleaded innocent Wednesday before a courtroom filled with spectators including their family members and the victims' relatives.

Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr., 18, and Michael Wayne "Damien" Echols, 18, appeared expressionless as each stood before Crittenden County Circuit Judge David Burnett.

The teen-agers, who have been jailed without bond since they were arrested June 3, are each charged with three counts of capital murder.

Three second-graders, Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steven Edward Branch of West Memphis, were found dead in a drainage ditch May 6 near their homes. Police said they died of blows to the head.

LOAD-DATE: August 7, 1993

EXHIBIT A-163



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Los Angeles Times

June 6, 1993, Sunday, Bulldog Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part B; Page 5; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 108 words

HEADLINE: 3 TEENS SEIZED IN ARKANSAS SLAYING OF BOYS LEFT IN DITCH

BYLINE: By Associated Press

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark.

BODY:

Three teen-agers were arrested in the slayings of three 8-year-old boys found last month in a drainage ditch, police said Friday.

Police Inspector Gary Gitchell identified the suspects but would not discuss motive or reveal what investigators found in searching their homes.

He said Jesse Lloyd Misskelley, 17, of Marion; Michael Wayne Echols, 18, of West Memphis, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, of Marion would appear in court on capital murder charges.

The victims, Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles in their neighborhood. Authorities discovered their bodies the next day.

EXHIBIT A-164



Copyright 1993 The New York Times Company
The New York Times

June 6, 1993, Sunday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 31; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 633 words

HEADLINE: 3 Teen-Agers Accused in the Killings of 3 Boys

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark., June 5

BODY:

On a typical day, friends say, young Jessie Lloyd Misskelley Jr. would watch pro wrestling on television, poke around under the hood of a car or baby-sit.

But others in this Mississippi River town say Mr. Misskelley and two buddies frightened them with hints of devil worship and fascination with the occult.

On Friday, the three teen-agers were charged with capital murder in the deaths of three second-grade boys.

A crowd of as many as 200 people outside the courthouse shouted "murderer," "freak," "baby killers" and "shoot 'em" as the teen-agers were taken away.

Inside the courtroom, Steven Branch, the father of one of the victims lunged at a defendant, screaming, "I'll chase you all the way to hell." Court officers subdued Mr. Branch and led him out of the room.

Mr. Misskelley, 17; Michael Wayne Echols, 18, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, were arrested Thursday in the deaths of the three 8-year-olds: Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore. They did not enter pleas at their court appearance on Friday and were ordered held without bond.

Police officials would not discuss a motive, the condition of the bodies or any possible tie to the occult.

The killings stunned this blue-collar city of about 28,000 in the shadow of Memphis. Rumors that the boys were killed and sexually mutilated as part of some ritual have persisted since the bodies were found May 6, a day after they vanished while riding their bicycles.

Many parents had not allowed their children to play outside unsupervised since then.

Neighbors described Mr. Misskelley as an ordinary young man.

"Jessie's done nothing but be a boy," said Angela Baldwin, who is not related to Charles Baldwin. "He looks tough but he's sweet."

Mr. Baldwin's mother, who refused to give her name, described her son as a brainy child who made good grades and whose only brush with trouble had been stealing a bag of potato chips.

But others found the behavior of the three teen-agers ominous.

Chris Floyd, a 16-year-old from Marion High School, said Mr. Baldwin kept to himself at school, hanging out other times with Mr. Echols and Mr. Misskelley, who were both high-school dropouts.

They were fond of drawing pentagrams, skulls and snakes on art materials, and they once arrived at a football game decked in black with black tears painted on their faces, Mr. Floyd said.

"Everybody assumed that they were going to end up in jail or something sooner or later," he said.

Some who knew Mr. Echols, whose nickname was Damien, said they were not surprised to hear he was in trouble with the law. Former schoolmates described him as an introspective loner who always wore black and never smiled.

Teacher Suspects Cult

Jim Ferguson, a substitute teacher at Marion High School, said of Mr. Echols: "He told me at school one day that whatever he can do to hurt somebody he'd do it. He likes to rule people. He's like some wacko cult member. He'll pull you in."

Lisa Faulkner, who worked with Mr. Echols at a restaurant, called him "real weird."

"He never did talk too much, and he always stayed to himself," Ms. Faulkner said. "He would sit on the deep-freezer and act like he was praying. He used to say stuff about worshipping the devil."

Mr. Misskelley's father, Jessie Misskelley Sr. said during a break in court on Friday that his son had told him that Mr. Echols drank blood.

The Rev. Tommy Stacy, pastor of Second Baptist Church, said the arrests brought a feeling of relief to the community. But he said they also troubled him because Mr. Echols and Mr. Baldwin had visited his youth group.

"Had we tried harder, maybe none of this would have happened," Mr. Stacy said. "So, while there's a sense of relief, at the same time, there is a feeling of guilt on my part. We could have reached them."

LOAD-DATE: June 6, 1993

EXHIBIT A-165



Copyright 1993 Nationwide News Pty Limited
Sunday Mail (SA)

June 6, 1993 Sunday

LENGTH: 278 words

HEADLINE: Dad: I'll see my boy's killers dead

BODY:

NEW YORK: A father's grief turned to rage when he rushed at one of three teenagers accused of killing his boy and two playmates.

"I'll chase you all the way to hell," he yelled.

Court officers in West Memphis, Arkansas, subdued Steven Branch before he reached the defendant.

The teenagers were arrested yesterday and charged with capital murder, but police wouldn't discuss a motive or reveal what was found during a search of their homes.

Jesse Lloyd Misskelley, 17, Michael Wayne Echols, 18, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, were charged in the slayings of three eight-year-olds who vanished on May 5, while riding bicycles in their neighborhood.

The next day, authorities discovered the boys' bodies in a drainage ditch in nearby woods.

A preliminary autopsy indicated the second-graders Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch died of blows to the head.

Municipal Judge Paul Rainey called a recess after Mr Branch's outburst and warned that further disruptions would lead to contempt-of-court charges.

Mr Branch bolted from his seat and ran for Echols, the first of the teenagers brought before the judge.

"I'll chase you all the way to hell," Mr Branch shouted, adding: "I'll see you dead" before he was led out of the courtroom.

The teenagers did not enter pleas and were ordered held without bond until the case is transferred to Circuit Court tomorrow.

A crowd of up to 200 people behind the courthouse shouted "murderer," "freak," "baby killers" and "shoot 'em" at the teenagers as they were taken away to a secret location.

The judge later granted a prosecution request to seal all police investigative files in the case.

LOAD-DATE: November 30, 2003

EXHIBIT A-166



Copyright 1993 The Dallas Morning News
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

June 5, 1993, Saturday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 1131 words

HEADLINE: 3 teens held in deaths of 3 Arkansas boys Leaders of anxious town voice relief

BYLINE: Doris Quan, Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

BODY:

Nearly a month after the beating deaths of three 8-year-old boys, West Memphis, Ark., police arrested three teenagers and charged them Friday with capital murder.

City leaders expressed relief at the break in the case, which had riveted the small Mississippi River town and caused many parents to bar their children from playing outside unsupervised since the bodies were found.

Emotions ran high Friday as the suspects -- Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, of Marion, Ark.; Jesse Lloyd Misskelley Jr., 17, of Marion; and Michael Wayne "Damien" Echols, 18, of West Memphis -- were arraigned on three counts of capital murder.

In the courtroom, the father of one of the slain boys lunged at Mr. Echols and yelled, "I'll see you dead." Later, up to 200 people gathered outside and shouted, "baby killers," "murderer," "freak" and "shoot 'em" as police escorted the suspects to jail, where they were ordered held without bail.

The boys, Steven Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore, were last seen together riding their bikes May 5. Their bodies were found the next day, their hands and legs bound, in a drainage ditch, about a mile from their homes in a secluded wooded area called Robin Hood Hill.

The state medical examiner's office determined that the three died of blows to the head.

At a news conference, West Memphis police Inspector Gary Gitchell would not disclose the murder weapons used, possible motives or evidence connecting the teenagers to the deaths.

The inspector said Mr. Misskelley was arrested at the Police Department on Thursday afternoon and the other two were arrested at Mr. Echols' home that night.

Sarah Kirkley, principal at Weaver Elementary School, where the slain boys attended second grade, said police appear confident in their cases against the suspects.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, he (Mr. Gitchell) said an 11," Ms. Kirkley said.

Mom defends son

Lee Misskelley, the mother of the 17-year-old suspect, professed his innocence.

She described her stepson as a trouble-free youth who likes to baby-sit, cut grass for neighbors and watch Saturday morning wrestling on TV. He dropped out of school last year and was living with his parents, she said.

"Jesse would not do something like this. . . . He loves children," she said. "This is something we cannot digest."

3 teens held in deaths of 3 Arkansas boys Leaders of anxious town voice relief TH. ALLAS MORNING NEWS June 5, 1993, Saturday, HOME FINAL EDITION

She said police confiscated some clothing from her stepson's room along with cigarettes; a scout knife, with a can opener attachment; and a necklace with a whistle. Police searched the other suspects' homes as well but would not say what they found.

Initial law enforcement reports indicated that the boys had been sexually mutilated with a sharp instrument, but police consistently have declined to comment on that.

The Arkansas CrimeStoppers had offered \$ 32,000 for information leading to an arrest, and the town had raised an additional \$ 40,000 for the victims' families.

Mrs. Misskelley told The Dallas Morning News that she and her husband had contributed money to the fund for the families.

"Everywhere I went I donated money,' Mrs. Misskelley said. "This was a tragedy. I donated to help these people.'

She also disputed local media reports suggesting that Jesse was involved in Satan-worshipping. "Everybody is trying to link Satanism to this. I have never seen Jesse in anyway to make me think he's a cult member,' she said.

Joe Echols, a second suspect's father, said police are framing his son.

"For the past month, they've been following him, they've been harassing him everywhere he went,' Mr. Echols said. "I know without a doubt in my mind this boy didn't do it.'

Family members or a legal representative for Mr. Baldwin could not be reached.

During the hearing, Steven Branch, the father of one of the slain boys, threatened Mr. Echols and said, "I'll chase you all the way to hell.' Court officers subdued Mr. Branch before he reached the defendant.

West Memphis Municipal Judge Pal Rainey called a recess and warned that further disruptions would elicit a contempt of court. The judge later granted a prosecution request to seal all police investigative files in the case.

Detectives in the city of 28,000 just across from Memphis, Tenn., had gone door to door in search of leads. Twelve investigators had been working on the case daily the past month.

The teen-agers did not enter pleas and were ordered held without bail until the case is transferred to Circuit Court on Monday. Police wouldn't say where they were taken to protect their safety.

Two of the suspects are minors but will be tried as adults, authorities said. Maximum penalty for a capital felony case in Arkansas is the death penalty.

West Memphis Mayor Keith Ingram voiced relief over the arrests.

"People would like to see justice swiftly served,' he said.

"These crimes would shock any community but it particularly shocked ours because we were one of the few communities to see a decrease in crime in the last three years.' Honor roll

The arrest came days after Weaver Elementary School, which the boys attended, had its annual awards ceremony.

An honor roll, reading achievement and leadership award -- which would have been given to Steven Branch -- were presented Wednesday to his mother, Pam Hobbs.

"I am proud to accept these awards for Stevie. I am his mother and I feel we were truly blessed with a child as great as Stevie,' Ms. Hobbs said.

Ms. Hobbs encouraged parents to be protective of their children.

"Parents, I want you to be always a little overprotective of your children. I was, but how can we be overprotective? Our children are our future. I am asking you always to be protective of them,' Ms. Hobbs said.

Afterward, she gathered her son's things from his desk, which had been left undisturbed since his death.

Lynette Moore, the school's counselor, said she has been counseling at least one student a day since they learned of the boys' deaths. For the first week after the incident, 14 counselors talked to the 330 students.

"Children can only grieve so long. But something triggers their minds again and you realize they're really not past the process,' Ms. Moore said.

"Many were sad and a number of the questions were, 'Why in the world would someone do this?' and 'Who would do this to any 8-year-old?' ' Ms. Moore said.

"I always tell them that these boys were at the wrong place at the wrong time and some very sick person decided to do this. Sometimes bad things happen and we don't know the reason,' she said.

With money the Cub Scouts raised, a pavilion and reading grove to serve as memorial will be built on the school playground this summer, Ms. Kirkley said."All three of the boys liked to read, so we thought this would be a nice memorial,' she said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): 1. Police escort Michael Wayne Echols, 18, one of three teen-agers charged Friday in the deaths of three boys found in a ditch May 6 in West Memphis, Ark. Police did not disclose evidence or possible motives in the case. (AP) 2. Charles Jason Baldwin, Michael Wayne Echols & Jesse Lloyd Misskelley Jr. 3. A group gathers Friday to watch as police in West Memphis, Ark., escort three teen-agers charged in the beating deaths of three 8-year-old boys found in a ditch May 6. (AP). **MAP(S):** Site of slayings (DMN); **PHOTO** 1. Disk 15a / Murder3 60593. 2. Disk 15a / Murder 60593. 3. Disk 15a / Murder2 60593.

LOAD-DATE: June 16, 1993

EXHIBIT A-167



Copyright 1993 The Houston Chronicle Publishing Company
The Houston Chronicle

June 5, 1993, Saturday, 2 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 9

LENGTH: 758 words

HEADLINE: Teens charged in boys' slayings; "I'll chase you all the way to hell"

BYLINE: Houston Chronicle News Services

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark.

BODY:

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. -- A father's grief turned to rage Friday when he rushed at one of three teen-agers accused of killing his boy and two playmates. "'I'll chase you all the way to hell!" he yelled.

Court officers subdued Steven Branch before he reached the defendant.

The teen-agers were arrested Thursday and charged with capital murder, but police Inspector Gary Gitchell wouldn't discuss a motive or reveal what was found during a search of their homes.

Jessie Lloyd Misskelley, 17, Michael Wayne Echols, 18, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, were charged in the slayings of three 8-year-olds who vanished May 5 while riding bicycles in their neighborhood.

The next day, authorities discovered the boys' bodies in a drainage ditch in nearby woods.

Police have declined to comment on an Arkansas state police broadcast that the children had been sexually mutilated. Gitchell said he could not comment on whether the suspects were involved in Satanism or any form of cult activity.

The boys were slain on a night with a full moon and the arrests were made the day before Friday's full moon, leading to rumors about Satanism.

All three defendants have prior records in Juvenile Court and have been represented by the Crittenden County public defender's office. Details of their previous records were not available Friday.

Municipal Judge Pal Rainey called a recess after Branch's outburst and warned that further disruptions would lead to contempt of court charges.

Branch bolted from his seat and ran for Echols, the first of

the teen-agers brought before the judge.

"I'll chase you all the way to hell," shouted Branch, adding "I'll see you dead" before he was restrained and led out of the courtroom.

The teen-agers did not enter pleas and were ordered held without bond until the case is transferred to Circuit Court on Monday. To protect the teen-agers' safety, police would not reveal where they were taken.

Rainey later granted a prosecution request to seal all police investigative files in the case.

Gitchell said Misskelley was arrested at the Police Department Thursday afternoon. Echols and Baldwin were arrested at Echols' home Thursday night.

Detectives in West Memphis, just across the Mississippi River from Memphis, Tenn., had gone door to door in search of leads.

Gitchell said last month that a preliminary autopsy indicated that Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch died of blows to the head.

The slayings of the three second-graders stunned the city of about 28,000, and many parents have not allowed their children to play outside unsupervised since the bodies were found.

On Friday, about 200 people behind the courthouse shouted "murderer," "freak," "baby killers" and "shoot 'em" at the teen-agers as they were taken away.

Although some West Memphis residents said they were relieved that there had been a break in the case, reactions of the families and friends of the victims dominated a day of shock and rage.

"They're nothing but punks, punks, punks!" shouted Pam Hobbs, the mother of Steve Edward Branch, as she stomped out of the courtroom where the families of the three young victims came face-to-face with their children's accused killers.

"I want them," she said. "I want to beat their heads up against the wall and kick them -- the same stuff they did to my son."

But Misskelley's father said his son is "a good boy" and that he did not believe the charges.

"I love my son very much," said Gail Grinnell, Baldwin's mother. "I'm just very upset about all of this."

Echols' father, Joe Hutchinson, said police are trying to frame his son.

"For the past month, they've been following him, they've been harassing him everywhere he went," he said Thursday as police searched the family's trailer home. "I know without a doubt in my mind this boy didn't do it."

Classmates said Echols carried a cat's skull around with him at school and routinely dressed in black.

A couple of years ago, he took to calling himself Damien, presumably after the anti-Christ character popularized in the film "The Omen" and its sequels.

When the 18-year-old Marion (Ark.) High School dropout was named Friday as one of the murder suspects, several classmates and others said they weren't surprised.

Several acquaintances said Echols told them he was a devil worshiper and said he was a fan of such heavy metal rock groups as Ozzy Osbourne, Metallica, Alice Cooper and Guns N' Roses.

GRAPHIC: Photo: 1. Slaying suspect Michael Wayne Echols is escorted to his arraignment Friday in West Memphis, Ark.; Mugs: 2. Gary Gitchell; 3. Charles Jason Baldwin (3-star edition); 4. Jessie Lloyd Misskelley (3-star edition); 1. Associated Press

LOAD-DATE: June 9, 1993

EXHIBIT A-168



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Los Angeles Times

June 5, 1993, Saturday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Page 2; Column 5; National Desk

LENGTH: 287 words

HEADLINE: FATHER OF SLAIN BOY THREATENS ACCUSED KILLER IN COURTROOM

BYLINE: From Associated Press

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark.

BODY:

A father's grief turned to rage Friday when he rushed at one of three teen-agers accused of killing his son and two playmates.

"I'll chase you all the way to hell," Steven Branch yelled. Court officers subdued Branch before he reached the defendant.

The teen-agers were arrested Thursday and charged with capital murder, but police Inspector Gary Gitchell would not discuss a motive or reveal what was found during a search of their homes.

Jessie Lloyd Misskelley, 17, Michael Wayne Echols, 18, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, were charged in the slayings of three 8-year-olds who vanished May 5 while riding bicycles in their neighborhood.

The next day, authorities discovered the boys' bodies in a drainage ditch in nearby woods.

Municipal Judge Pal Rainey called a recess after Branch's outburst and warned that further disruptions would lead to contempt-of-court charges.

The teen-agers did not enter pleas and were ordered held without bond until the case is transferred to Circuit Court on Monday. Police would not reveal where they were taken.

Detectives in this city just across the Mississippi River from Memphis, Tenn., had gone door to door in search of leads.

Gitchell said last month that a preliminary autopsy indicated that the slain boys -- Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch -- died of blows to the head.

The slayings of the three second-graders stunned the city of about 28,000, and many parents have not allowed their children to play outside unsupervised since the bodies were found.

On Friday, a crowd of up to 200 people gathered behind the courthouse and shouted "murderer," "freak," "baby killers" and "shoot 'em" at the teen-agers as they were taken away.

EXHIBIT A-169



Copyright 1993 The New York Times Company
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June 5, 1993, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section 1; Page 10; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 135 words

HEADLINE: 3 Arkansas Youths Are Held In Slayings of 3 8-Year-Olds

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark., June 4

BODY:

Three teen-agers have been arrested in the slayings of three 8-year-old boys whose bodies were found last month in a drainage ditch, the police said today.

Police Inspector Gary Gitchell identified the teen-agers but would not discuss motives or disclose what investigators had found in searching the youths' homes.

The victims, Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch, disappeared May 5 while riding bicycles in their neighborhood. The next day the authorities discovered their bodies in a ditch in a nearby wooded, undeveloped area known to residents as Robin Hood Park.

Inspector Gitchell said court appearances on capital murder charges were planned for Jesse Lloyd Misskelley, 17, of Marion; Michael Wayne Echols, 18, of West Memphis, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, of Marion.

LOAD-DATE: June 5, 1993

EXHIBIT A-170



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CNN

NEWS

June 4, 1993

Transcript # 382 - 2

TYPE: Package

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 264 words

HEADLINE: Three Arkansas Teens To Be Tried As Adults

BYLINE: AL HINMAN

HIGHLIGHT:

The murder in West Memphis, Arkansas involves three young men aged 18, 17, and 16 respectively. The three men will be tried as adults and may face the death penalty.

BODY:

BOBBIE BATTISTA, Anchor: Three teens are charged with murder in the deaths of three 8-year-old boys in West Memphis, Arkansas, but as CNN's Al Hinman reports, police aren't answering many questions in the case.

AL HINMAN, Correspondent: Family and friends last month mourned the brutal murders of three 8-year-old boys. Many other parents in West Memphis, Arkansas, refused to allow their young children to play outside unsupervised, fearing for their safety. The victims - Michael Moore [sp?], Steve Edward Branch [sp?], and Christopher Byers [sp?] - were last seen May 5th, riding bicycles together. The next day, police discovered their bodies in a drainage ditch in a wooded area near the boys' neighborhood. An autopsy showed they died from blows to the head. Police launched a massive search for the killers, calling the case one of the toughest puzzles they'd ever had to crack.

The announcement of a break comes on the eve of the one-month anniversary of the boys' deaths. Police Inspector Gary Gitchell will say little about the case, but says the three suspects are friends and were cool and unemotional when arrested late Thursday. The three - 18-year-old Michael Eckles [sp?], 17-year-old Jessie Miskelly [sp?], and 16-year-old Charles Baldwin [sp?] - will be tried as adults and could face the death penalty if convicted of murder.

GARY GITCHELL, West Memphis Police: I couldn't comment on any purpose, mode, MOs - I really couldn't comment on that.

HINMAN: Police do say there is no evidence the teens knew the three young boys whose deaths rocked this Mississippi River town. Al Hinman, CNN, reporting.

The preceding text has been professionally transcribed. However, although the text has been checked against an audio track, in order to meet rigid distribution and transmission deadlines, it has not yet been proofread against videotape.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 1993

EXHIBIT A-171



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CNN

NEWS

June 4, 1993

Transcript # 410 - 2

TYPE: Package

SECTION: News; Domestic

LENGTH: 508 words

HEADLINE: Three Teenage Boys Arrested in Grisly Murder Case

HIGHLIGHT:

A small, southern town is reeling in the wake of the murder of three small boys a month ago. Most thought the murders was the work of a drifter, but three teenage boys from the community have been arrested.

BODY:

SUSAN ROOK, Anchor: First, the Arkansas town was filled with fear from the bodies [sic] of three 8-year-old boys were discovered. Now the town is stunned after three teenagers are charged with their murders. CNN's Mark Carter reports.

MARK CARTER, Correspondent: Faces from an angry, curious community came to see the teenagers who stand accused of a crime that makes no sense- the beating deaths of three young boys. Seventeen-year-old Jesse Lloyd Miskelley, a high-school drop-out, now faces trial with life in prison, or death, if he is found guilty. Police also charged Charles Jason Baldwin with the murders and a third suspect, 18-year-old Michael Wayne Echols, another drop-out, who goes by the name Damian. Echols is described by peers as a very troubled young man. A youth minister who spoke with him a year ago paints a similar picture.

RICK MCKINNEY, Youth Minister, Second Baptist Church: He was very adamant about the fact that he couldn't go to heaven; that he had made a pact with someone that he said he was- he was going to hell and he knew it.

CARTER: After the murders a month ago, many residents thought it the work of a drifter - an outsider - not someone nurtured by the community. The killings were the main topic of conversation at Marion High School, where the lone suspect still attending classes had little to say.

RHONDA HENDRIX, Classmate of Accused: We would talk [unintelligible] and he wouldn't say anything and it kind of scares me [unintelligible] talk about how that the people should be executed because it was gross and he was sitting right next to us and he would just sit there and we'd be talking about it.

CARTER: Police aren't providing a motive in the case or saying what evidence led to the arrest, but maintain they have the right boys. The families of the accused refuse to believe.

DEBBIE CHUN, Aunt of Jesse Miskelley: These boys is not [sic] guilty until proven guilty.

COMMUNITY RESIDENT: You hear everybody holler, 'kill 'em!' How are they gonna' get a fair trial?

CARTER: Emotions are running high. For the families of the victims, second-graders Michael Moore, Steven Branch and Christopher Byers, it was another tearful day. In court, Branch's father lunged at the defendants, vowing to chase them to hell. Outside, the aunt of one of the victims came to face the accused.

VICTIM'S AUNT: I wanted to see who could do such a thing to three, small, 8-year-old boys.

CARTER: The bodies of the three boys were found here, in Robin Hood Park. It's a name from the myths and fairy tales that are part of childhood innocence, not much of which remains, today, in West Memphis.

VICTIM'S AUNT: Just definitely watch your kids. Don't- Don't let 'em ride around the block and take off and tell 'em where they can go and what they can do and what they can't do, you know, and be strict.

CARTER: That is the law of the streets in any town today. Mark Carter, CNN, West Memphis, Arkansas.

The preceding text has been professionally transcribed. However, although the text has been checked against an audio track, in order to meet rigid distribution and transmission deadlines, it has not yet been proofread against videotape.

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 1993

EXHIBIT A-172



Copyright 1993 Guardian Newspapers Limited
The Guardian (London)

May 11, 1993

SECTION: THE GUARDIAN FOREIGN PAGE; Pg. 12

LENGTH: 464 words

HEADLINE: 'MONSTROUS EVIL' SEIZES US

BYLINE: SIMON TISDALL IN WASHINGTON

BODY:

THE pitiless murder of three eight-year-old boys in the small town of West Memphis, Arkansas, has highlighted the escalating violence against children in the United States.

When last seen alive last week, the three boys - Michael Moore, Steve Branch and Christopher Byers - were riding their bikes in a park near their homes.

Then last Thursday, police found a shoe floating in a shallow pond in the woods. The boys' bodies were discovered under the water, their hands and feet bound.

The autopsies showed they had died from head injuries. West Memphis police refused to say whether the bodies had been sexually mutilated. No arrests have been made and police have no suspects. The woods are near a lay-by used by long-distance truck drivers, but there is no reason to assume the killer is not a local.

"We've been subjected to a monstrous evil," said the Rev Fred Tinsley, expressing the helplessness felt in the town of 30,000 people on the banks of the Mississippi. "My heart is very troubled. I hope yours is too. "

West Memphis, though, has become just another statistic in a nationwide horror story. According to the FBI, 2,233 children under the age of 18 were murdered in the US in 1991, compared with 1,969 in 1990, confirming an earlier upward trend.

It also appears that the younger the children are, the more vulnerable they are becoming. In 1981, 864 murder victims were aged 14 or under. The 1991 figure was 1,075, a 24 per cent increase.

"Homicide rates in this country were actually higher nine, 10 years ago," Dr Robert Froehlke of Michigan's department of health said recently. "But if you look at it by age, homicide rates in children are the highest they've been this century. "

Much of this is attributed to the increased availability of guns. In March, the National Centre for Health Statistics reported that the total of firearms-related deaths in 1990 among people aged 15 to 19 was the highest ever recorded. Gun-related deaths rose from 13.3 per 100,000 people in this age group in 1985 to 23.5 per 100,000 in 1990. For African-American teenagers, the figures are far worse.

But guns do not wholly explain the increasing toll. Nearly 1,000 of the 1991 murders of under-18s were carried out by other means. Nor, increasingly, is the murder of children an inner-city ghetto problem. In the Chicago area, for example, seven of the 57 child murders in 1992 occurred in the suburbs.

Social scientists offer many explanations for the rise in violence against children in the US, which manifests itself also in assault and sexual abuse. But whatever the reasons, the statistics suggest that life is cheaper in America than in other industrialised countries, and it is getting cheaper, no matter how young one is.

'MONSTROUS EVIL' SEIZES US The Guardian (London) May 11, 1993

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 1993

EXHIBIT A-173



Copyright 1993 The San Diego Union-Tribune
The San Diego Union-Tribune

May 11, 1993 Tuesday

SECTION: LOCAL; Pg. B-2

LENGTH: 268 words

HEADLINE: South Bay, Arkansas slaying tie is doubted

BYLINE: KELLY THORNTON, Staff Writer

BODY:

There seems to be no link between the brutal killing of three 8-year-old boys in Arkansas last week and the slaying of two South Bay schoolboys in March, police said yesterday. San Diego homicide Lt. Greg Clark, who is investigating the strangling deaths of 9-year-old Jonathan Sellers and his best friend, Charles Keever, said he has spoken with detectives in West Memphis, Ark., where the 8-year-olds were slain. "They're probably not linked, but I can't say 100 percent because neither of us know who our suspect is," Clark said.

"There are some similarities, but we doubt they're connected." The bodies of Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch were found Thursday in a watery drainage ditch in West Memphis with their hands and feet tied.

They apparently had been beaten to death. A computer message that West Memphis police sent to other law enforcement agencies Thursday night said the victims' "genitals had been removed with a sharp instrument." Sellers and Keever were not mutilated in any way, Clark said.

The only similarities are that both crimes involved young boys found in a wooded area with bike paths, both involved molestation and in both cases the victims' bikes were found near their bodies. Clark said the detectives in Arkansas told him they were unsure whether the three boys had been mutilated or if animals, perhaps turtles from the canal, were responsible for damaging the bodies. The Arkansas boys were found in a ditch about a mile from their homes. The South Bay boys were found beside the Otay River at the end of Saturn Boulevard, near Palm Avenue and Interstate 5.

LOAD-DATE: August 1, 2007

EXHIBIT A-174



Copyright 1993 The Dallas Morning News
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

May 10, 1993, Monday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 22A

LENGTH: 60 words

HEADLINE: Slain Arkansas boy mourned

BODY:

Todd and Dianna Moore, parents of Michael Moore, one of three West Memphis, Ark., boys found slain Thursday, seek comfort Sunday during a memorial service at an Episcopal church in West Memphis. Michael, Steve Branch, and Christopher Byers, all 8 and in the second grade, were found bound, beaten to death and submerged in a drainage ditch in a wooded area.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): Todd and Dianna Moore, parents of Michael Moore, one of three West Memphis, Ark., boys found slain Thursday, seek comfort Sunday during a memorial service at an Episcopal church in West Memphis. Michael, Steve Branch, and Christopher Byers, all 8 and in the second grade, were found bound, beaten to death and submerged in a drainage ditch in a wooded area. (Associated Press)

LOAD-DATE: May 11, 1993

EXHIBIT A-175



Copyright 1993 Nationwide News Pty Limited
Herald Sun

May 10, 1993 Monday

LENGTH: 121 words

HEADLINE: Hunt on for boys' killer

BODY:

WEST MEMPHIS, Arkansas - Investigators checked hundreds of phone tips yesterday over the death of three eight-year-old boys.

The FBI was also asked to develop a psychological profile of the killer.

The boys' bodies were found on Friday in a ditch about 1.6km from their homes. The state medical examiner said all died of blows to the head.

Inspector Gary Gitchell said local police were using the FBI's national crime database to match the crime to any similar ones. Experts were asked to develop a profile of the killer or killers.

The victims, Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch, were last seen on Wednesday afternoon as they rode bicycles in their local neighborhood.

AP

END OF STORY

LOAD-DATE: November 28, 2003

EXHIBIT A-176



Copyright 1993 Nationwide News Pty Limited
Hobart Mercury

May 10, 1993 Monday

LENGTH: 312 words

BODY:

Kids kept home after murder of three boys West Memphis Arkansas INVESTIGATORS checked hundreds of telephone tips yesterday, and the FBI was asked to develop a psychological profile of whoever killed three eight-year-old boys.

Police went door-to-door, talking to neighbours of the boys, who disappeared on Wednesday while riding their bicycles.

Their bodies were found Thursday in a drainage ditch about 1.6 kilometres from their homes.

The state medical examiner's office said all three died of blows to the head.

Police have refused comment on reports the bodies were mutilated.

Police Inspector Gary Gitchell said the department was using the FBI's national crime database to match the crime to similar ones across the country in an effort to come up with suspects.

FBI behavioural-science experts in Quantico, Virginia, were asked to develop a profile of the killer or killers.

Sidewalks usually crammed with children at play were mostly deserted yesterday as police expanded their search for suspects in the deaths of the three boys.

"Everybody's real scared, still reeling from what everybody's calling the worst tragedy that's ever been here," Pat Van Gundy said, glancing at his two children, aged eight and seven.

"This neighbourhood is just full of children, and there's been nothing to be afraid of letting the children play alone for blocks down the street.

"But now, not even two blocks, not even next door." The victims, Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch, were last seen alive on Wednesday afternoon as they rode bicycles in their neighbourhood.

Authorities discovered their bodies in a nearby wooded area known to residents as Robin Hood Park.

Bike paths criss-cross the popular play area for children.

Inspector Gitchell said the boys' hands and feet were tied, but he would not say what material was used.

AP

LOAD-DATE: November 28, 2003

EXHIBIT A-177



Copyright 1993 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

May 9, 1993, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 24; ZONE: C

LENGTH: 618 words

HEADLINE: Murders of 3 boys taint Mother's Day
Arkansas town scared - and angry

BYLINE: Knight-Ridder/Tribune.

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark.

BODY:

For Virginia Collom, it will be a Mother's Day to remember - but for all the wrong reasons.

Collom and her 16-year-old daughter, Charity, live behind Robin Hood Park, the boggy woods where three 8-year-old boys were found Thursday bound and beaten to death.

"I was taking (Charity) to work the day they found the boys," Collom, 37, said Saturday. "Her face was white as a sheet.

"She looked up at me and she said, 'Momma, now I know why you want to know where I am 24 hours a day.' "

Collom and her neighbors in the modest housing addition just south of Interstate Highway 40 aren't taking anything for granted these days when it comes to their children.

What once was a bustling, carefree neighborhood where children could be seen everywhere had become a virtual ghost town Saturday as fearful parents kept their youngsters inside, and police searched outside, combing the wooded area along Ten Mile Bayou for more clues in the grisly case.

The anxiety gripping the West Memphis neighborhood, several miles west of the Mississippi River, largely comes from the announcement by authorities Saturday that they still have no suspects in the murders.

The fear also is mixed with sadness for the three boys, Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore, and their families and with rage that seems to be building toward the "madman" involved in the slayings.

"Our guns are loaded and laid out in two bedrooms," said Pam Eskridge, 33.

Christopher Byers' father, Mark, offered a similarly grave opinion if he caught the killer first, "I hope God shows a little mercy on his soul, because I sure wouldn't."

Police inspector Gary Gitchell, who is directing the investigation, said he was not concerned that enraged West Memphians might seek to take justice into their own hands. "I'm not that concerned about the vigilante part of it," he said. "We've got a lot of good people in this town."

Even though his office has fielded hundreds of calls with tips, Gitchell said police had no solid suspects in the deaths of the second-graders. In a briefing Saturday, he said police were pleased with the progress they were making but asked residents for patience. Unraveling such a crime, he said, may take time.

He said police were considering every possible type of suspect. He confirmed that several transients had been questioned, but no one had been arrested or detained.

The boys were last seen between about 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, riding their bikes into the wooded area that buffers their homes from a truck wash and other businesses along I-40.

Worried parents and neighbors began searching for the youngsters about 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, and Gitchell said police were notified of their disappearance at 8:10 p.m.

Some parents complained that police were slow to respond and did not initiate a full-scale search until Thursday. Gitchell defended police actions, noting that many children are reported missing only to be found a short time later.

He said questions about the police response were "a lot of if, if, if." He then added, "I don't want to lay a guilt trip on anyone, but if the kids were not allowed to be down there, maybe this wouldn't have happened."

Some neighbors said dozens of children would ride their bikes and play in the woods every day. They also said many adults tended to frequent the woods - some walking to work at businesses on the interstate access road, others actually living in the woods.

Collom said she knows in particular about one man, with a long beard, believed to be about 40, who lives in the woods.

"The wooded area serves no purpose whatsoever," she said. "They need to get rid of it, cement it in, something."

LOAD-DATE: 05-10-93

EXHIBIT A-178



Copyright 1993 The Dallas Morning News
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

May 9, 1993, Sunday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 1160 words

HEADLINE: Arkansas town grapples with slayings' horror Police say they have no suspects in deaths of three 8-year-old boys

BYLINE: Arnold Hamilton, Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark.

BODY:

For Virginia Collom, it will be a Mother's Day to remember -- but for all the wrong reasons.

Ms. Collom and her 16-year-old daughter, Charity, live behind Robin Hood Park, the boggy woods where three 8-year-old boys were found Thursday bound and beaten to death.

"I was taking (Charity) to work the day they found the boys,' Ms. Collom, 37, said Saturday. "Her face was white as a sheet.

"She looked up at me and she said, "Mama, now I know why you want to know where I am 24 hours a day.' "

Ms. Collom and her neighbors in the modest housing tract just south of Interstate 40 aren't taking anything for granted these days when it comes to their children.

What once was a bustling, carefree neighborhood where children could be seen everywhere had become a virtual ghost town Saturday as fearful parents kept their youngsters inside and police searched outside, combing the wooded area along Ten Mile Bayou for more clues in the grisly case.

"I don't normally do this (supervise her younger sister and cousin) on Saturday,' said 17-year-old Tosha Tucker, whose home is three doors removed from the police barricades. "But I decided I'd better come out since they wanted to play outside.'

The anxiety gripping the West Memphis neighborhood, several miles west of the Mississippi River, largely comes from the announcement by authorities Saturday that they still have no suspects in the murders.

The fear also is mixed with sadness for the three boys -- Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore -- and their families and rage that seems to be building toward the "madman' involved in the slayings and apparent sexual mutilations.

"Our guns are loaded and laid out in two bedrooms,' said Pam Eskridge, 33, who shares the home nearest the slaying site with Ms. Collom, her daughter and Ms. Collom's sister.

Christopher's father, Mark, offered a similarly ominous warning of what he'd do if he caught the killer first: "I hope God shows a little mercy on his soul, because I sure wouldn't.'

Police Inspector Gary Gitchell, who is directing the investigation, said he doesn't worry about enraged West Memphians taking justice into their own hands.

Arkansas town grapples with slayings' horror Police say they have no suspects in slayings of three 8-year-old boys THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS May 9, 1993, Sunday, HOME FINAL EDITION

"I'm not that concerned about the vigilante part of it," he said.

"We've got a lot of good people in this town."

Even though his office has fielded hundreds of calls with tips, Inspector Gitchell said police have no solid suspects in the deaths of the second-graders. In a news briefing Saturday afternoon, he said police were pleased with the progress they were making but asked residents for patience. Unraveling such a crime, he said, may take time.

He said police are considering every possible type of suspect, including serial killers, who have been known to pick victims at random along busy highways.

He confirmed that several transients had been questioned, but no one had been arrested or detained.

A lot of if, if, if

The boys were last seen between about 5:30 and 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, riding their bikes into the wooded area that buffers their housing tract from a truck wash and other businesses that sit along I-40.

Worried parents and neighbors began searching for the youngsters about 7:30 p.m., and Inspector Gitchell said police were notified of their disappearance about 8:10 p.m.

Some parents complained that police were slow to respond and did not initiate a full-scale search until Thursday morning. Inspector Gitchell defended police actions, noting that many children are reported missing, only to be found a short time later.

He said questions about the police response were "a lot of if, if, if." He then added, "I don't want to lay a guilt trip on anyone, but if the kids were not allowed to be down there, maybe this wouldn't have happened."

Some neighbors said dozens of children would ride their bikes and play in the woods every day. They also said many adults tended to frequent the woods -- some walking to work at businesses on the interstate access road, others actually living in the woods.

Ms. Collom said she knows in particular about one man, with a long beard, believed to be about 40, who lives in the woods. She said he rides a bicycle with a basket on it.

"The wooded area serves no purpose whatsoever," she said. "They need to get rid of it, cement it in, something."

Inspector Gitchell said that neither he nor his investigators were feeling "political pressure" to quickly solve such a heinous crime. It occurred just before Mother's Day weekend and just as the high-profile "Memphis in May" celebration, featuring the Beale Street Music Festival, swings into high gear across the river in Tennessee.

"We're probably eating ourselves up more than anybody could say or do. It's that kind of concern," he said.

Details under wraps

Inspector Gitchell declined to discuss the condition of the boys' bodies, other than to say they died of blows to the head. He also would neither confirm nor deny information in a West Memphis police communique -- sent Thursday night to other law enforcement agencies -- indicated that the boys' genitals were removed with a sharp instrument.

The bodies, submerged in a drainage ditch near Ten Mile Bayou, were found by a West Memphis detective. Inspector Gitchell said bicycles belonging to two of the boys also were found underwater. The third youngster apparently was on foot.

Inspector Gitchell would not say whether police had found any weapons that could have been used in the slayings.

The Arkansas state medical examiner in Little Rock was expected to work through the weekend to complete autopsies on the three youngsters.

Inspector Gitchell said police have given the FBI information to build a psychological profile of the killer or killers and to compare the details of the crime with previous slayings elsewhere in the country to determine whether there is any connection.

He said his detectives already have been in contact with authorities in San Diego to compare notes on unsolved child slayings there.

Arkansas town grapples with slayings' horror Police say they have no suspects in slayings of three 8-year-old boys THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS May 9, 1993, Sunday, HOME FINAL EDITION

Regardless of the outcome, some residents in the neighborhood said their lives have forever been changed. Several spoke openly of a powerful desire to sell their homes quickly and move from the area.

"When we first moved here, it was real quiet," said Miss Tucker, a high school junior whose family has lived in the neighborhood for about two years. "We met a lot of nice people. I liked it.

"It'll never quite be the same because it could happen again."

Another 17-year-old girl, who lives across the street, said her family would renew attempts to sell their house, which backs up to the park.

"There's usually people out," said the teen-ager, who declined to identify herself. She stood behind a glass door while talking to a reporter, her large dog, Rambo, barking menacingly nearby.

"I don't see many people out. I've talked to some people who fear the same thing is going to happen to their kids. Most people want to move -- now."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): 1. A police officer in Crittenden County, Ark., talks Friday to some friends of the three 8-year-old boys who were slain. Police searched for more clues Saturday. (Associated Press). 2. - 4. The grisly slayings of (from left) 8-year-olds Michael Moore, Steve Branch and Christopher Byers have stunned and frightened residents of West Memphis, Ark. (Associated Press). **MAP(S):** Site of slayings. (DMN)

LOAD-DATE: May 27, 1993

EXHIBIT A-179



Copyright 1993 Sentinel Communications Co.
Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

May 9, 1993 Sunday, 3 STAR

SECTION: A SECTION; Pg. A10

LENGTH: 388 words

HEADLINE: INVESTIGATORS CHECK TIPS IN 3 KILLINGS;
THE FBI HAS BEEN ASKED FOR A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE OF THE KILLER OR KILLERS OF;
THE 8-YEAR-OLD BOYS.

BYLINE: Compiled From Wire Reports

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, ARK.

BODY:

Investigators checked hundreds of telephone tips Saturday, and the FBI was asked to develop a psychological profile of the killer or killers of three 8-year-old boys.

Police went door to door talking to neighbors of the boys, last seen alive on Wednesday.

Their bodies were found Thursday in a drainage ditch about a mile from their homes. The state medical examiner's office said all three died of blows on their heads. Police have refused comment on reports that the bodies were mutilated.

Police Inspector Gary Gitchell said the department was using the FBI's national crime database to match the crime to similar ones across the country in an effort to come up with suspects.

FBI behavioral experts in Quantico, Va., were asked to develop a profile of the killer or killers.

Gitchell confirmed that several transients had been questioned, but no one had been arrested or detained.

Sidewalks usually crammed with children at play were mostly deserted Saturday as police expanded their search for clues and possible leads.

"Everybody's real scared, still reeling from what everybody's calling the worst tragedy that's ever been here," Pat Van Gundy said, glancing at his two children, 7 and 8.

"This neighborhood is just full of children, and there's been nothing to be afraid of letting the children play alone for blocks down the street. But now, not even two blocks, not even next door," Van Gundy said.

The victims - Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch - were last seen alive Wednesday afternoon as they rode bicycles in their neighborhood.

Their bodies were found in a wooded area known to residents as Robin Hood Park. Neighbors said dozens of children would ride their bikes and play in the woods every day.

Gitchell declined to discuss the condition of the boys' bodies. He said the boys' hands and feet were tied, but he would not say what material was used.

Some parents have complained because police did not immediately mount an all-out search Wednesday night after getting the first call that the boys were missing. The search began in earnest early Thursday.

INVESTIGATORS CHECK 3 IN 3 KILLINGS;THE FBI HAS BEEN ASKED FOR A PSYCHOLOGICAL
PROFILE OF THE KILLER OR KILLERS OF THE 8-YEAR-OLD BOYS. Orlando Sentinel (Florida) May 9, 1993
Sunday, 3 STAR

Some residents in the neighborhood said they believed their lives had forever been changed by the slayings. Several spoke openly of a desire to sell their homes quickly and move from the area.

LOAD-DATE: May 24, 1993

EXHIBIT A-180



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Chicago Sun-Times

May 8, 1993, SATURDAY , LATE SPORTS FINAL

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 198 words

HEADLINE: 3 Boys, 8, Found Slain in Arkansas

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark.

BODY:

Fear for their children gripped this city on the Mississippi River as police searched for leads Friday in the slayings of three 8-year-old boys.

The bodies of Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch were found Thursday in a watery drainage ditch, one day after their parents reported them missing. The ditch was about a mile from their homes.

The boys were found with their hands and feet tied, but police Inspector Gary Gitchell refused to confirm earlier reports that they had been sexually mutilated. A preliminary autopsy report determined that the boys died of blows to the head, he said.

A computer message West Memphis police sent to other law enforcement agencies Thursday night said the victims' hands were tied and their "genitals had been removed with a sharp instrument."

Donna Johnson was baby-sitting her 3-year-old son and two other small children at her apartment near where the bodies were found.

"I'm not going to let them get out of my sight, not until they catch who done it," she said. "There is fear over here. It happened right in our back doors. That's scary."

Police said they had no leads, no clues, no suspects and no motive.

GRAPHIC: Associated Press

LOAD-DATE: May 31, 1993

EXHIBIT A-181



Copyright 1993 The Dallas Morning News
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

May 8, 1993, Saturday, STATE EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 726 words

HEADLINE: 3 Arkansas boys found tied, slain;
Autopsies indicate multiple injuries

BYLINE: From Staff and Wire Reports

BODY:

Police in West Memphis, Ark., searched for leads Friday in the deaths of three 8-year-old boys, found with their hands and feet tied in a watery drainage ditch near their homes.

Autopsies indicated that Christopher Byers, Steve Branch and Michael Moore died of "multiple injuries," authorities said.

Spokesmen for Dr. Frank J. Peretti, associate medical examiner for the Arkansas State Crime Lab, and the local police declined to elaborate.

A computer message police sent to law enforcement agencies Thursday night and obtained by news organizations said the victims' hands were tied and their "genitals had been removed with a sharp instrument."

Neighbors last saw the three second-graders riding bikes between 5:15 and 6 p.m. Wednesday, cutting through the yard of a resident who lived just south of the drainage ditch. Police, parents and neighbors began searching for them at 7:30 p.m.

"These little boys would not run away and stay all night," said Sarah Kirkley, principal of Weaver Elementary, where the boys attended school. "These little boys would not have missed a meal or not gone home to sleep."

About two dozen of the city's 70 police officers were assigned to the case. Friday, a spokesman said they had no suspects and knew of no motive.

"It's frustrating," West Memphis police inspector Gary Gitchell said. "We will rely heavily on the crime lab to bring forth some information to sort of steer us in one direction or the other."

He said the bodies were found about 1:30 p.m. Thursday within 10 feet of each other in Ten Mile Bayou, the city's main drainage ditch.

Although the ditch runs through a wooded, undeveloped area known to residents as Robin Hood Park, it is only two blocks from an apartment complex, and less than half a mile from the boys' homes.

"One of my officers found a tennis shoe and, being inquisitive, he just jumped in the water and felt one of them," Inspector Gitchell said.

Authorities said they drained the ditch to search for additional evidence. Police also were searching a culvert where bicycle tracks and small sneaker prints were discovered. The bicycles were found 50 yards from the bodies, Inspector Gitchell said.

Detectives went door-to-door Friday questioning the boys' neighbors, and people living near the drainage ditch.

Donna Johnson was baby-sitting her 3-year-old son and two other small children at her apartment near where the bodies were found.

"I'm not going to let them get out of my sight, not until they catch who done it," she said. "There is fear over here. It happened right in our back doors. That's scary."

Christopher Byers lived next door to Michael Moore, and Steve Branch's family lives nearby, in a neat, working-class neighborhood.

They were good, well-behaved students, Ms. Kirkley said, with involved, interested parents.

Mark Byers, Christopher's father, said he cannot understand who would commit such a horrific crime. "I hope God shows a little mercy on his soul, because I sure wouldn't," he said.

Pam Hobbs, mother of Michael Moore, collapsed when authorities told her that her son's body also had been found.

"Oh Lord!" she said, falling to the ground before being raised into the arms of friends and family.

Residents of the town of 30,000, seven miles from Memphis, Tenn., also were shocked. "There's a lot of disbelief still," said Nancy McClure, executive director of the West Memphis Chamber of Commerce.

"This is supposed to happen in other towns -- not your community."

She recalled that a similar crime took place in West Memphis in the late 1950s.

"It gives me cold chills," she said, reading an account from the local newspaper about three 8-year-old boys shot to death by a 14-year-old in the same vicinity almost 40 years ago.

A \$ 7,000 reward is being offered through the local Crime Stoppers program for information about the crime, Ms. McClure said. Residents also are raising money to help families with expenses.

At Weaver Elementary, 15 counselors talked to schoolchildren Friday and will be on call for as long as necessary, Ms. Kirkley said.

"They were upset," she said of the 330 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. "They said could this happen to them? Who would do this?"

Staff writer Diane Jennings and The Associated Press and Scripps Howard News Service contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: MAP(S): Arkansas, site of slayings

LOAD-DATE: May 19, 1993

EXHIBIT A-182



Copyright 1993 The Dallas Morning News
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

May 8, 1993, Saturday, HOME FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 830 words

HEADLINE: Grisly case confounds authorities;
3 Arkansas boys found bound, beaten to death

BYLINE: Arnold Hamilton, Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark.

BODY:

West Memphis police intensified their search late Friday for leads in the gruesome slayings of three 8-year-old boys whose bludgeoned bodies were found dumped in a watery drainage ditch near their homes.

Police Inspector Gary Gitchell said all 12 of the Mississippi River city's detectives have been assigned to the case around the clock. Yet authorities remained without any suspects or knowledge of a possible motive more than 24 hours after the bodies were discovered, ending a frantic search for the missing second-graders.

"At this point, we're looking at everything conceivable," he said.

"We're looking at everything we can put our hands on and uncover."

Inspector Gitchell said the boys -- identified as Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steve Edward Branch -- were each found with their hands and feet tied. He said autopsies by the Arkansas state medical examiner Friday revealed that all three had been beaten to death.

He declined to discuss any other specifics about the condition of the bodies, citing investigative reasons. But a computer message police sent to law enforcement agencies Thursday reported that the victims' "genitals had been removed with a sharp instrument."

The slayings rocked this town of about 30,000 that sits just across the river west from Memphis, Tenn. It is the worst multiple homicide since 1985, when two elderly women and their grandnephew were murdered, according to Inspector Gitchell.

"There's a lot of disbelief still," said Nancy McClure, executive director of the West Memphis Chamber of Commerce. "This is supposed to happen in other towns -- not your community."

Neighbors last saw the three boys between 5:15 and 6 p.m. Wednesday. They were riding their bicycles, cutting through the yard of a neighbor who lives just south of the Ten Mile Bayou drainage ditch.

The wooded area along both sides of the drainage ditch is a favorite hangout for area youngsters who have nicknamed it "Robin Hood Hill," beating bike trails back and forth across it.

About 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, police, parents and neighbors began combing the area in search of the missing youngsters. All told, about 50 officers and volunteers joined in the search that ended about 4 p.m. Thursday when an officer found a tennis shoe near the ditch.

"Being inquisitive, he jumped in the water and felt one of them,' Inspector Gitchell said.

The three bodies were found about 10 feet apart, he said, and two bicycles were discovered farther up the ditch.

Mark Byers, the father of one of the victims, told the local newspaper, the Evening Times, that police informed him that one of the youngsters had been hit above the eye, another suffered an injured jaw and a third "was worse than that.'

The wooded area is only two blocks from an apartment complex and less than half a mile from the boys' homes.

Authorities said they drained the ditch to search for additional evidence. Police were searching a culvert where bicycle tracks and small sneaker prints were discovered.

Detectives went door to door Friday questioning the boys' neighbors, and people living near the drainage ditch.

Donna Johnson was baby-sitting her 3-year-old son and two other small children at her apartment near where the bodies were found.

"I'm not going to let them get out of my sight, not until they catch who done it,' she said. "There is fear over here. It happened right in our back doors. That's scary.'

Christopher Byers lived next door to Michael Moore, and Steve Branch's family lives nearby, in a neat, working-class neighborhood.

They were good, well-behaved students with involved, interested parents, said Sarah Kirkley, principal of Weaver Elementary, where the boys attended school.

Mark Byers, Christopher's father, said he cannot understand who would commit such a horrific crime. "I hope God shows a little mercy on his soul, because I sure wouldn't,' he said.

Pam Hobbs, Michael Moore's mother, collapsed when authorities told her that her son's body had been found.

"Oh Lord!' she said, falling to the ground before being raised into the arms of friends and family.

Ms. McClure recalled that a similar crime took place in West Memphis in the late 1950s. "It gives me cold chills,' she said, reading an account from the local newspaper about three 8-year-old boys shot to death by a 14-year-old in the same vicinity almost 40 years ago.

A \$ 7,000 reward is being offered through the local Crime Stoppers program for information about the crime, Ms. McClure said. Residents are raising money to help families with expenses.

At Weaver Elementary, 15 counselors talked to schoolchildren Friday and will be on call for as long as necessary, Ms. Kirkley said.

"They were upset,' she said of the 330 students in kindergarten through sixth grade. "They said could this happen to them? Who would do this?'

Staff writer Diane Jennings and The Associated Press and Scripps Howard News Service contributed to this report.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO(S): The killings of 8-year-olds (from left) 1. Steve Branch, 2. Christopher Byers and 3. Michael Moore have shocked residents in West Memphis, Ark. The second-graders were found with their hands and feet tied in drainage ditch near their home. **MAP(S):** Site of slaying

LOAD-DATE: May 19, 1993

EXHIBIT A-183



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The Ottawa Citizen

May 8, 1993, Saturday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; WORLD BRIEFLY; Pg. A8

LENGTH: 660 words

HEADLINE: WORLD BRIEFLY

BYLINE: CITIZEN NEWS SERVICES

BODY:

SRI LANKA

Premadasa's top ally elected president

COLOMBO -- Parliament elected Dingiri Banda Wijetunga Friday to succeed former president Ranasinghe Premadasa who was assassinated last week. Wije-tunga, the prime minister and a top ally of the former president, said he will continue to open the economy, help the poor and negotiate with Tamil guerrillas. Wijetunga appointed Ranil Wickremasinghe as prime minister and retained all 22 members of the former president's cabinet. Wijetunga, 71, will serve until Premadasa's term ends Jan. 2, 1995.

ITALY

Police arrest 39 in swoop on Mafia

MESSINA -- Thirty-nine alleged Mafia criminals were arrested Friday in a roundup that involved police, the army with helicopters, naval vessels and tracker dogs. Another 22 escaped arrest, while 68 more were served charges in prison. Arrest warrants cited 22 murders, 27 attempted murders, and 88 cases of extortion. Prosecutor Bruno Siclari said information leading to the arrests had come from Mafia turncoats.

UNITED STATES

Officers request new trial in King case

LOS ANGELES -- The two policemen convicted in the Rodney King beating are asking for a new trial, accusing prosecutors of using false testimony from one of two co-defendants acquitted in the case. Officer Laurence Powell and Sgt. Stacey Koon were convicted by a federal jury April 17 of violating King's civil rights. The motion for a new trial, made Thursday, will be heard Aug. 4 -- the same day Powell and Koon are to be sentenced.

Cases of fetal alcohol syndrome on rise

ATLANTA -- The number of babies in the United States with fetal alcohol syndrome has more than tripled since 1979, mainly because doctors are better at recognizing it, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday. According to the report, cases rose from one in 10,000 births in 1979 to 3.7 in 10,000 by 1992. Fetal alcohol syndrome, caused by women drinking during pregnancy, can leave infants with retardation, central nervous system disorders and behavior and growth deficiencies.

Three eight-year-olds found murdered

WEST MEMPHIS -- Three eight-year-old boys were found slain Thursday, their bodies submerged in a drainage ditch. "We do have three homicides, said Gary Gitchell of the West Memphis Police Department. "I won't comment on the crime scene or what we found. An Arkansas State Police broadcast said the police were investigating the abduction and sexual mutilation of three boys. Neighbors last saw second-graders Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore riding bicycles Wednesday evening. The bodies were to be sent to Little Rock for autopsies.

GERMANY

Treaty takes aim at influx of refugees

BONN -- Germany and Poland signed a treaty Friday intended to cut the number of refugees from other countries who get into Germany. The agreement permits Germany to deport refugees from other countries who use the German-Polish open border as a point of entry. Germany said it will pay Poland \$ 95 million to build asylum shelters and to tighten its eastern borders. The treaty is part of Germany's attempt to slow a refugee wave that reached a record 440,000 last year.

GREAT BRITAIN

Major blames economy for defeat

LONDON -- Prime Minister John Major said Friday his Conservatives got a "bloody nose when they were wiped out in local elections and overwhelmingly defeated in a byelection. The landslide cut the government's majority in the 650-member House of Commons to 19. Major blamed the losses on the feeble economy. The Conservatives lost a byelection in the south England district of Newbury, a seat the party had held for 69 years. In the elections for the 47 county councils of England and Wales, the Conservatives lost all but one of the 16 authorities they had controlled before polling Thursday. In the county council elections, Conservatives lost to the Labor party and the Liberal Democrats.

(From Citizen news services.)

LOAD-DATE: May 9, 1993

EXHIBIT A-184



Copyright 1993 Plain Dealer Publishing Co.
Plain Dealer (Cleveland, Ohio)

May 8, 1993 Saturday, FINAL / ALL

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 357 words

HEADLINE: 3 BOYS FOUND SLAIN IN DITCH

BYLINE: FROM WIRE REPORTS

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, ARK.

BODY:

Three 8-year-old boys were found slain yesterday, their bodies submerged in a drainage ditch.

West Memphis Police Inspector Gary Gitchell declined to confirm a report the boys had been sexually mutilated. A preliminary autopsy determined they had died of blows to the head, he said.

Detectives went door-to-door yesterday questioning the boys' neighbors, and people living near where the bodies were found. Fear for their children gripped residents of this city on the Mississippi River, across from Memphis, Tenn.

Neighbors last saw second-graders Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore riding bicycles between 5:15 and 6 p.m. Wednesday. The search by police, parents and neighbors began at 7:30 p.m.

The bodies were to be sent to Little Rock for full autopsies by the state medical examiner.

Christopher Byers lived next door to Michael Moore. Steve Branch's family lives nearby.

Gitchell said the bodies were found at about 1:30 p.m. within 10 feet of each other in Ten Mile Bayou, the city's main drainage ditch.

The ditch was drained and the bodies retrieved around 4 p.m.

Authorities said they drained the ditch to search for additional evidence. Police were also searching a culvert where bicycle tracks and small sneaker prints were found.

The culvert connects to the drainage ditch. It runs under Interstate 40 near a truck wash. The ditch was a few hundred yards north of where the children were last seen, and less than a half-mile from their homes.

They were behind the Mayfair Apartments in a wooded, undeveloped area known to residents as Robin Hood Park.

"It's several little ditches or streams that run through the area, from a trickle to two to three feet of water," Gitchell said. "One of my officers found a tennis shoe and, being inquisitive, he just jumped in the water and felt one of them."

The boys were last seen cutting through the yard of a resident who lived just south of the brush-choked bayou.

The bicycles were found 50 yards from the bodies, Gitchell said.

The neighborhood of neat family homes is bounded by apartment buildings to the west, and the bayou to the north.

LOAD-DATE: May 9, 1993

EXHIBIT A-185



Copyright 1993 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.
St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

May 8, 1993, SATURDAY, FIVE STAR Edition

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 11A

LENGTH: 270 words

HEADLINE: BODIES OF THREE MISSING BOYS FOUND IN DITCH IN ARKANSAS

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, ARK.

BODY:

Three 8-year-old boys missing for less than 24 hours were found slain, their bodies submerged in a drainage ditch. The boys were found with their hands and feet tied, but police Inspector Gary Gitchell refused to confirm earlier reports that they had been sexually mutilated. A preliminary autopsy report determined the boys had died of blows to the head, he said. Neighbors in their middle-class neighborhood last saw the second-graders - Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore - on bicycles between 5:15 and 6 p.m. Wednesday. The search by police, parents and neighbors began at 7:30 that evening. "We do have three homicides," Gitchell said. "I won't comment on the crime scene or what we found." Gitchell said the boys' hands and feet had been tied. The bodies were sent to Little Rock for autopsies. Gitchell said the bodies were found about 1:30 p.m. Thursday within 10 feet of one another in Ten Mile Bayou, the city's main drainage ditch. The ditch was drained and the bodies retrieved about 4 p.m. Authorities said they drained the ditch to search for additional evidence. Police were also searching a culvert where bicycle tracks and small sneaker prints were found. The culvert, which connects to the drainage ditch, runs under Interstate 40 near a truck wash. The ditch was a few hundred yards north of where the children were last seen, and less than a half-mile from the children's homes. Detectives went door-to-door Friday questioning the boys' neighbors and people living near where the bodies were found. The bicycles were found 50 yards from the bodies, Gitchell said.

LOAD-DATE: October 7, 1993

EXHIBIT A-186



Copyright 1993 Sun-Sentinel Company
Sun-Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale, FL)

May 8, 1993, Saturday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL, Pg. 3A, DIGEST

LENGTH: 726 words

HEADLINE: NORTHEAST RACE RIOT HITS SCHOOL

BYLINE: Sun-Sentinel wire services

BODY:

BOSTON -- Blacks and whites battled each other on Friday in a rock-throwing melee outside South Boston High School, the site of some of the fiercest battles over court-ordered busing in the 1970s. Five people, including the mayor, were hurt.

Three people were arrested and classes were canceled to allow things to cool off. Mayor Raymond Flynn, who was hit in the neck with a bottle, said that meetings would be held in South Boston and minority communities throughout the weekend to ease tensions.

GAY JEWS CAN'T MARCH

NEW YORK -- The sponsor of the Salute to Israel Parade said members of a gay and lesbian synagogue could not march because they broke a promise not to discuss the parade with the media.

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, chairman of the American Zionist Youth Foundation, said his group agreed last month to include Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in Sunday's parade under one condition, that its members issue statements about the parade through the foundation.

?SOUTH

Police seek boys' slayer

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. -- Police searched for clues on Friday, hoping to solve the murders of three young boys whose bodies were found hog-tied and dumped in a viaduct on Thursday afternoon.

The dead boys, identified as Christopher Byers, Michel Moore and Steve Branch, were classmates at a local school.

POLICE FIND MOVIE COPIES

FAIRFAX, Va. -- Authorities have seized more than 50,000 illegal copies of videotaped movies in what the industry said was the largest raid of its kind.

The raid on Wednesday by the FBI-led Asian Organized Crime Task Force against Professional Services Inc. also netted 348 videotape recorders.

STATUE NEEDS REPAIRS

WASHINGTON -- Unbolted from its moorings and strapped into a frame, the seven-ton, bronze statue of Armed Freedom atop the Capitol dome is ready for its first ride to the ground in 130 years.

Shortly after dawn on Sunday, a twin-engine, F-64F Skycrane helicopter will rise over the Capitol Plaza. If all goes well, it will bring Armed Freedom down for four months of restoration and repair.

John Long, one of the three-pilot team ready to do the heavy lifting and the precision lowering, said he was not worried about dropping his cargo. "We're doing everything we can to prevent that from happening," he said.

MIDWEST MAN LIKES HIS BOOKS

ST. PAUL, Minn. -- A man described by his family as an avid reader has been arrested for stealing 30,000 library books, most of which were found stashed in his home, car and two rented lockers.

Police said Gerald Lapre, 40, would be charged with theft and possession of stolen property.

They said he smuggled the books out of public libraries in paper bags or checked them out with false library cards over a 10-year period. The books, which ranged in subject matter from Greek and Roman mythology to Garfield the Cat, were valued at \$ 600,000.

PROM CRIME NOT WORTH IT

KNOXVILLE, Iowa -- A trespassing charge has been dropped against a high school senior who was arrested when he showed up for his prom dressed as a woman.

"We looked around at the cost of time and money to prosecute and decided it was out of proportion to the charge," Marion County Attorney Terry Rachels said on Thursday.

Brett Martin, 18, was charged with criminal trespass on Saturday when he showed up at the Knoxville High School prom in makeup, a wig and a red, sequined, spaghetti-strapped dress his sister had worn to her prom last year.

WEST SPY SUSPECT ARRESTED

SAN FRANCISCO -- A former San Francisco police inspector accused of selling secrets to South Africa and others has been arrested after returning unexpectedly to California from the Philippines, police said on Friday.

Two officers arrested former inspector Tom Gerard at San Francisco International Airport. Police had received a tip Gerard would be on the plane, Ambrose said.

GAYS STUDY TOURISM BAN

DENVER -- A gay rights group said on Friday it may be time to call off the tourism boycott of Colorado and find other strategies to fight the state's anti-gay rights protection law.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said the boycott served its purpose by showing other states they could face similar measures if they restrict homosexual rights. But Boycott Colorado, a state group, said it would not back off.

LOAD-DATE: May 30, 1996

EXHIBIT A-187



Copyright 1993 Agence France Presse
Agence France Presse -- English

May 7, 1993

SECTION: News

LENGTH: 320 words

HEADLINE: Three eight-year-old boys found slain

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS

BODY:

WEST MEMPHIS, Arkansas, May 7 (AFP) - Three eight-year-old boys who disappeared on a bicycle outing were found slain in a drainage ditch, police said Friday.

The bodies of Christopher Byers, Michael Moore and Steven Branch were found Thursday in a wooded area with their hands and feet were tied, police inspector Gary Gitchell said, but would not indicate how they were killed.

The Jonesboro Sun, citing a police message, reported the boys had their hands tied behind their backs and their "genitals removed with a sharp instrument."

Gitchell said the report was inaccurate, but declined to elaborate.

Weaver Elementary School principal Sarah Kirkley said the slain children "were well-behaved, good little boys."

LOAD-DATE: May 10, 1993

EXHIBIT A-188



Copyright 1993 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

June 8, 1993, Tuesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 268 words

HEADLINE: Report: Rituals of rape, death in mutilation case

BYLINE: Carol J. Castaneda

BODY:

A statement to police by a suspect in the slaying of three West Memphis, Ark., boys, provides macabre details to the mutilation case.

Jessie Misskelley Jr., 17, gave a 27-page statement to police, the Memphis Commercial Appeal reports. But family members and his lawyer insist the statement is false or was coerced. Police won't comment.

According to the Appeal, Misskelley said he threw up and ran into the woods after watching Charles Baldwin, 16, sexually mutilate one unconscious boy.

The Appeal said Misskelley told police he watched Baldwin and Michael Echols, 18, brutalize the boys with a club and a 6-inch knife after luring them into woods.

Baldwin, Misskelley and Echols entered no pleas Monday to charges of capital murder in the slayings of 8-year-olds Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore.

Misskelley told police he saw one killing but only helped subdue one of the boys.

The Appeal said Misskelley said another boy was raped as part of a cult ritual. At other times, he said, the rituals included killing, skinning and cooking a dog and eating the back leg.

The Appeal got the statement despite a judge's order barring disclosure of police files. Baldwin's attorney, Paul Ford, said, "I don't know if there is any truth to" the statement.

Baldwin's mother, Gail Baldwin Grinnell, said she talked to her son briefly after his arrest. "He told me he didn't do it," she said.

Charles Ewing, author of Kids Who Kill, said whoever killed the boys most likely has no respect for their own lives: "They don't think about the consequences because they . . . don't care."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, b/w, AP

EXHIBIT A-189



Copyright 1993 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

June 7, 1993, Monday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 510 words

HEADLINE: 2 sides emerge of teens accused in slayings

BYLINE: Carol J. Castaneda

BODY:

Michael Echols, who calls himself "Damien," once told a pastor he couldn't go to heaven because he's already committed - to going to hell.

Today, Echols and two teen-age friends enter pleas to capital murder charges in the slayings of three 8-year-old boys who disappeared May 5 in West Memphis, Ark.

The shock of finding their bodies in a ditch May 6 still reverberates in this Memphis, Tenn., suburb of 28,000.

Echols, 18, Jessie Misskelley Jr., 17, and Charles Baldwin, 16, were arrested Thursday.

At a court hearing Friday, Steven Branch, father of one of the dead boys, lunged at the teens and screamed: "I'll chase you all the way to hell."

Branch was subdued before he could reach the suspects.

Outside the courtroom, some in a crowd of 200 shouted "murderer," "freak," "baby killers" and "shoot 'em."

Over the weekend, the teens were being held without bond in undisclosed locations.

They are accused of killing Steve Branch, Chris Byers and Michael Moore - second-graders who often rode bikes together.

The slayings occurred in a wooded area about 1 1/2 miles from a mobile home park where all three suspects once lived. An autopsy shows the boys died from head blows.

Police haven't given a motive for their deaths, but rumors persist the three were sexually mutilated as part of some satanic ritual.

Echols is described by acquaintances as someone who carried a cat's skull, wrote satanic poems and favored wearing all black.

Rick McKinney, youth minister at Second Baptist Church in West Memphis, said he talked to Echols a year ago and, "He was very adamant . . . he could not go to heaven. He told me he had already committed to going to hell, and he couldn't change that."

But the teens' parents and friends believe police and others are wrong.

"I thought the law of this land was that the accused were considered innocent until someone proved them guilty," said Joe Hutchison, Echols' stepfather.

Jessie Misskelley's parents said he's a "typical teen-ager" who plays basketball, participates in amateur wrestling and baby-sits. "He didn't know the little boys," said Lee Misskelley, his stepmother.

2 sides emerge of teens accused in slayings USA TODAY June 7, 1993, Monday, FINAL EDITION

Stephanie Dollar said Jessie often baby-sat her two boys and daughter, including on the day the three boys disappeared.

"I don't believe he did it; he's not that type of person. He wasn't into satanic worship, he was into country music," said Dollar. "We talked about the murders. He hoped whoever did this was caught and they were severely punished."

Others doubt the murders are related to satanism.

"It just doesn't wash that you would beat someone to death if you're a satanist," Ron Holmes, a University of Louisville professor who has held satanism workshops at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

"In satanic killings, the victim is either killed with a knife or burned," said Holmes.

Inspector Gary Gitchell said police knew the motive for the killings, but wouldn't elaborate.

"This has been like a roller coaster ride," he said. "This community has been outraged . . . and now they are relieved."

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC, b/w, Nick Galifianakis, USA TODAY (Map, Memphis Tenn.); PHOTOS, b/w, The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal via AP (6)

EXHIBIT A-190



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The Ottawa Citizen

June 6, 1993, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A4

LENGTH: 643 words

HEADLINE: Arrests of teens in kids' killings unleashes father's fury

BYLINE: WILLIAM THOMAS; MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL

DATELINE: WEST MEMPHIS, Ark.

BODY:

"I'll chase you all the way to hell," the father of one of three schoolboys slain in this blue-collar community last month screamed as he tried to attack his son's accused killer Friday.

Police wrestled the distraught parent into submission, but it was just the first in a series of explosive outbursts touched off by the arrest of three teenagers in the slayings of eight-year-olds Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore.

As the three closely guarded suspects were led from the gray-brick municipal court building, a crowd of 200 angry people gathered amid shouts of "shoot him" and "burn in hell."

Michael Wayne Echols carried a cat's skull, wrote satanic poems and called himself Damien, acquaintances said, and he once told a minister he worshipped the devil. Many who know Echols said they weren't surprised when the 18-year-old high school dropout was arrested with two friends and charged with capital murder.

Echols, Jessie Lloyd Misskelley, 17, and Charles Jason Baldwin, 16, were held without bail after separate appearances in municipal court Friday. They will be tried as adults.

Acquaintances of the accused said they were shocked by the possible involvement of Baldwin and Misskelley. Both were described as basically good kids. But schoolmates and neighbors said Echols had a dark side people feared.

Police have refused to comment on any links between the murders and the occult.

Although some West Memphians said they were relieved that there had been a break in the month-old case, the stormy reaction of the families and friends of the victims dominated a day of shock and rage.

"They're nothing but punks! Punks! Punks!" shouted Pam Hobbs, the mother of Steve Branch, as she stomped out of the courtroom where the families of the three young victims came face-to-face with their children's accused killers.

"I want them. I want to beat their heads up against the wall and kick them -- the same stuff they did to my son." Her husband, Terry Hobbs nodded.

"I think we'd all like to get at them," he said. "These were our babies. They were just kids. I was looking for a way to climb over a bench myself. It's very hard to sit there." Steve lived with the Hobbses.

For Steve Branch, who lives in Osceola, Ark., sitting there proved impossible. Rising from the back of the courtroom, he tried to fight his way through a line of police guards to get at Echols as he was being arraigned.

Branch, a husky man with a look of cold anger in his eyes, was subdued and led from the courtroom. Later, he spoke briefly with the media and then left with his wife and baby. His wife stumbled and almost collapsed before they reached their car.

Pam Hobbs stormed out of the courtroom after the judge ordered anyone who couldn't handle the pressure to leave.

"I'm out here because I screamed, 'Punk.' And I might go on screaming it. These arrests have given me a little peace, but not much. I'll be mad at the West Memphis Police Department till the day I die."

She faced a crowd of reporters and cameras, saying:

"I'm mad. I was out there doing their (the Police Department's) job until they pulled my son out of the ditch. They told me to go home, go to bed, they'll take care of it. Well, my son's dead."

Linda Darby, who worked with Hobbs at Catfish Island restaurant, shook her head. "If they're guilty," she said, "they ought to be hung."

For the families of the three suspects, it was equally difficult.

"It's like getting hit with a sledgehammer," said mechanic Jessie Misskelley, whose son was arrested on Thursday.

Denise Foster, who works in a fast-food restaurant in Memphis, cried when she heard the news. "This is kids killing kids. I couldn't help feeling sorry for the parents on both sides. I have a one-year-old. Mothers understand."

(With files from The Associated Press)

GRAPHIC: Steven Branch Jr.: Beaten to death

Michael Moore: bodies found

Christopher Byers: Found in ditch

LOAD-DATE: June 7, 1993

EXHIBIT A-191



Copyright 1993 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

May 10, 1993, Monday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3A

LENGTH: 505 words

HEADLINE: 'Monstrous evil' haunts town // Brutal deaths puzzle police, terrify parents

BYLINE: Carol J. Castaneda

BODY:

They were three 8-year-old boys, pals living in West Memphis, Ark. One was nicknamed "Worm." One was a Cub Scout.

They were last seen riding their bikes.

Last week, police found their bodies submerged in shallow water just blocks from their homes in Robin Hood Park.

Their hands and feet were tied. An autopsy found they died from blows to their heads.

On Sunday, four days after the boys disappeared, no one could say why.

Police are searching for clues that might lead them to the killer. And parents in West Memphis, a close-knit farming community of 30,000, were fearfully keeping their children close by their sides.

"My heart is very troubled," the Rev. Fred Tinsley told members of the Holy Cross Episcopal Church Sunday. "I hope yours is too. We've been subjected to a monstrous evil."

The boys - Michael Moore, Steve Branch, and the "Worm," Christopher Byers - disappeared Wednesday afternoon. The next day, a police investigator spotted a tennis shoe floating in a ditch.

"He just jumped in the water and found them," said Police inspector Gary Gitchell.

Police are chasing hundreds of leads and going door-to-door to interview residents in the middle-class neighborhood where the boys disappeared.

They've also turned to the FBI's national crime database to look for similarities to other crimes and have talked with FBI experts

about the psychological profile of the killer. The wooded area

near the ditch where the boys were found has bicycle paths and a rope swing.

"Most all of the kids have used the area as a playground for years," said Andy Taylor, a close family friend of the Byers and a spokesman for the family. "It's very tragic something like this would happen in an innocent place like this."

Police have been criticized for not responding quickly enough when the boys were reported missing. The area is near a truck stop, just off a busy interstate highway.

Gitchell would not comment on a rumor that the boys were sexually mutilated. And he would not talk about what the motive for

the killings might have been. On Sunday, the forested area where

the boys' bodies were found remained cordoned off with yellow tape.

'Monstrous evil' haunts town // Brutal deaths puzzle police, terrify parents USA TODAY May 10, 1993, Monday,
FINAL EDITION

For its part, the community is banding together to help the families with burial costs. Police have collected at least \$ 6,000 in reward money for information leading to the arrest of the killer or killers.

A day after the boys were found, school officials sent extra counselors to Weaver Elementary School, where the boys were second-graders. Residents in this suburb of Memphis, Tenn.,

across the Mississippi River, aren't taking any chances until the killer is caught.

Fathers accompany their children delivering newspapers. Children are being required to stay in their yards, an adult visibly present.

And, "everyone is trying to cope," says Pat Van Gundy, who has two boys and two girls. "But it's on their mind. Everybody is hanging on to their children a little tighter."

GRAPHIC: PHOTOS, b/w, The Memphis Commercial Appeal via AP (3); PHOTO, b/w, The Memphis Commercial Appeal/Steve Jones, via AP; PHOTO, b/w, The Memphis Commercial Appeal/Troy Glasgow, via AP

EXHIBIT A-192



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MODERN DAY WITCH TRIALS

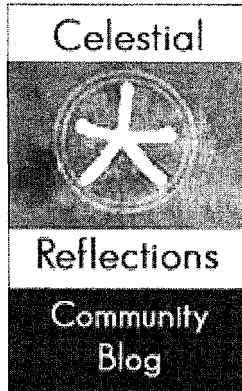
by [LaVaughn](#)
November 3, 2002

On May 6, 1993, the mutilated bodies of three 8-year-old boys were found in the wilds of West Memphis, Arkansas. Michael Moore, Stevie Branch, and Christopher Byers were found naked, bound hand to foot, with their own shoe laces. They had been badly beaten and sustained multiple skull fractures. Moore and Branch had drowned in the creek. Byers, repeatedly stabbed and castrated, had bled to death. The shocked and grief stricken West Memphis townspeople, challenged to explain such an atrocity, came to the only logical conclusion. The children had been violently sacrificed in a dark, Satanic rite.

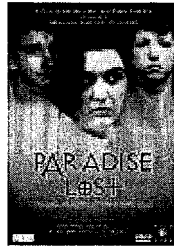
Rapidly, West Memphis law enforcement singled out local teen, Damien Echols. The cerebral, brooding youth, inclined to dressing all in black, listening to Metallica, and studying Wicca, seemed bizarre and diabolical enough to have carried out the grisley crime. Unable to connect any physical evidence, the police relied on interviews with possible witnesses. In a twelve hour interview, a mildly retarded 17 year old named Jessie Misskelley corroborated



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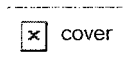
police suspicions regarding Damien Echols. He, further, managed to implicate Damien's friend Jason Baldwin and himself. The three teen misfits were now set to stand trial for a gruesome act of Satanic ritual murder -- an act of dark witchery right out of the worst nightmares of the sleepy Arkansas town.



PARADISE LOST:
The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hill
by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky

Filmmakers Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky, intrigued by news accounts of the crime and pending trials, headed for West Memphis. There, they would capture on film a startling portrait of a town in turmoil. The Emmy-winning documentary records both the court proceedings and the back-story in the form of interviews with all the major players: the families of both the victims and the accused, lawyers, law enforcement, even, the three plaintiffs. As recorded by Berlinger and Sinofsky, the prosecution's case is largely circumstantial. Clumsy police work had damaged what physical evidence there was on the river bed. Much rests on Jessie Misskelley's confession, although it had been debunked by Dr. Richard Ofshe, a Pulitzer Prize winning expert on false confessions. Only a small part of Ofshe's testimony was heard during Misskelley's trial.

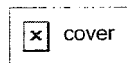
Paradise Lost is a brilliant piece of journalism -- objective, and unflinching. Finding its largest audience on HBO, the film started a surprising snowball effect. Many viewers were shocked and horrified by the result of the trials. All three boys were convicted of capital murder. Damien Echols was sent to death row, where he remains to this day. As a result of the documentary, many came to the conclusion that this had been a modern day "witch hunt," the disturbing result of irrational "satanic panic." A movement was born to rectify an injustice and "Free the West Memphis Three."



PARADISE LOST II: Revelations

by Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky

Berlinger and Sinofsky return to West Memphis, Arkansas, to observe the ongoing social and legal hurdles of Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley. Although ***Paradise Lost II: Revelations*** largely follows the ongoing work of a group of advocates for the convicted killers, it is John Mark Byers, step-father of the most brutally murdered boy, who emerges as the star. The only family member of a victim to return in the sequel -- his wife died under mysterious circumstances -- Byers embarks on a love affair with the camera. He relives the glory of his gospel singing days. He dramatically enacts a version of the murder on the river bank. He shares the intimate memory of his own violent abuse as a child. He tells contradicting versions of the events leading up to the loss of all his teeth. (Bite mark evidence emerges as important data overlooked in the original trials.) He takes and passes a lie detector test and triumphantly proclaims, "I knew I was innocent!" The hard drinking, heavily medicated, brain-tumor suffering Byers is a compelling figure. Not surprisingly, he has emerged as the likely perpetrator in an alternate theory of the crime.



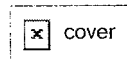
DEVIL'S KNOT:

The True Story of the West Memphis Three

by Mara Leveritt

A writer and contributing editor at the *Weekly Arkansas Journal*, Mara Leveritt took an early interest in the shocking child murder. Unsatisfied by the circumstantial evidence presented in the jury trials that convicted Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley, Leveritt began piecing together court documents. Using the gift of time to do what the inexperienced and pressured defense attorneys could not do, she cut and pasted events and pieced together a timeline. Emerging under her microscope are details missing from the trial accounts. She discovers that the brother and the stepfather of Chris Byers gave contradictory accounts of the search for the missing boy. Her research throws into question John Mark Byers's

alibi. She learns that police never investigated reports of a disheveled man who left blood stains in a fast food restaurant the night the boys disappeared. Leveritt concludes that the case is a "constitutional nightmare," violating separation of church and state, and arriving at a prosecution with no tangible proof.



RISE ABOVE: 24 Black Flag Songs to Benefit the West
Memphis Three

By Henry Rollins, et al.

The case of Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin, and Jessie Misskelley has emerged, in recent years, as a popular *cause celebre*. "Free the West Memphis Three" t-shirts adorn celebrities in the strangest places and clearly visible on camera. In **Rise Above**, rocker and actor, Henry Rollins assembles an all-star line-up and recreates 24 songs from his legendary band "Black Flag." Featuring the diverse talents of Iggy Pop, Exene Cervenka, Dean Ween, Corey Taylor, Tom Araya, Hank Williams III, Ice T and many more, the driving, high energy recording is a fitting testimony to the moral outrage of three young men spending their youth and, possibly, their lives in prison for murders they most surely did not commit.



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EXHIBIT A-193

Paradise Lost

The child murders at Robin Hood Hills

Revelations: Paradise Lost II

Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky

Dolan Cummings
posted 2 August 2005

As this renowned pair of documentaries is released on DVD, Berlinger and Sinofsky are at work on an eagerly-anticipated third. The films work on a number of levels: as documentary they hover between 'true crime' and, especially in the case of the second, campaigning journalism. There is also an element of pure American Gothic, with an array of human gargoyles performing to a Metallica soundtrack.

Not least, though, the films are interesting studies in documentary itself: the second film deals with circumstances heavily influenced by the first, and the third is likely to deal even more with the effects of the earlier films on their actual subject matter. It is the interplay, and the tension, between these elements that make the documentaries particularly interesting.

The films concern the gruesome murder and mutilation of three young boys in West Memphis, Arkansas in 1993. The first tells the story of how the bodies were found, and the effect of the murders on the local community, mediated by frenetic press and television coverage. Suspicion quickly centred on three misfit teenagers, one of whom, 17-year-old Jessie Misskelley, confessed after lengthy interrogation to having been involved, and agreed to testify against the others. He was, however, somewhat simple-minded, and his testimony was initially at odds with the facts. The other boys were Jason Baldwin and Damien Echols, both 18, and given to dressing in black and listening to heavy metal. Damien especially was considered dodgy because of his interest in 'wicca' or witchcraft. All three were convicted.

Thus, the first *Paradise Lost* film was really about how prejudice bordering on superstition, a 'Satanic Panic', condemned three probably innocent teenagers to life sentences in the cases of Misskelley and Baldwin, and death by lethal injection in the case of Echols. The cases are all under appeal, and there is a substantial campaign to free the 'West Memphis Three', largely inspired by *Paradise Lost*, and featured heavily in the sequel.

The films can be read as a searing indictment of small town prejudice, then, but interestingly they suggest prejudices of their own. The American Gothic aspect of the films centres on John Mark Byers, the stepfather of one of the murdered boys, who cuts an increasingly outlandish figure over the course of the story. Byers shouts and rants like John the Baptist, promising to spit on the graves of the killers, whom he is convinced are the accused. Heavy-set and long-haired, with wild facial hair, he fulfils all the stereotypes of the in-bred, Bible-bashing, hick Southerner, straight out of *Deliverance*. While one has suspicions about him in the first film, the second strongly implies, playing on prejudice rather than hard evidence, that he killed not only the three boys, but also his wife.

The campaigners who show up in West Memphis from Los Angeles and elsewhere to support the appeal come across like the Democrat activists bussed into Midwestern Republican strongholds from the coastal metropolises during the last presidential election. Well-meaning but somewhat contemptuous, their reaction to someone like Byers is every bit as prejudiced as his own reaction to someone like Damien Echols, substituting nervousness about 'Christian fundamentalism' for Satanic Panic, and this is very much the point of view of the films themselves.

This is an undoubted weakness of the second film, but the point has been made elsewhere and it will be interesting to see if it works its way into the third film, and how the film-makers respond to such criticism. In any case, the first two films remain fascinating documents of an extraordinary case. Viewed with or without prejudice, the community in which it is set is certainly different from the urban and suburban America we are used to in films and TV, and while it is surely unfair to see murders and miscarriages of justice as symptomatic of that community's condition, it is good to have an insight into it, however skewed.

And in any circumstances, the case itself is both fascinating and disturbing. The film-makers had excellent access to all the protagonists, allowing for an unusually in-depth treatment of a particular case, which makes the film valuable as documentary well beyond its more baroque appeal.

EXHIBIT A-194

The Evil Powers of Rock and Roll: The Supersuckers' Eddie Spaghetti Works to

Free the West Memphis Three

On May 5, 1993, three 8-year-old boys were brutally murdered in West Memphis, Arkansas. The small town was terrified, and the small town police department had no idea how to deal with a murder of this magnitude. The combination of hysteria and incompetence resulted in the conviction of three other boys: Jessie Misskelley, Jason Baldwin, and Damien Echols. Misskelley, Baldwin, and Echols became known as the West Memphis Three.

The West Memphis Police Department, by their own admission, were able to obtain no physical evidence to convict the West Memphis Three. The prosecution's argument rested on a confession by Misskelley, a confession marked by Misskelley's lack of knowledge of any of the particulars of the case, including the place and time of the murders.

Since the confession was so questionable, since there was no physical evidence, and since the prosecution was faced with a hysterical community, they fell back on the age-old method of constructing a witch-hunt. They tried the West Memphis Three not for murder, but for being "satanic." As evidence, the prosecution brought forth Echols' books on Wicca, Baldwin's Metallica T-shirts, and the coerced statements of mentally disabled Misskelley. This flimsy argument was enough to award Misskelley and Baldwin prison terms of life plus forty years. Echols was sentenced to death by lethal injection.

In 1996, Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky made the film *Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills*. After several showings on HBO, the film sparked a new flame of interest in the case. Among those inspired by the film was Eddie Spaghetti, lead singer of the Supersuckers. Spaghetti asked himself what he could do to help the West Memphis Three, and decided to help release a compilation

CD dedicated to the cause. The compilation features stars like Joe Strummer, Eddie Vedder, John Doe, Tom Waits, and the Murder City Devils. Recently, I got the opportunity to speak with Spaghetti about the West Memphis Three case and about the comp.

• •

Looking at the band names and song titles on the comp, with bands like Killing Joke and Murder City Devils, and songs like "Fucking Hostile" and "Wrathchild," it seems like the *Free the West Memphis Three* CD itself mirrors perfectly the evidence used to prove that Jason Baldwin was Satanic.

It's kind of weird. The thing is, they were convicted for such ludicrous reasons, and all the evidence was brought up as character evidence, as some sort of proof that they were evil people. A lot of people don't care if that hurt them. But the fact is that that sort of thinking is wrong and we shouldn't kowtow to it. We shouldn't change what we do. Just because their thinking is character-proof, we shouldn't cater to it.

So was this an intentional thing?

The song selection definitely was. I mean, if you'll notice, they basically go from songs about people's feelings about the case and about the film to covers of songs from bands that the guys like. So yeah, we did do that directly.

What songs were by bands that Jason Baldwin is a fan of?

He's a fan of Pantera and Kelley Deal did the cover of the Pantera song, and for the same reason, Nashville Pussy did "Highway To Hell." AC/DC is one of the bands connected to the case.

How does purchasing the CD help the actual kids in jail?

The money from the CD goes to the justice watch, which is a non-profit organization which helps out wrongly convicted people. And the money from the CD will also go directly to Jason, Damien, and Jessie, not so much for defense funds, because their defense fund is fine. It's

more geared towards money for them for when they get out of jail. We designed it that way specifically because we want to send out a message that we really believe that they're going to get out.



The Supersuckers are among the bands working to Free the West Memphis Three. L-R: The Heathman, Dancing Eagle, Eddie Spaghetti, Dan "Thunder" Bolton

How did you come to get involved with the West Memphis Three?

Everybody who sees the film, the first thing they think about is, "what can I do?" For a lot of people that could be donating money to the support fund or telling their friends about what's going on or just talking about it. Then again, in my case, I have resources with which to put together a record like this.

Have you met any of the kids personally?

Yeah. I went down to Arkansas and visited Damien. I didn't get to Jason. He was farther away.

What were your impressions?

Awesome. The guys were amazing. Incredibly positive. They're coming from a place where I don't understand and hope to never be able to understand. I hope never to be in a situation that bleak. Jason, in particular, is amazing. He tutors at the prison school and he works with computers in the prison office and he's not just sitting there, bitter. He's trying to do something positive.

It reminds me of something I found doing research

on this, a quote by Damien saying that he takes comfort in knowing that he's going to be out of prison one way or another, either alive or dead, at least he'll leave. It's something that I'd never want to be faced with.

Their attitude is something that I totally admire and I hope to never understand on a personal level.

I know you have some particularly damning T-shirts, like "How To Maximize Your Kill Count" and "Smoke Of Hell." What else could be used to condemn you the way Jason Baldwin's concert shirts and Damien Echols' Stephen King and Anne Rice books condemned him?

In my possession?

Yeah.

That kind of the thing. You realize that a lot of the music that they have was pretty, you know, relatively mainstream. Then I look around my place and think, "you know, if the cops busted in here, and this shit could really be used as evidence against me in court, I'd be sitting on death row." Because I have a lot of books, I mean, I'm very into witchcraft. And the cops could find books about serial killers. But it's interesting. A lot of people have that stuff. It's not evidence.

And, like you said before, you can't really kowtow to people who disagree with your beliefs just because they're the ones in power.

Right. They're wrong. That's the thing. Sometimes you forget about that in order to put on a nice appearance. You gotta realize that they're the ones that are wrong. My being into witchcraft doesn't even make me a witch, much less a murderer.

You said some interesting things in an interview with *Hit List* a few months ago about Satan. You took him almost out of a religious context.

Well, not being a religious person, Satan is not. Satan is a cartoon character. Satan is the Easter Bunny or Santa Claus or anything like that. He's just a guy who represents the underground aspects of life. To me, you

know. Satan drives a cool hot rod. Satan has all the drugs and all the chicks and all the stuff in life that is rock n' roll.

He's kind of like Loki in Norse mythology.

Exactly. I don't think there's anything inherently evil about all that stuff. There's a lot of evil in the world; there's no doubt about that. But real evil lies in other places. It lies in racism and in people treating other people poorly. I don't see how these things connect.

Do you have any personal stories that tie in with the West Memphis Three?

Being involved with rock n' roll. You know what it's like from being in Florida. It's not as bad as West Memphis. Well, some places are. So you know what it's like. And we grew up in Tucson. I just know what it's like to be looked upon with suspicion because of the way I look and to have to deal with questions about Satan and satanic imagery on record covers and all that other stuff. We deal with that all the time, you know, on a regular basis. It's particularly funny when you're out of the country, in Europe, with the language barriers and where they don't necessarily have the same sense of humor as I do. They really want me to explain my relationship with Satan. As if I've taken the Dark Lord as my personal savior. It's just rock n' roll. That's all it is. It's energy. That's all there is to it. ■

EXHIBIT A-195

Devil's Knot yields insights into West Memphis 3 case But views on media, 'experts' often off-base

By Bartholomew Sullivan (Contact), Memphis Commercial Appeal
Sunday, January 26, 2003

The trial judge called it "the most bizarre case I have ever seen in my life."

As the lead reporter for this newspaper on the sensational 1993 triple murders that are the subject of Devil's Knot, I commend the thorough and entirely reasonable approach author Mara Leveritt takes in examining the case and its aftermath. Her painstaking effort to report investigative leads and courtroom theatrics in the context of information unavailable to reporters when events unfolded affords a fairly coherent explanation for that "bizarre case."

The 53 pages of end notes provide additional information for the growing following of readers who hope the so-called West Memphis Three will win new trials.

A lot was wrong with the investigation and prosecution of Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley and Jason Baldwin. They were accused of murdering 8-year-olds Steve Branch, Christopher Byers and Michael Moore in what was seen as a ritualistic crime with overtones of the occult.

It was the most sensational story in the region, and it lasted more than a year, bringing national attention that local investigators didn't expect or welcome.

Leveritt's reporting is accurate, coming from a careful review of trial transcripts and a view that is at times sympathetic to the defendants. Her work is imbued with almost a decade's insights into suspicions, deceptions and questionable, self-serving tactics. These revelations weren't available when Marc Perrusquia, Guy Reel and I - colleagues at The Commercial Appeal - wrote the first book-length treatment of this case that came out in 1995.

One flaw, however, is Leveritt's blanket attack on "an uncritical media" covering this case. Her own account, relying on contemporary reporting, belies that characterization.

The Commercial Appeal created new case law regarding the questioning of jurors outside the public's hearing in this case. And reporters from news organizations across the region fought along the course of the pretrial hearings to have the access we knew the law allowed. We sought records routinely denied because of the ongoing investigative twists and turns pending well into the second trial.

Most of the suspicions about conflicts, deception and expert claims had appeared in this and other newspapers as the trials progressed. To suggest otherwise is sensational and dramatic, but largely wrong.

Devil's Knot exerts a judicious tone most of the time but is critical of the prosecutors' efforts to cast Damien Echols's religious beliefs as foreign and dangerous. Playing on assumptions that the jurors were backward and unsophisticated, Leveritt suggests, was a reasonable approach for prosecutors, if not one that would hold up to outside review.

Leveritt is less critical about some of the seemingly self-serving experts and hangers-on who came to trumpet the case after the verdicts and sentencing.

That said, however, Leveritt's book is the best blow-by-blow account available of the investigations and trials.

Leveritt, in her epilog, asks then-prosecutor, now judge, John Fogleman what a near-adult is supposed to do when asked for a police statement under oath. He can't say.

If Jessie Misskelley had gotten so much as that ambiguous advice, many in the Mid-South might have stopped wondering about the justice of this case long ago.

More info:

book review

Devil's Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three

By Mara Leveritt

Atria Books, \$24

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EXHIBIT A-196

Eddie Vedder, Tom Waits Seek Freedom For West Memphis Three

Sonic Net, September 2000

Written by Mark Woodlief

While one man awaits execution and two others endure life imprisonment, Eddie Vedder, Tom Waits, Steve Earle, Joe Strummer, the Supersuckers and others are working to win their freedom.

The compilation *Free the West Memphis Three* collects previously unreleased material from artists - including the Long Beach Dub Allstars, Rocket From the Crypt, Nashville Pussy and others - who believe the three were wrongly convicted, in an effort to raise awareness of their plight.

"We want to make people aware of what's going on, wake people up a little bit, and put together a kick-ass compilation of like-minded, concerned artists," said Supersuckers frontman Eddie Spaghetti, co-owner of the Aces & Eights label, which will release the disc in conjunction with Koch Entertainment on Oct. 10.

The West Memphis Three are Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley Jr., who were teenagers when they were convicted in the brutal 1993 murders of three 8-year-old boys in West Memphis, Ark., just across the Mississippi River from Memphis, Tenn. Echols is sentenced to die by lethal injection.

But since the 1996 HBO-produced film "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," a growing number of Americans believe the three, now in their 20s, are innocent.

The film brought to national attention the flaws - among them lost and excluded evidence and allegations of a coerced confession - in the case against Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley, and inspired the Los Angeles-based Free the West Memphis Three Support Fund.

Critics of the investigation and conviction of the three men say sloppy police work and rumors of the killings being related to a satanic cult ritual combined to create a witch-hunt climate.

'No Confidentiality Or Security'

"In crime scene videos, there are unidentified people at the scene," support fund co-founder Burk Sauls said. "Information was leaked to friends in the community; there was no confidentiality or security at the crime scene. The police say that Jessie Misskelley knew things about the murders that nobody else knew, and that's not true. People all over town had been talking about it. It was obviously impossible to get them a fair trial."

"They're victims of geography," Supersuckers guitarist Ron Heathman said. "They didn't do a damn thing. [Police] had to have somebody guilty. In the eyes of the community these three are devil worshippers. The South is frightening - that good-ol'-boy mentality. ... The only thing they're guilty of is wearing Metallica shirts."

A second film, "Revelations: Paradise Lost 2," shown on HBO earlier this year, followed the appeals process in Jonesboro, Ark., and revealed new evidence that human bite marks found on one of the victims do not match the bite prints of any of the convicted men. Despite the testimony of a criminal odontologist, Judge David Burnett refused an appeal for a new trial.

When Supersuckers manager and Aces & Eights co-owner Danny Bland saw the first film, he was moved to action.

Eddie Vedder, Tom Waits Seek Free For West Memphis Three

"I did a Web search and came across the support fund page (www.wm3.org)," Bland said. "I was going to call them and volunteer our services for anything that was going on. It turned out nothing was going on, so we decided to get involved. We've been working on [the CD] a little over a year now."

Bland helped establish a nonprofit group, the Justice League, to work for wrongfully imprisoned people. Proceeds from *Free the West Memphis Three* will go to that organization, but will be earmarked for Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley.

"The money is for them to get the hell out of Arkansas when they get out of jail," Bland said.

Musicians' Support Welcomed

Sauls was happy to receive support from the music community. "It's nice to know that public figures are finally having the courage to speak up about this," he said. "Eddie Vedder talked about the case in a Web chat recently. The tides are turning, and it has a lot to do with the information that's out there."

One of the West Memphis officers who discovered the mutilated bodies of the three boys said he understands how people might think the three defendants are innocent, based on the HBO documentaries.

"I don't blame them for thinking those boys were railroaded," said Capt. Mike Allen of the West Memphis Police Department. "If I was in California or New York, I'd feel like a great injustice occurred. But I know that's not what happened."

"Two separate juries heard six weeks worth of evidence and both found them guilty," he said. "I personally feel like [the artists on the record] don't know all the facts. If they did, there's no way in the world they'd play a note or sing a tune for Damien Echols."

Free the West Memphis Three features a diverse assortment of musicians bound by their collective belief in the West Memphis Three's innocence. Bland said highlights will include cover songs both predictable and unexpected. The Clash's Strummer teams with the Long Beach Dub Allstars on Jimmy Cliff's "The Harder They Come," Nashville Pussy take on AC/DC's "Highway to Hell," Vedder fronts the Supersuckers on X's "Poor Girl" and former Breeders singer Kelley Deal puts her spin on Pantera's "Fucking Hostile."

Original Compositions For Compilation

Many original songs were written specifically for the compilation, including Waits' "Rains on Me," Rocket From the Crypt's "Wrong and Important," L7's "Boys in Black," the reunited Killing Joke's "Our Last Goodbye" and Earle's "The Truth."

Earle's passionate stance against the death penalty rubbed off on Bland, who's known the singer/songwriter since Earle and the Supersuckers collaborated on a five-song EP in 1997.

"Steve is a big part of it. 'cause I was never one to be politically conscious of anything before meeting him," Bland said. "I'd always been against the death penalty but never vocal about it. Being around Steve and seeing the work he does really inspired me."

Other songs on *Free the West Memphis Three* include: Mark Lanegan's "Untitled Lullaby"; the John Doe Thing's "Highway 5"; Zeke doing Iron Maiden's "Wrathchild"; Fastball member Tony Scalzo's "Indicted"; and the Murder City Devils covering the Misfits' "She."

Appeals for Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley are continuing at the state level, Sauls said.

(sonicnet.com's Jennifer Tatone and Correspondent Christian Boone contributed to this report.)

EXHIBIT A-197



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May 25, 2006

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Alkaline Trio crafts a darkly epic sound

By John Lucas

Alkaline Trio has never been known as an act that has a sunshine-and-lollipops outlook on life. The Chicago-spawned trio built its reputation by using its hooky, melodic punk as a vehicle to deliver morbid meditations that appeal to the most mopish of the black-nail-polish set. The band's latest album, 2005's *Crimson*, carries on the tradition with let-it-bleed anthems such as "Dethbed", which boasts the couplet "They found me facedown in the street/On the night you left to find another place to sleep".

Sometimes there's a message hiding in the darkness, as on "Prevent This Tragedy". That song was inspired by the case of the West Memphis Three, a trio of Arkansas men who, as teenagers, were arrested in connection with the murders of three children. As anyone who has seen the 1996 documentary *Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills* will attest, the evidence against Jessie Misskelley, Damien Echols, and Jason Baldwin was flimsy in the extreme. Still, all three were convicted and have spent the past 13 years in prison. They are appealing their convictions and have petitioned to have DNA testing carried out on key pieces of evidence. A grassroots movement, complete with fundraising concerts and benefit CDs, has grown in support of Misskelley, Echols, and Baldwin. According to drummer Derek Grant, Alkaline Trio is glad to lend its voice to the cause.

"We certainly like to believe that we have a just system in place to weed out the guilty, and I think it's pretty clear in this case that the three people who are in prison for those crimes might not be the ones who did it," says Grant, reached at home in Indianapolis, Indiana. "There's a lot of speculation about it, and even some proof to say otherwise. But it's the fact that it's been going on so long, and that it's in such a dire state right now, that really hits home. Initially, the kids that are in jail right now, the only reason they were singled out is because they look different, and that's something that the three of us can certainly relate to, all growing up in suburban towns where we might dress different than most of our friends."

"Prevent This Tragedy" is notable for more than just its topical lyrics. Although it clocks in at just over three minutes, the track sounds epic, thanks to the artful application of soaring Mellotron string sounds. Alkaline Trio's sound is unmistakably rooted in car-bomb punk, but the ghostly piano chords that open "Time to Waste" and the flashes of electronica that decorate "Burn" hint that Grant, singer-guitarist Matt Skiba, and bassist-vocalist Daniel Andriano have broader ambitions.



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"The whole method of writing Crimson was being able to shed any restrictions we had placed on ourselves," the drummer says. "Some of our favourite bands" "some of the bands that have influenced us the most" "are bands like the Smiths and the Cure and the Psychedelic Furs. You know, bands that utilized a lot of synthetic sounds and a lot of really lavish production. It was nice to be able to feel like we could breathe a little bit in the studio."

To make that lush studio sound translate into the live arena, the trio expands to a quartet with the addition of guitarist Nolan McGuire, while sequencers provide the string and keyboard sounds. Mind you, selections from Crimson make up a surprisingly small percentage of the band's sets. Rather than use its tours as mere promotional tools, Alkaline Trio is happy to reward fans who show up hoping to sweat to the oldies.

"We play the first album [1998's Goddamnit] in its entirety," Grant reveals. "That's what we do straight away. So for the first 35 minutes of the set, you can see pretty plainly on people's faces which ones are familiar with the older stuff and which ones aren't. Obviously the band has gained a lot more exposure with the last few albums, thanks to MTV and radio play and MuchMusic and whatnot, so there's people who have only been listening to Alkaline Trio for a few years, and maybe they're not as familiar with the older stuff, so we definitely try to balance it out as much as possible."

Grant didn't play on Goddamnit. In fact, only Skiba has been with Alkaline Trio since its beginnings in 1996; Andriano joined in '97. Despite its history of personnel changes, Grant feels confident that the current lineup, which has been in place for about five years, is built to last.

"I don't intend on going anywhere, and the band would not be the same without any of the other components," he asserts. "Matt started the band, but Dan came in fairly quickly, so it's hard to imagine" "in fact, it's impossible to imagine" "the band without either one of them. Myself being the only variable, I'm not going anywhere without a fight, that's for sure. We work so well together. I'm aware of the difficulties that they might have had with previous lineups, and I just don't think any of those exist now."

Good news indeed for those with a taste for tuneful gloom.

Alkaline Trio plays at the Croatian Cultural Centre on Sunday (May 28).

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007

West Memphis Three on TV

POSTED ON FRI, SEP 14, 2007 AT 4:00 AM

While it's not exactly *Law & Order's* "ripped from the headlines" approach, it looks like the CBS show *Cold Case* will be basing a future episode on the 1993 West Memphis murders of three young boys.

Maureen Ryan, television critic for the *Chicago Tribune* notes the **resemblance** between the *Cold Case* plot and the West Memphis case, which resulted in the conviction of Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley, and Jason Baldwin, also known as the West Memphis Three. The murders and subsequent trials have been the subject of two documentaries and several books. The West Memphis Three have become something of a cause celebre among well-known musicians and many others who believe Echols, Misskelley, and Baldwin were wrongly convicted.

The *Cold Case* episode, scheduled to air on September 23rd, is called "Thrill Kill" and will follow the investigation of a 1994 case of two "seemingly nihilistic" teens who were convicted of murdering three 10-year-old boys.

The episode will also feature eight songs by Nirvana.

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It will be very interesting to see how they treat the 'trial' in their story line - as well as the investigation. Truth can be stranger than fiction and the idea of a whole Police Department subscribing to 'satanic panic' leaves one concerned for the safety of that community. Justice shall eventually prevail. It is just very slow in AR when people have no money and are deemed 'disposable' by the 'powers that be'. It is a certainty that those whose careers were 'made' on the back of this case really did believe that it would be forgotten about and never surface again. Hopefully this episode will make some more people start to look back at this very real case and start to ask questions too. The more voices the better. Even after this length of time things can be 'made right' again. A re-trial would be a good place to start along with that concept of innocent until proven guilty beyond all reasonable doubt! The murders in West Memphis back in 1993 were heinous but the trials were a travesty! Miranda U.K.

Posted by [Miranda](#) on September 17, 2007 at 10:21 AM | [Report this comment](#)



I am super excited that the case is getting even more exposed. Most people realize the government miss handled this case, and this is a crucial time for mass awareness. I hope this episode does them justice, unlike the Arkansas courts did for them. myspace.com/fightagainstcorruption

Posted by [TooManyPuppies](#) on September 19, 2007 at 3:08 PM | [Report this comment](#)



I am so glad that someone has realized what this episode is based off of. I also hope that this episode of Cold Case will get more people interested in the West Memphis Three case and I also hope that it will get more attention from the media and hopefully some kind of special will be aired on the major networks about the WM3. To all that believe in the WM3 thanks for the support and keep on praying that one day they will get out and justice will finally be served to the right people who committed this crime.

Posted by [madeofscars78](#) on September 19, 2007 at 3:29 PM | [Report this comment](#)



FREE THE WEST MEMPHIS 3! It will happen... I know in my heart that it will. All the exposure in this case exposes the bad investigations and the Bad Police work and the Bad prosecutors & Judges. They are ALL at Fault on this one.... Even the Jurors. Satanic Panic was the ONLY thing Prosecuting attorney's had... It's a shame that the everyday people that ended up in the Jury were so BLIND & Ignorant. In this day and age, HOW could OJ Simpson be acquitted and the WM3 be put away for life and even death. They had more evidence against OJ than the WM3 case. Our Justice System is a SCARY thing to me and I PRAY that I never encounter a modern day Witch Hunt as Damien, Jason & Jessie encountered. Personally, this case is just another example of "Good Ole Boys" not being able or even willing to admit they've made BIG mistakes here. The truth will come out one day and I pray the wrath of God will come down on everyone that participated falsely in this Mockery they called a Trial. Even Mr. Mark Byers. I applaud all of the Celebrities & Musicians for standing by the WM3. Even they can see the injustice here.

Posted by [Leahdawn](#) on September 19, 2007 at 3:51 PM | [Report this comment](#)



I am looking forward to watching this episode of Cold Case. Just the short film cut of the episode is exciting; there appears to be a Mark Byers character as well. I really, truly from the bottom of my heart hope this episode brings even more awareness to the case of our West Memphis 3; Jason, Damien and Jesse. There were 6 young innocent boys that lost their lives that fateful day in West Memphis Arkansas. Three of the 6 are hanging onto life precariously through their families, friends and supporters. Every single American in this country should be rushing to their sides and demanding their release. To me it's like they're on Life-Support, hanging on day after

MOST COMMENT:

COGIC Bishop

Patterson Dies at
AP -- G.E. Patterson presiding bishop of Church of God in C and a minister for a 50 years, died of heart failure Tuesday, the church announced. He was 67.

The predominantly Protestant denomination headquartered in Memphis, claims 6 million members worldwide

by Flyer Staff

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day, hope the only thing being fed into their hearts. Freedom is the medicine that will return them to the life that was taken away by an incompetent and corrupt justice system. I am a 55 year old grandmother and every day my heart goes out to Jason, Damien and Jesse. I've adopted them into my heart and I believe IN them. in their INNOCENCE and their right to be FREE. God Bless you Jason, Damien and Jesse. your prayers are with you every moment of every day!



Posted by [Linda Fay](#) on September 19, 2007 at 7:21 PM | [Report this comment](#)

It will indeed be very interesting to see how They handle the Case on the show. Will it be a direct replica of injustice, or will They maybe **Furnished Downtown Condo in Prime Location** reach the Arkansas Justice system how to handle a case and the meaning of INNOCENT until PROVEN GUILTY. Why Nirvana, though. Why not play the **Music that** (wrongfully) got Them there in the first place. METAL (or at least GOOD **Music that** [myspace.com/corruptedclothing](#) for New WM3 Donation shirts support the **Battle for Free** Jessie, Jason, and Damien... THE WEST MEMPHIS THREE! INNOCENT!



Posted by [Casual-Tees-Clothing](#) on September 20, 2007 at 2:29 AM | [Report this comment](#)

these guys need as much coverage as they can get. americans have to stand up and fight for justice. guilty beyond the showdow of a doubt? i dont think so!



Posted by [editmisty](#) on December 19, 2007 at 9:37 PM | [Report this comment](#)

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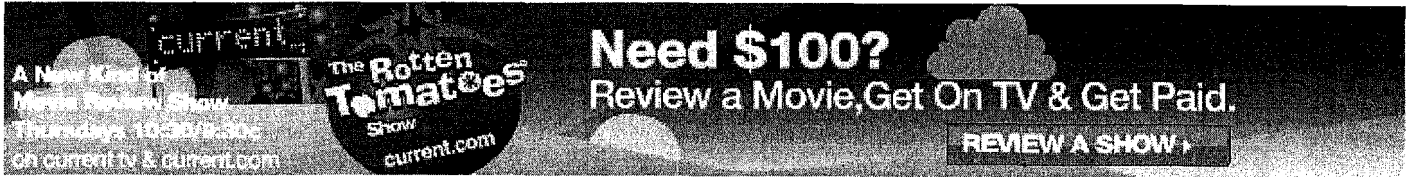
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Exclusive: Derrickson Off West Memphis 3 Movie *Devil's Knot*

Circumstances force the Emily Rose helmer to leave the project.

by Joe Utichi | December 12, 2008

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The *Exorcism of Emily Rose* and *Day the Earth Stood Still* director, Scott Derrickson, had been announced as the director of *Devil's Knot*, an adaptation of a book based on the West Memphis Three case, but circumstances have forced him to leave the project, RT has learned. Derrickson told RT that despite spending a large amount of time preparing the movie it looked like the project wouldn't be happening with him at the helm.

The West Memphis Three are Damien Echols, Jessie Misskelley and Jason Baldwin who, in the early nineties, were convicted of the murders of three 8 year-old boys in the Robin Hood Hills area of West Memphis, Arkansas. Many believe that the convictions were a miscarriage of justice and that their trial was based on questionable evidence. Two feature-length documentaries, called *Paradise Lost*, have been released about the case with a third in production.

"I really care about that story - I think it's an important story - and I'm sad I'm not going to get to tell it," Derrickson told us. "I went to West Memphis, I've interviewed all the families and I've seen the entire crime scene file. I've read all the court transcripts of both trials and really did my research. Looking at the actual crime scene photos is one of the most depressing experiences I've had. It was really, really awful.

"I absolutely believe that the West Memphis Three are innocent. I know everything about that crime and I think the fact that they're in prison is ridiculous."

For Derrickson, the story was an interesting counterpoint to his work on *Emily Rose*. "I really thought it was an extraordinary story about America, and a really interesting, microcosmic view of America," he said. "The role that religion came to play in the judicial system and the impropriety of that - in some ways it was the flipside to *Emily Rose* to me. *Emily Rose* was asking the audience to really consider and take seriously the possibility of the demonic existing. This story was going to be, in some ways, the incredible danger of taking that stuff too seriously; if you take that stuff too seriously people get hurt."

Another director may be chosen for the project, but Derrickson has moved on. His fascination with the darker side of religion continues, though, as -- coincidentally -- his next project is an adaptation of Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*, about Satan and the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden. Find out more about that project here.

UPDATE: In response to an earlier version of this story, Derrickson wishes to point out that there are no rights issues preventing the project from moving ahead. The article has been corrected above.

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YAHOO! BUZZ

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Gennifer F. writes:
on Dec 12 2008 08:26 AM

This movie MUST be made. The WM3's story is too important to not have a major national forum.

(Reply to this)



rodge d. writes:
on Dec 12 2008 08:33 AM

wtf?! if there is a problem with the rights, re-write the screen play. i've got one all worked out. guess who the killer is?

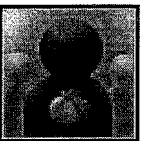
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bodhili writes:
on Dec 12 2008 09:36 AM

John Mark Byers?

(Reply to this)



Holly T. writes:
on Dec 12 2008 12:49 PM

John Mark Byers did NOT murder those children. You can catch up on the case by visiting this link and watching a short documentary just released by KATV, an Arkansas news station:

<http://cfc.katv.com/external.cfm?p=wm3>

(Reply to this)



rodge d. writes:
on Dec 12 2008 01:08 PM

In reply to this comment (#2180171)
well, if this case were based on a little thing the legal system refers to as EVIDENCE, he would be in prison right now.

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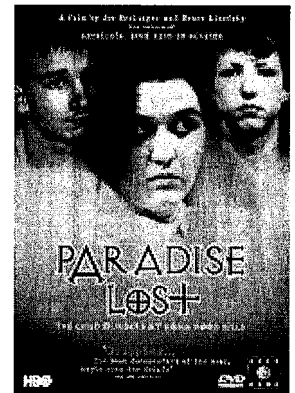
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Arkansas Times Staff
Updated: 6/1/2006

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Better late than never

Somehow or another, we've managed to blog, but not put in the print edition, that our colleague Mara Leveritt has work heading to the big screen.

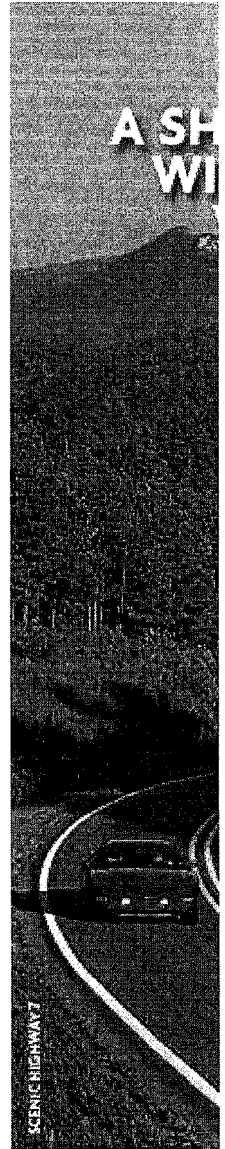
Dimension Films has bought the rights to "Devil's Knot: The True Story of the West Memphis Three." Paul Harrison Boardman ("The Exorcism of Emily Rose") will be on the script-writing team and Scott Derrickson will direct the supposedly faithful retelling of the infamous Arkansas murder case that sent three people to prison (Damien Echols remains on Death Row) on the flimsiest of evidence in a case inflamed by rumors of devil worshipping.

Variety, the trade publication, quoted the director: "There is already a dark tone to the material, but we are absolutely committed to only telling the truth, and not exaggerating to entertain," Derrickson said. "We were very frank with Bob [Weinstein of Dimension] that this was the only way we'd make the movie, and he was right in line with us. We all understand the gravity, the high stakes of the situation, and the story is not over."

Book it

Little Rock native E. Lynn Harris' new book, "I Say a Little Prayer," is No. 5 in the latest New York Times hardcover fiction bestseller list. He says this makes him the first African-American, male or female, to have eight consecutive Times bestsellers.

Harris tells us he "wrote like a demon" the past year after taking the previous three years off, churning out two novels, with the second scheduled for release in 2007. He also says he's having to come up with



a new title for the next release. Whether it will be a popular song title like "I Say a Little Prayer" or his last work, a memoir titled "What Becomes of the Broken-Hearted," remains to be seen.

"I like music, and if the title works with what I've written, I try to use it," he said.

The 48-year-old Harris is gay, and his previous novels have included a main character who was gay. The next novel, he says, will center on three heterosexual characters. Also in the works for publisher Disney-Hyperion is a young-adult novel.

Harris, who has homes in Atlanta and Houston, returns in the fall to his alma mater, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, to teach creative writing and African-American literature. He says the upcoming semester there will be his last, though he adds he loves teaching. "I've left the door open there."

Come on down

Joel Osteen, pastor of the 46,000-member Lakewood Church in Houston, will be in North Little Rock on Friday, June 9, to sign his new book, "Your Best Life Now." He'll be at the Books-a-Million in Lakewood Village at noon. Sign-up for a place in line starts at 9 a.m. that day.

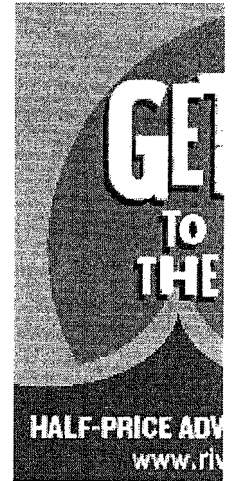
Easy chair

An award-winning chair made entirely of rolled refrigerator box cardboard and glue by University of Arkansas architecture students Amy McCarty and Samantha Smith will be exhibited at the American Institute of Architects' national convention in Los Angeles in July. Dubbed the "Extension," the chair expands from 24 to 42 inches wide.



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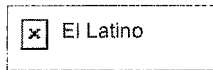
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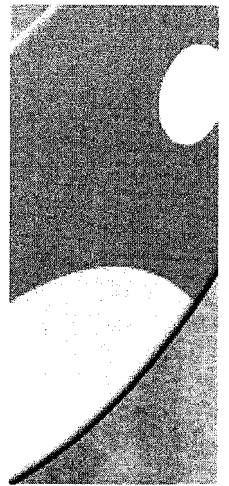


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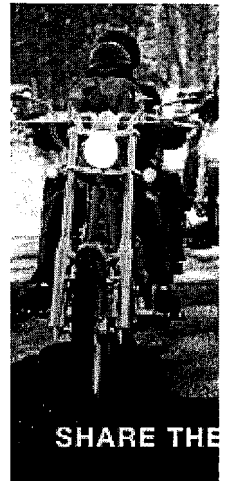
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