“Traumanomics: Crimes Against Boys: A Shared Journey of Survival to Advocacy”

The Backstory

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In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer.

—Albert Camus

Three Themes:

- Gratitude
- Resilience
- Persistence
Gratitude

Friendships and family
- Our own children
- Friends

Media
- Investigative journalists
- Law enforcement
- Those willing to listen and look again
Resilience

Kris—
- 13 years old
- Low income family
- Misfit kid—only child/home life
- Paper carrier
- 1986 to 1988 Paynesville attacks
- School intervention
  - May 16th, 1987—attack
  - Camping—attack
- Terror in Paynesville 1986-89

Jared—
- 12-13 years old
- Semi structured, low income family
- Paper carrier
- Friday 13th, 1989—abducted and sexually assaulted
- Developed into Misfit kid as a result of incident

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Jacob taken
October 22nd, 1989

Persistence

Persistence
I didn't hear from anyone so I went to Jerry Wetterling right after he went back to work in December 1989.

After almost two months, I went to Jerry Wetterling in December 1989 right after he returned to his practice.
Persistence

- July 1989 Kris moved to Paynesville to get away from terror and start new in safety.
- November 1989 Jared moved to Paynesville to get away from terror and start new in safety.
- January 1991 Kris switched back to Paynesville High School ½ of Junior and all of senior year.

Resilience
KARE 11 Investigates: Coincidence in Wetterling Case

A 36-year-old man, who was abducted and assaulted in 1989, talked to reporters on Monday about his experience and the case that has haunted him for decades.

The man, who asked to be identified as "Mark," said he was abducted while walking his dog near his home in Bemidji, Minnesota.

"I was walking my dog, and I got caught up in a little bit of a storm," Mark said. "I was trying to get back to my house, but I got lost in the woods."

Mark said he was then forced into a car and driven to a remote location. He was held captive for several days and tortured.

"I was scared, I was in pain, I was alone," Mark said. "I thought I was going to die."}

The abduction set off a massive search by law enforcement agencies. Mark said he was ultimately rescued by a group of hunters.

"I was so grateful to be alive," Mark said. "But it was a terrible experience."}

The investigation into Mark's abduction continues, and the man has received support from a number of organizations.

"I think it's important to speak out," Mark said. "I want to help others who may be going through a similar situation."
Sheriff: 5 critical errors in the Wetterling investigation

A botched arrest, interrogation Heinrich interrogation

Heinrich was arrested while drunk at a bar in Roseau, Minn., on Feb. 9, 1990, on charges he kidnapped and molested a boy in Cold Spring, Minn., in January 1989 — a full nine months before Jacob was grabbed and killed.

No officer would choose to arrest a drunk man, Gudmundson said.

FBI officials interrogated Heinrich, who maintained his innocence and said he was being framed.

Gudmundson called this interview the "most fatal flaw" in the Wetterling investigation. Without enough evidence to keep him locked up, Heinrich spent just a night in jail.

Garber maintained Thursday his agents handled the situation properly. Garber said Gudmundson wasn’t involved in the investigation and that his investigators did not have the evidence necessary to hold Heinrich any longer or charge him:

But Garber said he remained convinced that Heinrich was the suspect.

"Absolutely, absolutely," he said. "We were trying for evidence. We may think this guy did it, which we did. ... But we can’t say we are going to give up and walk away" and not follow up on other tips or leads.

Photographs of boys, evasion of cops

In January 1990, investigators obtained a search warrant for Heinrich’s father’s home in Paynesville, Minn. Some boys who were victims of assaults in the area described their assailant as wearing camouflage, dark clothes, boots and that he had a police scanner. During the search, police found army boots, camouflage clothing, two police scanners, and a vest. They also noted a few photos contained in a locked trunk at the home. The pictures were of a boy wearing a towel coming out of the shower, a boy in underwear, and three more children, fully clothed. Heinrich told investigators the photos “just don’t look right," and the police didn’t confiscate them.

That same month, a report said Heinrich — under surveillance at the time — appeared to make evasive driving maneuvers, doubling back, making exaggerated turns, driving through back roads and turning his lights off, losing his trail. That was important, Gudmundson said because such behavior should have set off alarms for investigators.

Shoes imprints and tire treads

Heinrich’s car tires and shoes matched imprints found near the scene of Jacob’s abduction.

Two days after the kidnapping, tire tracks at the scene were identified as those from Sears Superguard Radials.

While interrogating Heinrich on Dec. 12, 1989, an investigator noticed that Heinrich's vehicle had the same type of tires.

Gudmundson noted other possible suspects were dropped from the list because they didn’t have the Sears tires.

On Jan. 12, 1990, Heinrich’s shoes were sent to the FBI lab. Analysis found one of the shoes matched an imprint found at the same scene.

These pieces of evidence, according to Gudmundson, should’ve had investigators treating Heinrich as a primary suspect.
Late, insufficient links of Wetterling case to Cold Spring and Paynesville incidents

In the late 1980s, eight young boys were attacked near Paynesville, there was an abduction of a boy in Cold Spring, and then came Jacob's abduction in rural St. Joseph. All incidents were nearby each other and within a 5-year span.

All victims and witnesses described their attacker as a husky, white man, who wore dark clothing and who had a deep, raspy voice. He asked most of the boys their name and age. He sometimes wore camouflage and usually covered his face. Many of the boys were told to keep still and quiet or they'd be killed. Some were told to run away and not look back, or they'd be killed.

When Heinrich was part of a suspect lineup in 1990, only two boys who were earlier attacked attended. Gudmundson said all the Paynesville victims and the boys present during Jacob's abduction should've been there too. Investigators also did not ask those men in the lineup to speak or use key phrases (like those used in the earlier attacks).

Duane Hart interview

In March 1991, Garber interviewed Duane Hart — a convicted sex offender — who told the FBI agent about a visit he made to Heinrich's apartment. Hart and Heinrich were friends.

While there, Heinrich showed Hart a dark pistol, consistent with the gun Jacob's friend and brother remember from the night he was taken. He had two police scanners, one similar to what the Cold Spring victim said he saw.

Heinrich had a black "ninja" suit next to his bed, like the outfit a Paynesville victim described.

Heinrich also asked Hart about the best way to get rid of a body.

Gudmundson said of the investigation: "The right hand literally did not know what the left hand was doing."

While not the sheriff at the time of the investigation, Gudmundson said "we all failed."

16% of the men and 25% of the women met the case definition for contact sexual abuse; a national telephone survey of adults conducted by Finkelhor, Holahan, Lewis, and Smith (1990) using similar criteria for sexual abuse estimated that 16% of men and 27% of women had been sexually abused. Of the men in our study, 28% had been physically abused as boys, which closely parallels the percentage (31%) found in a population-based study of men in Ontario that used questions from the same scales (MacMillan et al., 1997).

Researchers report that offenders report high rates of trauma exposure and that this trauma typically begins early in life, often in multiple contexts, and persists over time. PTSD was found in 4% of the general population sample and 48% of the prison sample. Trauma exposure was very common among prisoners, including a 70% rate of childhood sexual abuse for women and a 50% rate for men. (Briere, Agee, and Dietrich, 2016)

Purpose

Trauma (ACE) have Costs
In Arkansas, the 42% recidivism rate is not inclusive of offenders released on parole. She explained that of those individuals on parole, 57% commit another crime within three years. Sharing an alarming projection, Sharp stated that recidivism would likely increase to the 55 to 60 percent range in the future. Sharp’s prophetic comment may already be appearing in Arkansas data. According to Kelley, Compton, Laan, and McFaul (2015) the three-year recidivism rate in Arkansas increased about 5% moving up from 45.2% to 48.2%. That is, of inmates who were released from prison in 2011, slightly more than 48 percent were back in prison within three years.

(Bertelsen, 2017)

Purpose

Prevention, education, healing, and advocacy

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Providing education and awareness, carrying a message of hope, and advocating for survivors and the voiceless.

Traumanomics

Crimes Against Boys: Through Abuse to Purpose

Kris Bertelsen Ph.D.

Email for information or questions

Forthcoming book(s).

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It is very tempting to take the side of the perpetrator. All the perpetrator asks is that the bystander do nothing. He appeals to the universal desire to see, hear, and speak no evil. The victim, on the contrary, asks the bystander to share the burden of pain. The victim demands action, engagement, and remembering.

Trauma and Recovery, p. 7