

FUGITIVES CAPTURED **1304**
 MISSING PERSONS FOUND **130**

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VICTIMS' JUSTICE COALITION'S ADVOCATE

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Murder Hits Home to Hard-Hitting NFL Star

By Shirley Shaw

Paul Spicer was on the practice field with his Jaguars teammates one Thursday morning last October preparing for their game with the Pittsburgh Steelers, when someone from the Jaguars office came with a message for him to call his mother.



Paul Spicer

Wondering what could be wrong, he made the call and was stunned to learn that his baby brother, 23-year-old Coulter N. Hillman, was dead – shot by unknown assailants near his home in Indianapolis. Paul was devastated. “This was my little brother,” he said. “Someone I’ve loved and nurtured through his growing-up years. I helped and protected him – even changed his diapers as a baby – and now he’s gone.”

Coach Del Rio gave Paul permission to leave so he could be with his family, and he went home to make funeral arrangements and support his mother, remaining brother and two sisters.

Flying to Indiana, Paul mourned for his brother and reflected on their life together. The family – his mother and four siblings – had experienced more than their share of challenges through the years, but they had all survived. For a time when they were children, they lived in foster homes in Texas – Paul with his sisters in one place, his two brothers in other homes.

After they rejoined their mother, they moved to Indianapolis and became a solid family unit. She took them to church and worked hard to instill right principles in their hearts and minds. Paul left home after high school to attend college and went on to become the successful football player he is today – but he always watched out for Coulter.

“I was so proud of him, of the man he was becoming, of the way he overcame challenges in his life,” Paul said. “He got a scholarship to college. I have so much respect for him, dealing with peer pressure, getting his education and working. He’s my baby brother and I love him to death.”

“The last time I saw my brother was when we were in Indianapolis playing the Colts. He loved to watch me play. We talked, and I was planning to go back soon to spend time with him and visit my daughter who lives there. When I got the message he was dead, I

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Human Trafficking: multi-billion dollar crime industry built on misery and abuse

“It brings suffering to innocents and shame to our country.”

– Pres. Bush

By Shirley Shaw

Human trafficking is a modern day form of slavery, widespread throughout the United States today. Trafficking of humans is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug dealing, and is the fastest growing.

So begins a brochure, **Look Beneath the Surface**, published by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services in its attempt to raise public awareness about yet another despicable example of “man’s inhumanity to man.”

For many decades we have known about brothels in such Asian countries as Cambodia, Thailand and India, and we’ve been horrified by their practice of using very young girls in their sordid business. Shamefully, Americans have patronized these brothels, helping to perpetuate this global disgrace.

But, increasingly, for the past several years greedy, amoral traffickers have been building the sex slave trade in our country. Vile vendors of human beings entice or forcibly seize our children and other vulnerable victims, subjecting them to unspeakable horrors of prostitution. They are raped, beaten, threatened, caged – and often killed in this most contemptible of criminal trades.

On Mar. 16, JSO arrested a registered sex offender and charged him with sexual battery and harboring a runaway boy under age 16.

We read these horrible stories and think they don’t occur here, that this problem doesn’t really affect us. But



what about persons missing in our community – can this be what happened to them?

According to contacts in the Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office, the FBI and the State Attorney’s Office, organized human trafficking doesn’t seem to plague Jacksonville, but that doesn’t mean we lack our share of exploited human beings.

As this story was being written, JSO arrested a registered sex offender, charging him with sexual battery and harboring a runaway boy under age 16. The man lured him with the chance to make money by delivering

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What is Human Trafficking?

“Trafficking in persons — also known as ‘human trafficking’ — is a form of modern-day slavery. Traffickers often prey on individuals who are poor, frequently unemployed or underemployed, and who may lack access to social safety nets, predominantly women and children in certain countries. Victims are often lured with false promises of good jobs and better lives, and then forced to work under brutal and inhuman conditions.” (<http://www.usdoj.gov/trafficking.htm>)

An estimated \$7-\$10 billion global industry, trafficking affects virtually every country as a source, transit, or destination location. Anywhere from 700,000 to 4 million persons world-

wide are trafficked across or within national borders every year. According to recent U.S. government estimates, 18,000-20,000 persons are trafficked into the United States each year for purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Victims of human trafficking have been in both rural and urban areas of the United States.

Who is Trafficked?

Women, men, and children are victims of trafficking worldwide. Viewed as valuable commodities in the sex trade or labor industry, vulnerable individuals are targeted by traffickers poised to exploit their desperation, misfortune, or ignorance. They may fall victim to false promises of employment opportunities and a

better life, or they may be abducted or sold outright by families who themselves are in need of money or hope to provide a better life for their children.

Potential victims are at even greater risk when they originate from countries experiencing political and economic instability, internal displacement, militarism, civil unrest, internal armed conflict, or natural disasters. Generally, ethnic minorities or lower class groups are more vulnerable to trafficking, and certain social and cultural practices further render women and children in particular susceptible to trafficking. Addition-

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