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APPENDIX A

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
REGISTRATION, SUBSCRIPTION, AND STATISTICAL SERVICE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Date: May 16, 1980

Full name: John Beneke

Address: 526 Daremus Avenue

City: Glen Rock  State: New Jersey  Zip Code: 07452

Date of birth: Sept. 1945  (This is important and should be exact.)

Approximate age: (To be used ONLY when date of birth is not known)

Religion: Catholic  Nationality:

Occupation: Home Electronics - Unemployed

Education:

Weight: 135 lbs  Height: 5' 7"  Race: White

Color of hair: Dirty Blonde  Color of eyes:

Outstanding characteristics or interests: Handicapped - had polio as child.
Has braces on both legs to hips.
Walks with two crutches.

Married or single: Single  Children: (Number, ages, and names, if possible)

Wife's name:

Scouting connections:

Unit No.:  599  City:  Glen Rock  State: N.J.  Office:  Scoutmaster

Date registered: 5/80  Date resigned: 5/80

Special recognition, badges, awards:  Woodbadge - 1978

Suspended or dishonored for following reasons:

Signature:  Robert Hilgen

Clerk:  A. L. Wood

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

STATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

DECLARATION OF REGISTRATION:

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Dear Mr. Love:
Dear every paid scouting employee:
Dear every Man, Woman and Boy in Scouting:

I know I met you sometime in the past, but otherwise I know nothing about you except that you have never answered any letter I have sent to you. You do not know me at all except that my name is on your garbage list of former human beings to be destroyed for an ignorant wrong committed as a result of scouting's negligent training. You were not in your present position at the time that the wrongs took place or before that when the Ridgewood – Glen Rock Council and the Boy Scouts of America accepted responsibility for my training and certified it as complete. You may not have even been part of the BSA executive core at the time the decision was made to withhold the information from both boys and leaders. That should make it all that much easier for you to take the action that is required by the values that we have taught and learned. You could simply blame it on people unnamed and long departed. You are involved now and during that time a major unchangeable policy in this area was changed. You now head all the people of scouting and you cannot claim that you did not know or were not here. You cannot go any higher in the BSA, only outside it. Do not leave this injustice for your successor.

Call it an indictment of your corporation's way of doing things contrary to God's Way and scouting's ways if you like. It is, perhaps, poorly written but God can, and He will, rewrite it with every name, date and sin correct and in its proper place. If you are like other executives I have heard or talked to since 1980, then you do not care what God thinks of the way you live your life. But you will! Your corporate position will not protect your soul from your actions. Read this a couple of times - think about it for a few days - then go to a quiet place where God is. A place where no one can or will bother or interrupt you. There examine your conscience. Think of all the times you have broken the scout oath and law, the laws of God and man weather knowingly or unknowingly, of all the laws and rules and policies of every kind that have been broken to bring us to where we are now, today. Decide if you are willing to be judged by God in the same manner as you judge others and punish me for the results of your corporate crime. If you do not disqualify yourself, then requalify your victim. "The buck stops here" on your desk. At least make a start at it.

I must be nice to have a victim who trusted you and who does not have the financial or even the normal physical resources to give you a real fight to the death over this. You have the power to continue my punishment until the very last minute of my life. You can teach your hate to children and require it of them and others, but you will pay for that too. YOU Mr. Scout Executive, YOU are in a position to start the righting of wrongs that have been done. YOU hold a life in your hands. Will you save it as is right and in your power? Or will you throw it away? Throw it away, as society does today with every material thing it finds to be damaged, broken or found to be flawed. Will you destroy a soul as men do with an unwanted human being in the fetus? How will you answer God for the death and destruction of your victim? You may not get another chance to do so.

Shortly I will visit the place where I have known the presence of my God. The place where my friends gather. The place where much of the work God has set before me for life takes place. The place where my best friend on earth lives. The place where I suspect I will die and be buried. I would do so with your permission; or must I make other arrangements to come there?

copies:
Local scout executive
Pastor Tom McDade 905 South Maple ave Glen Rock, N.J. 07452
Bishop Theodore McCarrick Sacred Heart Cathedral Newark, N.J. 07079
John Cardinal O'Connor Saint Patric's Cathedral Fifth Avenue New York City

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Befor I do, whatever it takes to have this e x c o m m u n i c a t i o n from doing God's will d u r i n g all of my lifetime lifted, removed and set aside. I do not know all or exactly what forms this much more public trying will take, but I do not want to do any of it and I find it repulsive to me as a Catholic Scout. Prefering in- stead to work things out as if Jesus Himself were sitting there with us (as He indeed is) actively participating. But Catholic Boy Scouting is what He asks of me for all of my lifetime. My commitment and sacred vow to Him to do so for all of that time, binding against all who would turn me aside. For I must " Do God's Will — no matter what the cost ". Are You all of one mind? Are you unanimous and agreed? Are you certain that I may not and never will be permitted to do the Will of God ever again? Are you certain that there is: no sacrament, no sacra- mental, no fiat or edict, no operation, surgery or medical procedure, no fulfillment, no appeal or review, no change of policy, no acceptance of God's Ways as comming first by and among men, no recommendation or testamony of friend or otherwise, no passage of time, no change of heart, no acceptance of truth instead of lies and wrongful assumptions, no meeting and discussion between, among and as catholic, christians and scouts — that will allow the flaw created by scouting's crimes and later preceived by them as eternally damning to be forgiven so that I may come home, there to do God's Will? Are you certain that the death of your victim is the only acceptable payment for trusting as correct and complete my catholic education and, especially, the so certified training received from the boy scouts of america to do the work God created me to do? Are you certain that there is no way for me to ever again be in the presence of decent people of any age who could share and help me to do God's Will? Must the punishment for ignorance imposed by you be continued for all eternity? When will I have paid enough for the result of scouting's crimes against me and our boys? Can there be no justice for your victim until after my death? Are you certain that your victim's death is worth maintaining the fiction that scouting's power and authority is greater than God's? And that their victim must forever be an evil wrongdoer and punished forever for one time ignorant mistake? I say it must be ended — no matter what the cost! For that is God's Way of men living and dealing with and among men. Is there no power in Heaven or on earth to make you act as you taught (and had me teach) me to settle such conflicts?

I gave you absolutely everything I had to give, for that is the only way that this man can respond to what God wants of my life, and you could not give so much as one minute of awareness instruction over twenty five years. I did not fail in my obligation to seek and obtain training, or even to live by it. I was diligent in attendance and learning at training you offered year after year. The last time just the summer befor - after seven and a half weeks at summer camp you had me for an additional seven days and nights devoted and dedicated to scoutmaster leadership training exclusively. And never so much as a single word on or of any form of abuse of young people. Yet you knew that I was totally dependant on what was shared with me by others - on your training. That I possessed no "street education (smarts)" at all due to the restrictions of my disability. You accepted responsibility for my training and certified as to its completeness. I did not ask, even through laziness or complacency, to be ignorant of this subject not previously encountered. I applied for that week long training even after thirteen years on the job of leadership. I asked for more knowlage and training not knowing what, if anything, was missing — and you told me that it was complete, that I had been given all there was to be shared concerning my health, welfare and safety and that of my boys. Yet you knew that you had lied. Even five years after they introduced me to human sexuality you still maintained that "We do not have to tell anyone anything about it ". Then several years later a complete and public reversal - a declaration of how very important this information is to men and boys and that, only after I began a public outcry as to its absence and how much that had hurt me and my boys. Is it important or not? Which position will you maintain befor your God? How will you convince Him — whichever position you hold to — that you dealt justly with John? You told me that I had all the knowlage needed to do
God's work, that my training was complete. Is there any in scouting or in any field of endeavor, who not knowing a specific lack, who will look for more when he has been told that he has it all? Having no other option that I knew of I trusted you, and you deliberately left out this information. You said it was complete when you knew it was not. That is fraud. Fraud is a sin. Fraud is a crime! In asking me to do this work, work that I had already for five years or more known was what God wanted of me, the people of Saint Catharine's promised me that the boy scouts of america would provide me with all I needed to know and all the training I needed. They never checked to see if it had indeed been done. Another crime! I have and had a right to this information in my training, if nothing else for my protection and that of my scouts. Some have said that a case can be made for a violation of my civil rights as well. Scouting itself and the Roman Catholic school system here, you yourselves taught me, even as a child, that it is wrongful and illegal to withhold from another anything, physical equipment or knowlage, that is important or relevant to the task that you asked me to do. This has been upheld time and time again by the courts. Another Crime! You exposed me to an occupational hazard without my consent, without even informing me of the danger, without giving me a chance to decide if I wanted to risk it. Without the information needed and required to see and avoid it. [ With all the laws of God and man you have broken— How will you tell your God that you could not break your own corporate rules? And forgive, in word and in deed ( which is God’s command to us TO DO ) to put this right by the very values and principals of His that you do teach? ] If the people around me do not share even the concept of child sexual abuse, then who will? The Roman catholic school system of Saint Catharine's shared only an incorrect and misleading definition of sex as a penis inserted in a vagina, and a very strong prohibition against learning anything more about it. The boy scouts of america pretended that the subject of human sexuality did not exist at all. Its two short paragraphs in the scoutmaster's handbook meaningless and conveying no information to a sexually ignorant and inexperienced person. It is not at all surprising that it was sexually active, Roman Catholic Boy Scouts who were my first introduction and only exposure to it. The only suprising thing is that it did not happen much sooner, that it took so long. And sexually active, sinfully and criminally immoral young people are not capable of giving informed consent to what they decide to do in this area. No matter how much they fuck and screw to their hearts content outside the law, no matter who they choose to do this with, no matter how much more knowledge and experience they had then I, they cannot possibly convey enough informative knowledge for me, or anyone else, to make and give informed consent. So who was going to share YOUR concept of human sexuality with me, if not you?? When does an act of love, care and concern - acceptable to one and all become an act of sex unacceptable and illegal? When the penis enters the vagina was the RC church's definition; the boy scouts of america offered no published opinion at all; the various states have so many varying opinions that it is impossible to be familiar with them all, what is in one state is not in another. Acts of love that you later called sex and a violent crime against my friends. I was not smart enough to try to hide any of my relationships with any person. Encouraged, almost daily, by all and at every turn to physical and emotional closeness to all those I have ever worked with, even by the commandment of God, stolen by scouting "to love one another". You all watched and said nothing. Scouters, clergy, parents and others all had opportunity and many watched acts of love later defined by the state of New Jersey as aggravated criminal sexual contact. You watched and said nothing. No one ever said " Hey you are molesting my child. ". No one ever gave any warning that I was doing wrong or that I could be led to an UNFORGIVABLE crime. You watched and said nothing. If you all know so much, why were you all so silent? To watch and to say nothing, to make no verbal and/or physical attempt to stop a crime that you are watching is, under the law, to be as guilty as " he who pulled the trigger ". Guilty of a crime you watched without knowing it was taking place and yet you can all continue to be in the presence of scouts. Do not try to tell God

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or man that you did know it was a wrong taking place. I had no concept of
this as a crime or of wrongness and you have had me damned for eternity anyway.
How can you expect God to do otherwise for you? You kept it from me and for yourselves
and then damned me for its lack ( yet I have always avoided all the other wrongs
that you did tell me about. This one too, if you had bothered even to share the
concept of it with me.). You are as guilty as I am judged to be. You were an
accomplice. You also committed the crime. After the fact you told me a wrong had
been committed. I called the law enforcement people and went to see them. They
showed me words in a row, words in a book of laws, a book not available to me
layman except when he already knows exactly what it is and where to find it. I
know, I looked. Was I supposed to lie? I read English, they pointed out that this
and that were wrong. As I was taught to and as I taught others in scouting to do,
said yes, I did this. I trusted you to do and to live as you had me live and
do in an unintentional wrongdoing. Except that you failed your part, both before
and after. I was as guilty as any man can be WHO HAS NO KNOWLEDGE, PURPOSE OR
INTENT TO COMIT A CRIME. No crime befors man nor sin before God was committed by me.
I only recently learned that you can not even be indicted for a crime, even the
death of a child, if you do not have an appreciation of danger or possible danger
to others or to yourself. You encouraged my closeness to your children. In all
the years of my life I had no sexual instruction and no sexual interaction with
any person, and you knew it. Of those around me, even those sexually active, sinning, immoral and criminal acting Roman Catholic Scouts, children that even I
could recognize from my ( the RC church’s ) concept of sex, none were called to
answer for their wrong doings. No policeman or judge was ever heard to "catch"
and punish them for what even I could see was a crime. No parent or priest ever
punished anyone for doing what they and I had been told was wrong. Not the co-
habitator, the adulterer, the divorced ( still having sex or not ). None of the
sex " crimes " that I knew of was ever punished. None of these people was ever
known to be kept from being in the presence of a scout. No scout, no scoutmaster
or scoutmaster’s advisory literature, no scout executive had ever refused advancement
or excommunicated any such person for immoral, incorrect, illegal, sinful sexual
behavior. There is no correct sexual behavior except within marriage and then
only with intent to creat a new soul. We will even confer Eagle Scout on such a
Catholic Scout this month. How could I possibly be guilty of and have an awareness
of how wrong learning, without even knowing I was learning it, from a sexually
active young man ( and the experts have told me that a sexually active person
or even a person who wants to be sexually active, no matter what the age cannot,
in the way we use the term, be molested except statutorily ) when no one ever
punished anyone for what even I knew were wrongs? And you still do not. When I
had never even heard the crime mentioned, let alone disproved? You want and you
demand compliance and adhersance to your standards wihout fulfilling the legal
and moral obligations to INFORM. You taught me things and had me teach them to
others, then you denied us the opportunity to practice them in our own camp
without an outside certified expert to take the blame if anything went wrong.
You teach us ways to live, values that must be followed in our living with others.
You stole them from God’s Ways, yet when my friends tried to live them, you
denied them the opportunity to do so. You prohibited the doing of what you teach
as a must be done. The boy scouts of america is the only church in the country
that does not call itself such, that denies its members ( and the members of
other churches ) the right to live and act as Catholics, Christians or even as
scouts whenever it chooses to do so. It is the only one to use the courts to
enforce its values by making criminals of anyone who does not or even once fails
to meet unspoken and unshared values. " Secrets " in the scout executive’s
handbook ( or otherwhere ), for their eyes only. Rules and/or interpretations
of standards that are not shared with 99.9% of those in scouting or the public,
eexcept to destroy someone. " Standards " that you claim supeceed those published
values of scouting, the christian values of God’s Holy Roman Catholic Church and
its Pope. They supeceed even the commands of God Himself. YOU, the bsa, must
be obeyed. You would and you have imposed such standards even on an eight year
old. Until you instruct and examine, examine and reinstruct, such imposition is unjust. Unless you place these in litigation that even an eight year old will get to see and more importantly, in words that even an eight year old can understand. Then you are contemptuously unjust to all. You must give each and every person --- of every age --- a chance to hear --- a chance to know --- a chance to understand --- a chance to accept what it is that you are demanding of them and then you must give them a chance to demonstrate their ability to live the way you want. You MUST give them a chance to change, if necessary, to your way of thought, for living your way might be much more important to him and to God than anything outside your standards. In my case God has asked me to serve Him for a lifetime in Catholic Scouting; He created me for that and gave me the necessary talents to do that job, and that job alone. He was and continues to be answered by a solemn and sacred vow, "Yes Sir I will do it for all of my days.". Unless it was or is in contradiction to the values of God as taught by the Roman Catholic Church, I would, and I have given up anything and everything else for the standards of scouting that were shared with me. I could have and I would have, as I now do fight and work against any form of child abuse if I had been aware of it. To spend myself for my trope, that is God's will for me. But you must give each and everyone a chance to make an informed decision, your way or something else. Compliance with all PUBLISHED values and continued inclusion in scouting or exclusion from it for deliberately refusing to hold to those PUBLISHED values. I know that I could not have done this wrong if I had been informed, for then the standards that I live by and under would have included it as wrong and it would not have happened. You have taken SOME of God's prohibitions and said, after the fact, that to break them is to be excommunicated. And yet you must use ALL of God's ways, including His commands to forgive, not just those commands that you choose to recognize or you are just as despicable and condemn yourselves as those you condemn for breaking this or that rule of God. For you then do exactly what they do, that which you condemn in them, you choose to ignore some of what He has taught. In condemning others for their failure and/or refusal to adhere to what you consider important, you damn yourselves ( and all those who blindly obey you ) for your own refusal to adhere to what God has told you He considers important. Who has the better priority of values? you or Him? You got exactly what your policies were set up to make. A celibate, sexually totally ignorant leader without any sexual experiences or knowledge whatsoever. And that is, given the training and schooling I had received, the only assumption anyone can make of an unmarried Catholic. It is what I had believed of all of you until I had my " sexual education " sessions. And sex ed for adults is not available, I looked for such a thing after I had done wrong — looking to see if I could have found about this and have avoided doing wrong. I could find no such classes or training. Only a referral to a special research program allowed me to get this information academically after the wrong showed that I did not know enough about it. I attended sexual education classes that most of you would have refused. Absurdly every sexual experience of all participants was laid out for all to see, most disgusting. Yet if you had told me that such a class was required or important or even simply relevant to my work in Catholic Scouting, I would have taken it. You made no examination of my sexual knowlage ( or experience ). An exam I would surely have " failed ". You did not even provide a list of " required reading " that would have provided information [ Such as NJ state laws ( what about other states) ] that you were too cowardly to provide or discuss in any training session or school classroom. By the rules I follow, the only thing you could have had was what you built — a sexually ignorant and inexperienced celibate person wide open for an introduction to human sexuality, even by young people. And my introduction it was and the only interactive experience in my life, and while I cannot change that I cannot repeat it. And a celibate, now sexually informed and educated, still without any other experience is all you will ever have. Even if God sends a woman to help me with His work in Catholic Scouting, and I married her, the rules I am required to follow would continue to demand celibacy. For even in marriage intent to procreate is required for sex to be right. And that cannot ever happen, for I am sterile. Even though expressed
human sexuality is of having a healthy mind and body, God's Church's rules would require celibacy. Unless you provided the information academically as necessary for God's work that I was and must do, or unless you contend that I MUST break the laws that I know of, to have an understanding of those I know nothing about and have no concept of. In which case you are demanding and/or adoration sin and crime. At your request I brought you from that sex ed experience an evaluation from research experts in the field of child sexual abuse that put the chances of a recurrence at less than five percent. That was their insurance -- a cover our backsides figure and that evaluation was more than six years ago. If it were done today by the same people who took the time to know me and to hear and to accept the truth, it would be a zero. You asked for that evaluation and promised an impartial and unbiased review and yet you pronounced your sentence of eternal damnation without that hearing and before you could have received the evaluation let alone taking the time to consider it. Without knowledge or experience I was guaranteed - 100.00% to have an incorrect introduction to human sexuality from the first persons who offered it, just like every one of the rest of you, sooner or later, and you knew it. How can a person of 100% chance of making an ignorant mistake be acceptable to and in the presence of his fellow scouts for twenty five years and the same person, informed and educated, even with that "less than 5%" be not acceptable, even eleven years later, to people, each and every one of you human and thus fallible (despite your pretensions of infallibility). Unacceptable to other scouts, young and old, each and every one of whom have their own sexual learning experiences. Experiences outside the laws of both God and man. Experiences that, knowing and not caring, for many are considered by God and His Church to be wrong and immoral and eternally damming. Which person is more or most deserving of forgiveness and which most deserving of eternal condemnation? The man, woman or child who cares about "law and order" and about living to God's and man's laws and comits a crime without knowing it or the person who knows that "this is wrong and to what degree" but does it anyhow? Which crime is the greater one? One that has been shared, spoken of and prohibited or a similar one that has never been discussed or shared? Which person deserves the punishment? He who commits the spoken of crime or he who commits the one never spoken of? None of you ever asked those around you to put aside your sexual wrongdoings of learning or otherwise. You did not have to ask for a chance to show that you could live to what you had finally learned and understood. You took it. This is the last time that I am going to ask privately, politely and peacefully for a chance to do so. I am going to take it like you did, I will make the opportunities. After all YOU decided that I was not to be included in those with the need to know. YOU decided that the world would be a better place and better off without me having this information. I am going to stand up in public and ask your victims by name -- are you better off for having this happen? I will stand up in public and tell the world what you have done to me and to my troop and what I have done to make restitution and effect reconciliation. My money is no good to you as a performance bond or otherwise, my physical labor is unacceptable to you, my demonstrations of having lived with this "new" information does not satisfy you at all. How will you satsify your God? I will take my chance as you did, as your (and mine) God given right, to live and interact with my fellow scouts without continuing to do wrong. A man can be responsible for the unintentional death of another, even one of his scouts and suffer no punishment, he can kill with more knowledge purpose and intent then I possessed in caring too much for my boys and be punished for a lesser time. He could be negligent (as you were) and still be free to come and go among other scouts. Catholic Scouting here admits no unbiased and impartial hearing or discussion of the facts presented and the truth exposed -- even the before mentioned murderers get that much from their family, no appeal, no presentation of new evidence or even the acceptance of the truth is permitted. Required by God and prohibited by businessmen. No lessening of the punishment or lifting of the excommunication from doing God's Will will be permitted until death takes me. How will you convince your God that my ignorant crime and sin (as you see it) deserves more and greater punishment
then your deliberate woes? I did not and I do accept more importantly I do
live to the values shared and imposed on me by being a Catholic Scout. I have
lived and honored them all of my life. Where have they supposed to have gone by
my incorrect introduction to human sexuality? If all my values were erased by
my learning of human sexuality from children, then all of yours went too and must
be considered to be absent also. As you have had your values "reinstalled" so
shall I and my presence among my fellow scouts reinstalled. I still hold them
and I still share them with others, including children and scouts despite your
contention that one ignorant wrong has left me totally and completely without
them. You set aside your own failings, sexual and otherwise, you live your life
pretending to all that they never happened. You overlook them in yourselves and
in those close that are close to you. You will overlook them in me for I must do
God's Will for my lifetime. Are you still certain that the death of your victim,
my death, is the only way that you will set aside my human fallibility, my learning
of human sexuality from sexually active Roman Catholic Boy scouts? Are you certain
that it is the only way I may continue to live life?

How long can any of you justify before God my continuing punishment for an
ignorant mistake? How can any person who was not directly and personally involved
justify it? Even with the first hand information that none, not even our pastors
has bothered to ask me for? How can any man, woman or child ever justify the
punishment of another for the results of corporate crimes committed against that
person? Is there no one in scouting, catholic or otherwise, who remembers how
far outside the laws of God and of man, how totally and completely immoral their
own introduction to human sexuality was and the eternal damnation that you face
and place on your own soul for your condemnation of me or anyone else for that
very same thing? Who stopped immediately upon being advised of such? How can
you be forgiven by God for your sexual wrongdoings when you will not forgive
even an unintentional wrong doing of mine? God has promised it — you will not
have it if you will not grant it to all who ask it of you. And I ask it again of
you all. And God does not lie at all. Is there any man woman or child in Catholic
Scouting who would let ANYONE (this type doesn't go big enough) even your God,
hold your introduction to human sexuality and your other sexual sins and crimes
(as defined by both God and man ) against you for year after year? Yet you have
held mine against me for more than eleven years. The boy scouts of america has
prohibited some of you who would from acting as Catholics, as christians and
even as scouts. Is there none who would insist that the publicly accepted and
published values of boy scouting be followed by scout executives as well? For
they not only claim to be part of scouting, but dictate and punish others for not
following those very same values. Is there none in scouting in this community
or in the world who will stand up to them and insist that the ways of Jesus Christ
MUST be allowed to be lived and followed even by those who are scouts? After all
it is God who created them and to whom their souls belong. It is God to whom their
first responsibility lies. You gave me standards to live by. Standards and
values that you claimed were God's or that you stole from those that were from God.
I lived to each and every one of them that you shared with me. I avoided all the
wrongs that you shared with me, and yet you damn me for that which you selfishly
kept for yourselves. A high paid scout executive ( who rarely sees a boy ) can
have the protection of this knowledge, while the volunteer Scoutmaster who spends
a couple of thousand hours a year with his boys is not permitted to have it for
his protection or that of his boys. GET OFF YOUR FAT, LAZY, COWARDS' ASSES AND
LIVE IT YOURSELVES! For if you do not God will damn you for all eternity for YOUR
failure to live and to follow His values that you teach. Jesus had a phrase for
hypocrits like that. He called them whitened sepulcurs - living corruption and He
expressed open contempt for such people. Just as you have damned me for what you
preceive as my deliberate failure to follow your values. No one can, except accidently,
live to values they never heard of and for which they have no concept. They are
not learned or understood until they are taught and shared. There is no man,
woman or child with two digits in their age who can survive a judgement by God
or by man that you have made of me, based souly on it happened. That it happened

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that my introduction to human sexuality was incorrect is all that matters to you.

Few people, if any, have any choice about their first introduction to any subject,
especially this one, when they had not set out to find out about that subject in
the first place. Be sure and certain that God will judge you in exactly the same
way — if it happened — so go to hell. No good you have ever done, no good you are
capable of doing in the future will or is allowed to be counted to lessen or to
cancel that damnation — for IT HAPPENED! Is there no man or boy among my
fellow scouts who will forgive what I learned from young people? Who will deal
with me on a regular, continuing and daily basis as a human being and fellow Scout?
That despite a godless corporation’s prohibition against doing so, without burying
me first? Is my death the only penance that will let you live with me as God
demands of all of us? Including Scouts.

I absolutely and categorically refuse to live and to be the God damned law
breaking wrongdoing criminal that you all insist is my only place in and throughout
my lifetime before my fellow scouts just because my first and only sexual experience
came from sexually active Roman Catholic Scouts. I am just as capable of learning
and living within what I have learned as any of the rest of you are. But it had
to be shared with me first. No matter how often or how many of you lie about me, a
lie that God has promised to destroy you for. Be you priest, scout executive,
parent or other, I absolutely will not live as that kind of person for I am not
and will not be anything less than a respected practicing, Roman Catholic Scout.
I absolutely and categorically refuse to tell my God to go to hell. Catholic Scouting
here finds that easy to do, turning their backs on His commands. And then all
demand that I do it too. When I am ready to deny my God, ready to bow to man’s
will before God’s Will, when I am ready to commit the greatest wrong that I could
ever possibly do, then I will do it to His face. And you will all know it, for
you will have to bury the body that gets left behind on that kind of trip. You
have taken my life and damned my soul over something that was never important
even to ever or even mention — before the fact. You kept it from me, knowing
that you would damn me for its lack. And I am going to take it back. Life is the
living and doing of what God asks. The following of His commandments which are
the ONLY rules written in stone and in living all the teachings of His Son Jesus
Christ. And just as important, or even possibly more important in the doing of
that unique task that He creates each and every one of us to do for Him. Mine is
in Catholic Scouting in Glen Rock. Already as dead as any body buried in a grave,
even if he gains the world — is anyone who does not hear or hearing, does not do
That which God asks of him. No man can countermand what God has asked of me nor
can he change the gifts and talents God gave me to do it. Neither can any man set
aside or change my answer in the most soul binding way that any man can say yes
and acknowledge any commitment to God or to a man. It is the ONLY thing that I
HAVE TO DO IN LIFE. As God’s task, the only thing that I value at all. Having
been taught and knowing from experience the complete, total, and absolute futility
of trying to live any kind of life that does not include the daily living and
actively doing of God’s Will. There is no time, nor will there ever be time in
any day for anything else until it is accomplished. I have asked you to live to
the standards that you have taught and imposed onto me, and you have told me to
go to hell. I did not learn them, I did not accept them, I did not live them as
best I knew how, I did not — at your request — teach them to others, and I most
certainly did not make them work for others to have any man, corporation or even
my Church tell me that they may not and cannot be used for me, by me and between
me and my fellow scouts. I am going to make them work for me no matter what the
cost. I have gotten down on my knees and publicly asked you to forgive my intro-
duction to human sexuality, and you have told me to go to hell. Yet our God has
commanded that we must forgive in word and in deed. I have asked you to forgive,
to let me come home, there to do God’s Will by sharing His Word, His Way, and
His World through and with those in Catholic Scouting. Tell me no today and I
will ask you again tomorrow. For it is all that I have or value — ALL THAT I
WILL EVER ASK OF ANY MAN — to do His Will quietly till the last day of my life.
As even our pastor ( a church, and Jesus ) has exhorters us to do, I will ask it again and again until I am successful in doing it. I will never accept NO from a corporation that can commit crime when, if and as it pleases - against me, my troop or others -admitting its wrongdoing and refusing to pay for it. You will not be able to refuse God's " request " for payment! If I do not have with me or display a printed sign, if I do not have the appliances necessary to make this broken body kneel ( and therefor do not do so ), still you will know and hear my plea just by seeing me. When will I have paid enough for scouting's crimes? Forgive me, and let me come home! I will make special efforts to find opportunity to do so. When you go to and from church and rectory. When you leave your office for lunch or the day. When you gather together for a meeting or a weekend trip and at camp. When the parish gathers together. Even if I do not see you, you will know and hear my plea to forgive each and every day of our lives. Using excerpts or perhaps all of this letter I will ask it of every household in Ridgewood, Glen Rock and parts of Fairlawn. I will ask them and others to ask it of you also. I will, as also you must do, do God's Will no matter what the cost! And I will do it.

For I am as adamant, steadfast and unyielding in living for that which my God created me to do for Him as you are in serving Satan, who also thought he was as good as God, by keeping me from doing it.

It must be nice to deliberately creat a flaw in another and then to damm him for all eternity in the same breath as that in which you first inform him of that flaw. And then to quote company policy and misinformed public opinion as the reason why you must not and never will pay for the crimes that you have committed and admitted. You will pay your Creator if you do not put it right in life. To declare your victim to be wholly and completely without merit - to be totally unredeemable and without any goodness whatsoever with which any other scout can work under any circumstances whatsoever - and that for eternity. That kind of condemnation is reserved for God and towards those who, like yourselves, reject what is taught and right and embrace what He teaches as wrong. Towards those, like yourselves, who will not give up that wrong, who continue to do it again and again even though they have been told it is wrong and shown how to do it right. Yet you will continue the punishment for eternity despite the FACT that beginning the very day that you told me of the wrong I had done, I have demonstrated, even with many of the very same young people, before God and man that I have learned of the wrong and now understand it and have not even considered doing that wrong again. I have worked my backside off for hundreds and hundreds of hours both in and outside of your sight to have it put aside, but nothing moves you at all but your hate for me who could do a wrong you decided he did not even have the right to know about. WHY DIDN'T YOU TEACH ME TO HATE and to reject God's Ways as deeply and as strongly as you do. At least then I would have had your attitude and outlook towards others, even if I would then forfeited my soul to do so. Instead you taught me God's Ways of love, to care and to help others, ALL OTHERS, no matter what their differences and/or their failings. " To love one another." God's second great commandment and the password of the Honor Society in Boy Scouting. Is the last eleven plus years how you live God's love and how you show your love towards me, your victim. I am a scout and was once a human being as well. Yes I committed a crime, the greatest crime any man can commit, I trusted! I trusted those in Catholic Scouting, and the worthless education and training provided by you.

John Denke

While I expected to mail this in mid summer, various delays have made it now the last few days of summer, almost fail. By coincidence, I finish typing this main body on my forty sixth birthday, Tuesday September 17. Today I am part of Roman Catholic Boy Scouting, Troop 27 at Saint Catherine for thirty five years. Cursed and damned by all and prevented for more then the last 11 years from doing God's Will by uninformed, bigoted heads of family. But still a Scout and part of the family just the same. It will be "interesting" to see if, during the next 35 years, God's Ways will be allowed to be used for me, by me and between me and my fellow scouts or weather I will have to kneel in supplication before you all durnig that 35 years asking you to FORGIVE ME !

Yours truly,

John Denke

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Asey's Gospel reminds us all of the two "Great Commandments" upon which all laws are based. The second of these requires you to deal with me the same way as you want God to judge and deal with you. Enclosed is a word of God, highlighted, from Eric. After work last month, will try to tell Him that you never had or what you now hold in your mind? Never heard or my PLA or any forgiveness? Or will you tell Him not excuses and every other.
I ask you, as I soon will do. His will, to do thus. As I am to do, I must. I must to do thus. As I am to do, I must. I must to do thus. As I am to do, I must. I must to do thus. As I am to do, I must. I must to do thus. As I am to do, I must. I must to do thus. As I am to do, I must. I must to do thus. As I am to do, I must.
Dear Mr. Love,

The information you contained in the Scout Handbook that you talked about on Sunday night's NBC Nightly News, comes from 10 years I hate to help me and my boys. The first scouting ever publicly talked about child abuse around here was 5 years ago just after I made a small stick and public issue of it by mailing to a small number of people, and there to a small number of people, and there to a small number of people. I mailed to every household in my Council service area. Let me know what you execute deliberately and purposefully omitted from my training. Now in the Boy Scout Handbook, you told me that the training was complete thought I had a right and need to the information that you had withheld.
I stopped doing it the wrong way ignorantly done on the same day I was about it. Yet 5 years latter you are still denying any wrong or responsibility to tell anyone about it. You learned by your mistakes (put away with it) and used time to clean up you act so and used time I cleaned up you act so that it wouldn’t happen again and yet you still hold it back against me and delay me for that opportunity. Your information comes too late to prevent it and now that I could not (did not) have given I will continue to use every resource
That I have or chose to have to publicly and privately work to resume that task.
For 10 years you have punished me and made me pay for what you now publish as information needed by boys and men. Information that you had every way back then but we were afraid to share. How long could you justify this before your God and the severe harm and continuing torment caused by excommunication for my task he has assigned me for my task. It was your decision to withhold from me even the concept of child abuse that I had a right to and that you now state as being necessary to teach to all.
All Those in Scouting:

For ten years now you have had nothing to say to me, but go to hell. Before I again publicly ask you outside your office, outside our camp, outside of scouting events. Before I ask every household in Ridgewood, Glen Rock, and parts of Fairlawn to ask you for me. I again ask you: When will I have paid enough for the results of scouting’s deliberate omissions ??? When will you live to the principals of scouting (which are, after all, God’s standards and commands) instead of to the policies of a godless corporation? When will you cease to repeat Adam’s original sin, saying to God by your actions “Who the hell are you, God, to tell us what to do?” ??? When will you accept His command to forgive ??? When will you let me come home? Please open the gate to Camp Yaw Paw and let the healing resume where you stopped it five years ago.

Advent (beginning December 3) is a season of reconciliation, and you can be sure that I will ask for it each and every day of Advent; for there can be no peace of mind or soul until I have resumed doing that task that my God has put me here to do in Catholic Scouting.

TAKE DOWN THE WALL -
MY COMMUNICATION MUST BE LISTED

cc: BHL
SEPTEMBER 10, 1989
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A reflection of vocation as sacrament

The runaway slave in today's second reading was a great help to Paul, who was in prison. His name was Onesimus ("Useful"), and he converted to Christianity. But the situation was awkward. For Onesimus' owner, Philemon, was also a convert of Paul's and a friend. Philemon was a prominent citizen of Colossae and the local church met in his house. What should Paul do?

Among the options open to him, Paul chose a surprising one. Despite the fact that first century runaway slaves could expect no mercy if caught, Paul sent him back to Philemon — but with a cover letter explaining that Onesimus was now a fellow Christian and should be treated as one. That letter provides today's second reading.

In a thought-provoking little book called Philemon's Problem, Fr. James Bunctaeh has explored the dilemma in which Philemon now found himself. Should he punish the slave severely, as custom and discipline required — and forget about Paul? Or should he free Onesimus, and see his other slaves run off to be baptized and freed? In effect, Paul gave Philemon a stark choice: 

Becoming a Christian and becoming a slave owner, but

and he may have never suspected to exist until now. The reconciliation between Onesimus and Philemon must have been a dramatic one.

CEREMONY OF RETURN

Unexpected at first, Paul's tactic turns out to be the only choice for reconciliation. And it Philemon's problem, we see ourselves, called by God to reconcile with one another. And with God.

And we recognize the lessons it contains. Every broken relationship calls out for healing. There is no authentic reconciliation without some cost to ourselves. And that cost is a change in how we relate, how we live in our world, how, in fact, we know ourselves. We learn that after any reconciliation a relationship is never as it was at first, but a new, difficult, but transitional
This sentence from Psalm 22: and all on next Sunday's Gospel should be stated will all my fellow scripture for it will come to pass that them.

Next Sunday is thirty-three (33) years to the day that I am a part of the Catholic School family in 1982 at Saint Catherine. What better day, to again, in the spirit of next Sunday's Gospel, ask my brothers to forgive the results of something deliberate omission in the words of a convicted lawbreaker, whom the world has applauded, in this past week. He said, "I will not give up as long as there is breath in my body." BISHOP DESMOND TUTU
FROM YOUR OWN PUBLICATIONS IT WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR GOD TO SAY TO ALL PEOPLE VIA MOSES, IT WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR GOD TO SEND HIS SON JESUS TO EXPLAIN AND AMPLIFY WHAT HE HAD SAID. IT IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE PRINTED HERE, TO BE TAUGHT IN OUR CHURCHES AND VIA SCOUTING. YET IT TAKES 2ND PLACE TO YOUR CORPORATE WILL AND POLICIES. FOR 10 YEARS YOU CONTINUE TO BEAR A GRUDGE AND CONTINUE YOUR REVENGE ON ME FOR THE RESULTS OF YOUR OWN LIBERAL ERRORS. WHEN WILL YOU PRACTICE THE WILL AND WAY OF YOUR GOD, BECAUSE THAT IS YOUR CORPORATION, AND PRACTICE WHAT YOU TEACH? WHEN WILL YOU FORGIVE ME AND LET ME COME HOME?
MARCH 19, 1989 - Passion (Palm) Sunday

Christians who follow Jesus know that his triumphant entry into Jerusalem was fleeting glory. The memory of the “hosannas” ringing through the streets was soon replaced by the taunts of the crowd as Jesus made his way to Calvary.

The Christian's allegiance to Jesus can sometimes be fickle too. It is easier to follow the triumphant Jesus of Palm Sunday than to make our way to Calvary with him.

Christians, like Jesus, are those “who come in the name of the Lord.” Sometimes he who comes in the name of the Lord is welcomed and honored. Sometimes the one who comes in the name of the Lord is mocked, betrayed, and rejected.

Following Jesus and trying to live as he lived will bring its Palm Sunday moments and its Good Fridays as well. To be faithful to Jesus means accepting both and in that acceptance of both joy and pain we know that ultimately the victory of Easter will be ours. The joy of Palm Sunday is only a shadow of the joy of Resurrection and eternal life.

WHAT WRONG IS THIS MAN GUILTY OF?

Today’s gospel is Luke’s account of the Passion. One cannot help but be struck by the weakness of Pilate who finds no guilt in Jesus, yet succumbs to the crowd’s desire for his death.

Christians, as a world and through the Church of St. Catherine...
Dear Mr. Love:

It is still God's will that I serve Him in Catholic Boy Scouting here at Saint Catherine in Glen Rock. Today's first reading (at left) speaks of how you, businessmen, respond to those who hold to and speak of His ways, despite your lip service profession of living His way. His way takes precedence over all others.

Last week's Gospel speaks of what I must do, serve Him will at any cost. If you leave me alive on this planet, I will continuously ask my brother's forgiveness (man, women and child from my troop and all others who think that they should have it, as is God's will and command. YOU asked privately with the help of my friends in scouting here, and so until you again do so permit it that way I will continue to ask it publicly of all. YOU trained me! YOU accepted responsibility for my training! YOU decided the world is better off without those you train knowing anything about any form of law or in child abuse! YOU made me responsible for the mistakes of others when I failed to provide protective information and/or equipment - your own teachings make you responsible for my mistake.

God asks me to be in Catholic Boy Scouting here at Saint Catherine's. His first call came in childhood and since that time also I have expected to "loose my life for His sake" to someone like you who would prevent me from living His will and way. I accept this without question. You haven't been able to make me go away for the results of your omissions and I won't. Twice you tried in a closed court (and the next time will receive full media coverage) it has not turned me from God's will and it won't. A scout's father's money couldn't buy me from what God asks of me. YOU taught me how to live and to teach it to others. Too bad none of you with power have taken the time to learn how to practice what you preach or how to be brave in showing others that you can live as you teach!
Dear Mr. Love: [Signature]

God does not ask of anyone of us the impossible. That which may appear to be impossible, the very difficult, yes. But He always provides us with whatever is necessary to do it. And the doing of what He asks, His will, is one of the cornerstones of my faith, my religion as a Roman Catholic. Since childhood we are admonished to hear Him and to obey Him at any cost. Even if those about us revile us and take our life for doing so. Any who refuse to hear His will for themselves will find the gates of Heaven closed to them. Those who hear and refuse to do His will or make and accept excuses for turning their backs on Him are doubly damned. Those who oppose and interfere with His will are in trouble too. There is no ignoring or substituting other "things to do" without accepting eternal damnation for our failure to hear and obey His will. Living life is to be centered around the doing of His will, His way. For this Catholic Scout to live is to give every thing I have, every minute of every day to Catholic Scouting in Glen Rock. No exceptions, no excuses, nothing else permitted unless and until my conscience is satisfied that I have given all I have to give.

Since my eleventh birthday (thirty years) I have given my troop all that I have to give. Before, during, and after the time of my mistake did I do so. For that is living, doing His will in Catholic Scouting. Before I was even old enough to be a cub, He took the use of my legs by polio and in return gave me something that every Catholic hopes for: joy in doing His will. The only real joy happiness, peace or contentment I have known throughout the last thirty years: found in serving Him in Catholic Scouting which originally made my faith come alive, understandable and livable. I never complained about all the things I couldn't or wasn't allowed to do. Like not being permitted to go to Philmont as a boy or as a leader of our council's yearly crew. Eventually I took my own troop there, not once, but twice and any yet so again. It did not matter, I had His work to do. I did not even complain that just after I caught polio they found out how to prevent it. But I can, I do, and I will complain to and about those uncaring people about me in Catholic Scouting who know of, understood the importance of and yet refused to voluntarily share any information on human sexuality and entire subject and its relation to any form of child abuse. You & they knew about it and how to prevent some of it through education and knowledge and you did absolutely nothing about it except to hide all knowledge and information about it. You saved all that information for after the wrong had been done. For the lack of that information you have taken me from the presence of God on this earth that I have found only at our camp Yaw Paw. You have demeaned me for its lack and will, by your expressed future actions toward me, prevent me from ever coming into the presence of my God; and that is what the trial of living life on earth is for. If I cannot go there, why should I bother to live it? God rarely repeats His call, His request to perform a certain task (Be it a one shot short time or a lifetime long job) for Him. Just about two and one half years ago He reminded me in no uncertain terms that He still wants me to serve Him in Catholic Scouting here at Saint Catherine's and camp Yaw Paw. There is no doubt about this whatsoever in my mind. The power, strength, imperativeness (here I lack the right word) of this command is such that I will defy anyone and everyone - our church, the BSA, our courts to do this for Him. You have already taken all that has value to me in this life, so you lack any threat that might make me call Him to go to hell. I will die before I turn my back on that which He asks of me and trying to do it! There is no power of men can prevent me from doing so. You people taught us how to live and react to others, yet when you found that some were living rightly by God and Scouting's way you stopped them. Then you barred me from work on a weekday in camp Yaw Paw. You, not me, as our council executive has publicly said, brought this out in the open, public, when you prohibited the easier, cheaper and more private ways of putting a wrong in the past within the local scouting family; prohibiting the ways we have been taught to live and required to both teach to and require of others. When I was working hard in camp my conscience was almost satisfied, not quite, but almost. I was, as every one of the thousands of hours had been, working for the boys of my troop as well as others. There was hope, unspoken and unguaranteed to be sure, but hope none the less. There was the showing to others that the scouting way, God's way could be done, even in this, by those who care to live it. If you would return this struggle for forgiveness and acceptance of my presence to within the scouting family, using the willingness to learn and to work hard that I have shown and will show again, instead of the public demonstrations that the need to live to fulfill God's will drive me to. (For I will do one or the other.) Then get the gate of Camp Yaw Paw open to me and find a way to keep it open subject only to the call and judgment of our camp ranger for however many years as it takes to be forgiven and accepted by my troop and
to be Catholics in leadership in my church, for there to be Catholic Scouts in my troop. It has become a do or die proposition. Throw everything I have into trying to do God's will or perish utterly in the attempt. Know it be Chief Scout Executive. "His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." I WILL do it or be killed by Catholic Scouting in Glen Rock for trying. Week after week, in scripture readings and/or in sermons from the pulpit, in the front pages of our Sunday bulletin, elsewhere - even church leaders on TV they confirm me as acting rightly and having the right attitude as taught by the Roman Catholic Church and by Scouting. Your own teachings, books and ceremonies confirm it. They even used the children (at least one of them a Neles Scout) in church last week to confirm it. Some of our priests and people may deny it outside the church, make excuses for not living as they say inside that HE said we must live, but they cannot have it both ways. One way in church (and troop meeting & activities) and do it another way or for "business reasons" outside. God's will and His way is not and cannot be superseded by any organization, corporation or majority vote of men. No matter how august or great in fame and numbers that individual or body may be.

Must I continue to beg for a chance from my fellow scouts as I did (have and will do again) last week when I participated in the Eagle Court of Honor of a man I have known for ten years? Must I prostrate myself on the ground outside my own troop meeting room on such an occasion? Must I again and again stand in my yard next week, begging those in my community as they pass by in parade?

And on the following Sundays, must I kneel alongside the public part of our camp road, as I stood there last year. This year on opening, closing and visitors day of Scout camp. Begging them to permit me in the presence of my fellow scouts?

Must I again stand outside the public park(s) where Klondyke Derby, Camporee, Scouter recognition dinner, golf outing and other council events for young and old are to be held. Publicly asking for their forgiveness?

Must I kneel, if I can make this body kneel, outside our church through all six of its masses on each and every one of our Holy days and a few that are not quite so holy throughout all the rest of my days. Asking my troop members and those who sponsor our troop to put aside an incorrect learning experience of seven years ago. To live and give Roman Catholic direction to the units they sponsor?

Must I stand up in the back of my church and read the enclosed plea that I have been saving for just the right time to read? I gave our pastor his copy last month, though I just found out that he will retire on July first, and I will give one to the new pastor when he takes over. And, eventually I suppose, I will give one to the civil court system, and STAND TO IT, when you try to make it illegal for me to live my faith and to the values and ways required by my upbringing in Catholic Scouting?? There also in church (and elsewhere) to continually remind those young and old in scouting that their obligations to live as Roman Catholics, as the priest may have just said from the pulpit a minute ago, come from God and take precedence over the "orders" of others and that they cannot be set aside by judge, corporation or majority vote of man? In other words must I publically throw our religion at them all, as is my duty as a Catholic?

Must I try to get our Cardinal and our new Bishop to address the people of our church, our troop's sponsoring institution? Asking them from their position, to remind our people that the way and will of God supercedes any invention or excuse of man. John Cardinal O'Connor has publically on TV stated a reminder to all that Life is not lived as a business, Catholics must live it a different way - God's way. There is no reason, purpose, excuse or Justification for my life except for me to serve Him in Catholic Boy Scouting in Glen Rock as He has commanded of me. This is living life?

Upon the death of my mother, whenever that may be, must I sell the house that I must have to live in and live in the street, using the money to bring troop, church, school, local and national ESA to justice. To gain a chance to do as God demands of me? To give all that I have in the doing of His will in a fundamental teaching of my faith. I have no need of anything whatsoever if I am not doing so. I will tell our new pastor, as I told the old, that he has till the afternoon of Christmas eve to help work out a compromise between total involvement and excommunication, such as getting work day camp Yaw Paw open to me again, or I will, as a solemn vow before God, so spend my inheritance for God's will instead of leaving it to troop and camp Yaw Paw?

Must I bring your "business practice", so contrary to the public image of scouting and so thoroughly explained by your Mr. Sokoloski to public attention? How afraid you are to share needful information, preferring instead to let such things as child abuse happen, rather than to share information on it with your volunteers. How paid "scouts" trade on the image made by the much greater percentage of volunteers and young men? Those paid not being required to speak or live to the scout oath,
shows as some think that I should do?

Must I try to walk from here to Regional Headquarters in New Brunswick? Probably finishing up in my wheelchair, as public demonstration of my faith? And will that fail all the way to your office in Texas? That should be good for over a year of weekly updates on the nightly news?

Must I endure jail and the death that awaits me there for obeying my God and trying to do His will? As payment to you for not knowing about human sexuality which your policy and that of the Roman Catholic School system demands will not be shared with anyone until after they have made a mistake in ignorance of it? And when you have gotten me incarcerated for living my faith and for asking my fellow scouts to forgive and put aside what I first learned from our young sexually active scouts (and could not have learned if it had been shared by others), Must I then contact every household in two and one half towns to tell them of it and how little you think of your own teachings and those of Jesus Christ, our God and His church. How you did not give a damn for my health and safety or for that of those God sends me to work with throughout all of my life?

Must I continue to endure hell on earth and the sentence of eternal damnation to follow to satisfy the vengeance of the heartless, soulless, conscienceless, Godless businessmen who educated me and trained me yet deliberately and purposely left out any and all information on an area in which you are so willing to pass such a sentence for the single mistake of learning of it from the wrong people? Even if it is your most cherished hatred and bigotry, unapologetically required by the BSA to be lived and acted upon, YOU DID NOT TEACH IT and even if you did still could not support it or live it because the values of scouting and church prohibit such a response to a fellow human being. For as I do to my brother, so is it that I do to my God.

When I am finally (and that coming sooner than any will admit, I think) confined to a wheelchair, must I plead my cause from its back as I have, and will continue to do, from the back of my jacket and car?

And when you destroy Roman Catholic Scouting in Glen Rock, blaming me, instead of rightfully yourselves who can’t be bothered to live to your own ideals and those of Jesus Christ. Bowing to the power of men and his money before the way of Jesus Christ and His Holy Roman Catholic Church. Unwilling to let the world see your continued hypocrisy and hatred toward me your victim. Unwilling to continue your lies to our children who are losing their values because of the people like yourselves who can always find an excuse for putting your values aside instead of holding to any small reason for living them. Must I then, when you have destroyed it, paint the signs on the sides of my car that I have already purchased the materials for? “Help me bring Roman Catholic Boy Scouting back to Glen Rock. John 201 445 0361”?

These and any other ways that I can think of or am reminded of, or church or elsewhere, to put aside your condemnation of me, a condemnation that dams only yourselves, I have and/or will do. Singularly and/or in combination, repetitively. For no effort is too great to put out in doing God’s will. No threat will stop me from doing or trying to do it. I have every minute of all the rest of my life to devote to doing it. Be that thirty minutes, or thirty to forty years. For I will be accepted and permitted in the presence of decent human beings, young and old. Human beings who can and will share with me the task God has assigned to me for my salvation.

A standard and teaching of the Catholic Scouting community of Glen Rock: A person who has done wrong is given a chance by those around him. If he did wrong through ignorance and/or inexperience, he must be informed and his MIST be given that chance. If he was asked by others to do a task, without being fully informed by them of possible dangers and all pertinent information - not given the proper physical and mental tools to do the job in safety to himself and others (as in my case) then it is a binding moral (and very often legal) obligation on those who failed him and caused him harm to accept responsibility for the harm he did and received and help him back to the respect of his fellows. Required, mandatory, your own teachings. You had me in scouting for more then twenty five years. Just the year before (and many times before that) you had me for seven and one half weeks at summer camp and in training for the next seven full days and nights at woodbadge. If YOU trained me and certified me before God, me and the people of this community that I had all the training necessary to safely interact with others as a scoutmaster. HOW IS IT THAT THEY STILL TRUST YOU AFTER YOUR FAILURE AND PART IN THIS and not me?????? You left out any and all information on any form of child abuse. You deliberately and purposefully and with knowledge of the subject before hand excluded all mention of it in my presence. Yet your paid people knew about it didn’t they? They even had forms to fill out when such things happened, didn’t they? To send in as reports of it, right? But everyone
A standard and teaching of the Catholic Scouting community of Glen Rock: If I am called upon and required to judge another (something I should really leave to God) I must do so only on the circumstances of his life. Not on what others want me to say of him. Not on what others who have similarly done wrong have done before me or after, or why. But only this person and their wonderful gift (but not their failures) and the good of his life. This usually outweighing the one-time wrong. The ignorant having no moral responsibility for their wrong and cannot be condemned for it, even if they are legally punished for it under the law. I will continue to ask my fellow Catholic Scouting to judge, rejudge, me if they must, only on the circumstances of MY life and to respond to me as Catholic Scouting. To ask for and hear the truth and all the information and not the lies and misinformation that have been spoken of others. Your paid scout executive here has been false witness against me in an informal meeting before our own judge who claims to be king of the hill here, for that he will pay before his God. But wonder, if he could lie before a judge, then it is likely that he has and will do so verbally and/or in writing before others. I shall make as many enquiries to see if he could be held for liable and/or slander as I can. If he does so under oath, he will surely be civilly punished for perjury. How he had the sheer brazen balls to call in his victim before a judge for living as the people here have and do teach and REQUIRE me to teach and require of our young and for publicly objecting (he didn’t want to leave it in private) to being victimized by others who never gave me a fair (informed) chance in this nor a damn about the subject until afterwards, I will never know. I will continue to ask them to respond as Catholics, hearing the word of and the way of their God as greater and before the word of people like yourself and even our departing pastor, who would (could, did and do) lead them, as in the frontispiece of our church bulletin that is enclosed, away from God and in unjustified rejection of one of their own family.

How is it that in an organization whose spoken oath, an oath mind you for all except those who may not speak one quite so easily, though I have never taken it except as very seriously, an oath that puts duty to God before duty to country and everything else, there is no room for God’s way?
both God and man. How do you explain to the people in scouting who have heard God's word that they must give up or at least put aside, their religion to continue to be a scout? That there is no room for God's way, or for that matter for the ways of living as a scout in this matter? That your way the way of a businessman supersedes those other ways in living their lives and their response to me. You put down and aside those who react with human compassion as Christian human beings saying "give him a chance in scouting if it is so important to him". Those who have said that they would go so fast as to help me run our troop and the support of some of those you call my "victims" the support of these carries no weight or consideration at all. Will you, when they are called to judgement, stand forth before God and accept as yours the punishment that is theirs for failing to live as they know they must, but didn't because you prevented them from doing so? Or will you leave them to pay for not having done what they know as right - as you still try to get me to pay for your negligence? I mean those like Ray Banta my closest friend, our Ranger at Camp Yaw Paw, your employee. He knows how he must respond as a Scout, he knows how he must respond as a Christian. Yet you will not let him. I cannot even come into his presence, for he is a Scout and lives in camp and you have prohibited him from associating with me. He is so disgusted with the whole thing he won't even drive down my street: a main street between the two towns in our council (only one of two direct ways) - only twenty minutes from camp and but two hundred feet from the council service center driveway. He tried to act as he knew that he must, being a leader to others in giving me a chance, a place at his side during the first four and one half years afterward. Then you banned me from his presence and I do not know what threats or whatever you made against him. Will you pay him and others who would respond like him for their mental torment, unhappiness, disillusionment and disgust with the businessmen who can and do so easily put Jesus Christ in the trash can and destroy one of their own to avoid admitting they made a mistake and doing the right thing (by our published standards) about it. Do any of you ever listen to, read or understand your own ceremonies and publications. Like the Eagle ceremony the other night, our Vigil and other OA ceremonies? Don't they mean anything to any of you who do not consider yourselves bound by oath or laws of God or man. Only by your business creed? Before your God your own published ideals, attitudes, values spoken and instilled in others that you refuse to hold yourselves to will damn you and your corporation won't be there to take the blame. If you truly believe what you teach, then how can anyone of you look yourself in a mirror knowing that you will not live to it?

When the time comes that I find myself being sent to jail for my God over this (for civil disobedience is all you seem to be leaving to me and it is therefor justified) I will publicly ask at least the following two questions of all in our towns. Must I be found dead in our camp and be laid out there for all my friends to see by my friend our ranger; is my death the only penance or right of purification acceptable to my fellow Roman Catholic Scouts from Saint Catherine's for learning from their sexually active young men what no one else considered important enough to ever speak of in my presence? How will any of you, from the young people up, ever face your God having held this against me all of my life? All Christians still ask God to forgive them as they forgive others. Am I not an other? Do you want Him to deal fairly with you? Do you not mean your words of prayer? The young people can fuck and screw to their hearts content, inside and outside the laws of God and man without consequence. They can even have shared it with me without receiving eternal damnation. You will all forgive yourselves, your children, each other for the wrong you did in the learning of human sexuality and/or the first experiencing of it. Yet you will not forgive John for doing so. But you will still expect God to do so for you? You can accept and forgive those who have shown the greatest form of hate that there is, they have taken the life of another human being. Purposely, accidently, under orders, whatever; sometimes you even give them a medal for doing so. But you cannot forgive or accept one who unwittingly loved some of those closest to him too much and unknowingly stepped over the line you could not be bothered to share into what you then called sex. "To love one another." In scripture God's second of two great commandments. In scouting the watchword of its honor society, the Order of the Arrow. There can be forgiveness and acceptance of some of those who have expressed hate and broken the negative command of God "thou shall not kill" But there can be no forgiveness and acceptance of anyone who has expressed love wrongly in the learning of it. No differentiation between the good and bad motives and intentions; deliberate and knowing or not for following the command to love one another, without the guidance and teaching of others to limit it to proper expressions. The murderer might receive medals and reward. The unintentional too much lover is damned for all eternity. I should have unintentionally killed some of the young
face your God having sentenced one of your own in contradiction of your own teachings to life in hell on earth and for all eternity thereafter. Naked and alone, without a soul to give you false courage. How will any of you face your God??

Next time you people are at a group meeting of any kind, jamboree, troop meeting, whatever. First look around, see if you can find even one person who, other than accidently, can know, understand, comply with and live to any values, ideals, morals or laws that have not first been shared with someone else. You will not for God is no longer physically present here on earth. Then apply to all of them, including yourselves, the judgment you use on me and throw them out. Before or after instruction, knowingly and willingly or not he broke the laws of God and/or man in the first learning and experiencing of human sexuality. Do you have any of your adults, paid or otherwise, left? Most of your explorers are gone too aren't they. A third to a half or even more of your scouts are gone as are some of your cubs in some parts of the country. To deal with a human being as you And others have dealt with me is to accept eternal damnation for doing so. This I know from childhood. I pity you all, from the scout to chief scout and pastor priest. None of you can ask for and receive God's forgiveness for the wrong you do. You must stop first. You must rely on His mercy, mercy you will not show towards your fellow scout who asks it of you and for your forgiveness. You cannot receive His forgiveness until you DO stop doing the wrong that you do towards me. And you have indicated that you will do so for all of my life. I stopped doing what I had done wrong the moment I was told I was off base, even if I didn't know exactly what, why, or fully comprehend at the time. For I do not feel capable of doing a wrong that I know of. When will you stop doing wrong?? Even united together you still do wrong by the teachings of Jesus Christ, His Holy Roman Catholic Church and the Scout oath, law and spirit. Maintaining and worse yet requiring others to maintain that anyone that has ignorantly had an improper sexual encounter can be of no value or positive influence to young people is wrong. Ask any of the dozens of boys and girls from 5 to 20 that I have had contact with, some fleetingly and some quite regularly and lasting, some knowing, some not, over the last seven plus years. Ask the young Eagle we honored last Monday night. he knows as much, NO , more then any of the rest of you because he is honest with himself and others and took the time to hear and understand it all. He didn't assume. Ask his parents. Of the few people specifically and publically named and thanked for helping their son to Eagle I was so honored in his father's short address.

I AM a Scout and part of Catholic Scouting in Glen Rock. Part of the Scouting and Catholic families that will always have responsibilities to me. With or without a piece of paper to say so or the acceptance of my presence by some of them. That is God's will for me while I live on this earth and I cannot and will not put it aside for any reason. If I had no faith, no deeply ingrained religious values to hold me to it, then those values and ideals from Scouting would hold me to it no matter what. Fortunately I have them both, for my salvation lies in and with Catholic Scouting and those of it in Glen Rock. I did not cease to be either Scout or Catholic, nor did I stop believing the values and ideals of living as Scout or Catholic because I unknowingly learned something in an illegal manner from our young men. When someone comes against a total unknown situation they often blunder until they understand it is, especially if others have deliberately withheld it from you. I know that you can destroy me totally. Corporations are notoriously known to be especially good at that, dealing with people as figures and statistics to be destroyed at will instead of as human beings. But it is worth desperately denying your own creed and that of our Lord God Jesus Christ and His Holy Roman Catholic Church. Publically and before those like our Police Chief and many others in scouting who have known me since I was a boy, before those still in scouting as leaders and elsewhere who I have known since they were boys. Your lies will be transparent to most all of them. You can lies to all and unless I am present I probably won't catch you at it to call you such. You probably have lawyers on call. I cannot even hire one and will face anything that comes my way all alone. You can outspend me a thousand dollars to one without any effort. Your irresistible force can most probably crush this immovable object. But are you ready, willing and able to publicly crush me dead and bury me in the ground with a few pebbles on top? For as long as I am able to communicate in any manner shape or form with another human being I will expend every effort, energy and resource on doing what God asks of me in Catholic Scouting. Such is my faith in His teachings as brought to us by Scouting and by His Holy Roman Catholic Church. I have always been ready, but never more ready, to die for it.
I am not done or finished. This is not properly organized, polished or complete. I am sure my typing of it is worse than usual as I have not felt well at all for the last several weeks. But it will have to suffice, for now. When you want to return this struggle to a quiet one within the scouting family you will reopen the workweek Camp Yaw Paw to me so that those who know and care to look may see me working as hard as possible to have a mistake put aside and in our past as the values of this community have taught us that we must. I would rather work forty to fifty hours a week there as I did from Easter to October of 1984 (and some number of hours in the four years before that) then walk to Texas. I'd rather dig and build a camp latrine all by myself with my bare hands alone then to stand begging outside my church and council activities. But I will do one or the other. And if all that matters to those who claim to be scouts, to those who claim to be Catholics, to those whose title is religious leader - pastor or paid businessmen scout, If all that matters is that it happened at all. THEN not a one of you has a chance when you come to stand in judgement before God. And may God then have mercy on your souls.

[Signature]

John Deneault
FATHER: IN THE SPIRIT OF TODAY'S GOSPEL, HERE IN GOD'S HOUSE, BEFORE GOD AND THIS SMALL PART OF OUR PARISH; I AGAIN, AS I HAVE DONE DAILY FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS, ASK THE CATHOLICS HERE IN BOY SCOUTING OF GLEN ROCK TO FORGIVE ME. TO PUT ASIDE THAT WHICH I FIRST LEARNED FROM OUR BOY SCOUTS; THE OTHERS OF OUR PARISH AND IN SCOUTING, UNWILLING — UNABLE OR UNPREPARED TO SHARE SO MUCH AS A WORD OF IT WITH ME. I ASK THOSE IN CATHOLIC BOY SCOUTING HERE TO FORGIVE ME AND TO PERMIT MY PRESENCE AMONG MY FELLOW SCOUTS, SO THAT I MAY DO THE TASK THAT GOD ASKS OF ME IN THIS LIFE. FOR THERE IS NO REASON, PURPOSE, EXCUSE OR JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY OF US TO LIVE IN THIS LIFE EXCEPT BY HIS WAY AND IN FULLFILLMENT OF HIS WILL. NO ONE CAN OR WILL CAUSE ME TO PUT ASIDE HIS WAY OF LIVING AND DEALING WITH OTHERS FOR THEIR SO CALLED HIGHER AND BETTER WAYS. I WILL ACCEPT DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA AND THE PEOPLE OF SAINT CATHERINE'S RATHER THAN TO TURN FROM GOD'S WILL FOR ME, TELLING HIM THAT WHAT HE ASKS OF ME IS TOO HARD AND CANNOT BE DONE. LATER ON IN THIS MASS, AND IN ALL OUR DAILY PRAYERS, YOU WILL ALL STATE THAT YOU WANT GOD'S WILL TO BE DONE AND WE ALL ASK HIM TO FORGIVE EACH OF US AS WE, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US. I KNOW THAT NOT ONE PERSON IN THIS PARISH WANTS GOD TO DEAL WITH THEM — AS CATHOLICS IN SCOUTING HAVE DEALT WITH THE MISTAKES OF MY IGNORANCE. I AGAIN ASK CATHOLIC SCOUTING HERE TO FORGIVE ME — TO TAKE A CHANCE FOR GOD AND TO PERMIT ME TO DO EVEN A SMALL PART OF THE WORK GOD DEMANDS OF ME HERE IN CATHOLIC SCOUTING. FOR TO DO HIS WILL IS ALL THAT I HAVE OR VALUE. ALL THAT I NEED OR WANT IN LIFE, AND MY ONLY JOY FOR OVER 27 YEARS. I WILL DO IT FOR HIM, OR PERISH IN THE ATTEMPT.

I will stand on this statement, here in a municipal court, before parish priest and local scout executive; all the way through to standing before the chief justice of the US, chief scout executive and Pope; and before any and all between. Composed & hand written by March 1, 1987

3-22-1987

[Signature]
Mr. Paul Ernst, Registration and Subscription Services
National Boy Scout Council
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, Texas 75038-3096

Dear Paul,

This is the information I spoke to you about on the telephone.

Sincerely,

Frank

Frank D. Penrose, Jr.
Scout Executive

FDP,Jr.:ad
Att.
March 25, 1987

Last evening Barry Burke, Scoutmaster of Troop 27, and I met before Judge Paul Thornwall (Boro of Glen Rock Magistrate) along with John Denke. I had filed a notice in lieu of a complaint.

I presented the Judge with the necessary background information on the Denke situation. The notice was filed on behalf of the Ridgewood-Glen Rock Council and Troop 27.

John Denke had parked his vehicle at the entrance to Camp Yaw Paw on the opening day of summer camp in July 1986. Again, he had his vehicle parked at the entrance to the Duck Pond in January 1987 for the Klondike Derby and Gold Rush Days. Signs in his vehicle read, "St. Catharine's - BSA Troop 27. Please forgive me. Let me come home".

Barry Burke explained how John's presence around the Church and the Troop meetings are affecting him in leading the Scouts in the Troop. John also wears a jacket to Mass each Sunday with the same above wording on it.

Judge Thornwall told John Denke to remove the signs from his vehicle and from his jacket. He also told him to stay away from the Ridgewood-Glen Rock Council, Troop 27 and Scouting in general.

Frank D. Penrose, Jr.
Scout Executive

CONFIDENTIAL
APR 29 1987
E. STARON
Notice filed in lieu of complaint on John Deneke.

1980 Scoutmaster Troop 27 St. Catharine's.
Committed Sodomy with one or more Scouts.
Charged with Sodomy
Plead guilty and was sentenced to:
3 years probation - must see a Doctor.

1984-85 - John applied for reinstatement in the B.S.A.
One of the deciding factors - letter from Doctor.


The complaint - Two Parts --
Council side
Troop 27 side

Last July
This January

If he wants to be a Scoutmaster - why don't they let him.

It appears to me that John's sole desire is to be the Scoutmaster of Troop 27.

His presence at these Council functions are disruptive to the Scouting program.
Dear Paul,

This is the most recent correspondence in regards to John Renke that I spoke to you about over the phone.

Frank

F. STARON
APR 22 1986
Mrs. Patricia Rozow  
236 East 2nd Street  
Covington, Kentucky 41011

Dear Mrs. Rozow,

In response to your letter concerning John Denke, let me share some facts that may help you help John.

In May of 1980 John pleaded guilty to three counts of Sodomy. I came to this Council in June of 1981. In September of 1981 John came into my office telling me he had taken medical treatment and was cured. He wanted me to allow him to come back into Scouting and be the Scoutmaster of his old Troop 27. I told him that this was not my decision, but that of the Boy Scouts of America. I told John what steps needed to be taken for reinstatement, but did not offer him much hope. The Boy Scouts of America take a very hard stand in matters such as this.

Time passed and each year at Christmas John would send a letter to the Scout Office and to Monsignor Holmes, Pastor at St. Catharine's, which sponsors Troop 27. During 1984, unbeknownst to me, John was going up to Camp and working on some of the construction projects. One of my Board members found out about this and got very upset. The Council President and I hand delivered a letter to John telling him that he could not participate in any way in Scouting in this Council. I also outlined again what steps he could take for reinstatement.

This time John followed my advice and went through our Regional and National offices. A letter was sent to the B.S.A. from John's doctor indicating that he was 90% cured, if he continued to take his medication. The B.S.A. and I both agreed that to work with boys (Scouts), 90% is not good enough, and who will monitor him taking his medication.

You see, John only wants, or will accept, one thing - that is, being Scoutmaster of Troop 27. Monsignor Holmes has made it perfectly clear to John, that will never happen. Currently, we have an excellent Scoutmaster at Troop 27.
At Christmas time 1984, Monsignor Holmes and I received our usual letter from John. However, this letter was different; it had strong tendencies towards suicide. Monsignor Holmes met with John over a period of several weeks trying everything he knew to get John to seek medical attention. John did not and has not done so.

This Christmas John, for whatever reason, went public with his letter. He sent that 16 page letter to approximately 85 people. I and Monsignor Holmes did our best to keep this situation quiet. John has really hurt himself by going public. People that received this letter have said that this man is sick and should never be allowed in Scouting in any way. Recently, he has put signs on his vehicle out in front of Church on Sunday. Now, all the Scouts and parents currently in Troop 27 know about John and what he did. Just about the whole town of Glen Rock knows.

If you want to help John, the only suggestion I can make is for you to get John medical help. I can not help him. If there was ever a chance of him being involved in Scouts, that chance is gone now because of his letters and other actions.

I am sorry I can not be of more help. If you have any further questions, feel free to call me at 201-444-4615.

Sincerely,

Frank D. Penrose, Jr.
Scout Executive

FDP, Jr. : ad
by scott of Toof. I am now to Patience's house.

John's brother put it for his sake.

I have received a copy of this

file at the 15th. I am

sincerely yours.

For the rest of this

letter, all that he can to make

known is that he is now

begging for forgiveness and acceptance

and that a way to do this

may be in a way that allows him to do the

right thing at last.

Perhaps there needs to be

understanding. 

Perhaps there needs to be

understanding. 

Perhaps there needs to be
they are the keys themselves. They grew up in further processing experience. Feel like the is a topic that needs addressing.

They felt we'd recognize the certainty. His presentation. Life in the 250 years. Do understand the ESP's decision and your obligation. Your patients that their patients are in good hands. I also feel that perhaps that the need will be numerous and that something should be able to be worked on.

You of course can understand the pressure for very broken. If we pending and a pray for help. God we want to help in anyway possible.
The law and he feels a strong obligation to
with his personal and his own
himself to the point.
I feel this in this tone.
with he needs all the
for understanding a direction
able to give him.
My husband and I line
this out and find it difficult
long distance support.
for we are writing to
help us.

Please respond to us in writing.
So that we may
understand your points.

And your very much
just-

Patricia Jones
Dear Mr. [Name],

Thank you so much for inserting [insert name] into the meeting with [insert name] and [insert name]. [Insert name] and [insert name] will be giving a speech to the [insert organization name].

I also feel that [insert name] needs more [insert profession here].

Help [insert name] to see that this is a great opportunity to grow and lead.

Thank you for your help in making this meeting possible.

[Insert name] - We will take your suggestions into consideration.

The [insert name] will feel that it is still important to provide some timing for [insert name] leaders.
Thank you
Ridgewood—Glen Rock Council #359  
Boy Scouts of America  
176 Rock Road  
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452  
Telephone (201) 444-4615

February 21, 1986

Mr. George Green  
32 Rock Road  
Glen Rock, N.J. 07452

Dear Mr. Green,

In response to your letter concerning John Denke, allow me to give you some facts. Back in May of 1980, John pleaded guilty to Sodomy charges. In 1984 John applied to the National Council, B.S.A. to be reinstated back into Scouting. His request was denied. The Boy Scouts of America take a very hard and firm stand in situations of this type for obvious reasons.

Monsignor Holmes, the Pastor at St. Catharine’s has met with John on numerous occasions and has made it clear to John that he will never be the Scoutmaster of Troop 27. Since St. Catharine’s sponsors Troop 27, Monsignor Holmes has the obligation, right and privilege to approve the adult leadership. Currently, Troop 27 has an excellent Troop, good adult leaders and an excellent Scoutmaster. John’s only wish is to be Scoutmaster of Troop 27, which can not happen.

Monsignor Holmes has done everything he can think of, including begging John to seek medical help. Certainly, anyone can tell from reading John’s 16 page letter that he needs medical help. Perhaps you could convince John to seek the help he so badly needs.

I sincerely thank you for writing and caring. With your background in the out-of-doors, Scouting needs adults such as yourself. If you have any interest in helping out in Scouting, the youth of our communities need you.

If you have any further questions, or wish to work with youth in Scouting, do not hesitate to call me at 444-4615.

Sincerely yours,

Frank D. Penrose, Jr.  
Scout Executive

FDP,Jr.:ad

Camp Yaw Paw - Route U S. 202 - Mahwah, New Jersey 07430  201 327 5250

CONF009388
DYKES_L_007257

Plaintiff's Exhibit 534
Page 46 of 132
BSA Council Men

I am writing in behalf of John Deneke. Let it be known I am in support of the request for John to be accepted back to start a new troop. I have offered John my help in reconstructing and extending the experience known as Scouting. I am an outdoorsman, a hunter, a fisherman, a camper, a tree expert, a climber, and a hiker, all because I learned these traits in Scouting when I was in Troop 27 years ago. Only because John spent the time to teach me. Now I'd like to help him teach the kids so why don't you let him have the troop back.

I think John Deneke is a great Scout Master and deserves another shot. He has produced a number of high-caliber men and I'd like to close myself one of them. I pray you give him a chance.

Grace Green
February 4, 1986

Mrs. Barbara Bender
9-17 Campbell Road
Fair Lawn, N. J. 07410

Dear Mrs. Bender,

In response to your note of January 22, 1986, allow me to give you some facts concerning the John Deneke situation.


2. Every Christmas time, John sent a letter to Monsignor Holmes and myself requesting permission to come back as Scoutmaster of Troop 27, his only goal in life. Generally, his letters have only been 3 to 5 pages; this year's letter was 16 pages. Each year's letter has been basically the same, just longer this time.

3. John has applied to the B.S.A. for reinstatement into Scouting, which has been denied. The B.S.A. will not allow anyone who has been involved in sodomy to be involved in Scouting in any way.

4. Monsignor Holmes has met with John on many occasions trying to help him. Monsignor has strongly suggested to John to get medical help. He refuses. Monsignor Holmes has made it perfectly clear that John can not ever return as Scoutmaster of Troop 27. John refuses to accept this decision.

5. I am trained as a professional with the B.S.A. and have worked with Scouting for 23 years. I am not trained as a counselor, at least not the kind of counseling that John needs. Therefore, I am at a loss as to how to help him, since he refuses to seek the medical attention he so badly needs.
Comments: I have gone to great lengths to keep this situation quiet, for John's sake. However, this year, for whatever reason, John went public with his problem. I feel this did John more harm than good. I wish I knew of a way to help John, but I do not.

If you wish to discuss this any further, please do not hesitate to call me at 444-4615.

Thank you for writing and caring.

Sincerely yours,

Frank D. Penrose, Jr.
Scout Executive

FDP,Jr.:ad
Dear Sir:

I'm sure you are aware of the letter John Smith. He was one of the few that there is a future/promise.

I understand why he can no longer work with beads but I do feel that until all the time he has devoted to painting, the organization should be able to help him with training so he can find a new goal in life.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
With great difficulty I write this, for all my early training has been for me to do things for myself, but I have tried that for the past five and one half years. In extreme distress I write to you; some that I have not seen for many years and others since last Sunday. My typing and spelling have not gotten any better over the years and my concentration has hourly been interrupted by the Novena. I pray for this to Saint Jude and at times by my medication. It is overly long, but so also is the punishment. I hope that you will take the time to read and to understand it.

While it may already be too late to save my life (for I want nothing more to do with a world in which those of Catholic Scouting here, who taught me all I know and value, refuse to live as they have taught me to live and who had me teach that living to others, excusing themselves from living it, by my mistake in an area that they will not teach), but perhaps you could get them to change their minds and their system so that it is such less likely to happen again.

If you can support my request for "a chance" please write BSA Troop 77 and Saint Catherine Church at 905 South Maple Avenue, Glen Rock N.J. 07452 AND the Ridgewood - Glen Rock Council BSA at 176 Rock Road, Glen Rock N.J. 07452. Write anyway requesting them to change their policy on what information is shared with its young people and especially with its older volunteers.

It could easily happen to someone you know and like, a loved one, son or grandson, etc. It too could possibly be destroyed by a caring but unknowing person like myself, or worse yet by a knowing but uncaring person. Either can be prevented by sharing what is known on the subject. The head in the sand — keep it quiet attitude promotes it and ignorance of it on the part of all. To abandon the older person it happens to is to sentence him to almost sure repetition.

This is what the deficiencies of Catholic Scouting, training and schooling, have done to us. One who has trusted what he has been told; and who has nothing, wants nothing, and who will never ask anything of this world then a small part in his Troop 77 and through it the Loopough Lodge.

John Doneke
To all the people of the Ridgewood-Glen Rock Council. To all parishioners of Saint Catherine's Church. Especially to those who have been, are, or will be involved with Catholic Boy Scouting here.

Copies, 1 - 2 - 86 or as soon as ready, to all I have known here in scouting since 1956, anyone whose name I can think of and whose address I can confirm.

I would that this letter will be shared with others in the council and parish by those who read it and hopefully with all through newsletter and bulletin. Failing that, the apology sent in to be printed in the newspaper (reproduced below signature) will have to suffice until I can obtain the council and parish mailing lists or the resources to mail blindly to every dwelling in Ridgewood, Glen Rock and parts of Fair Lawn.

Trust. Without communication, exchange of information, ideas, values, etc. there can be none in any area. And yet throughout all my life you have required me to accept this, that and whatever on trust - on faith. Pounding it home, over and over again during thirteen years of Catholic school education and each and every Sunday since. Unfortunately, in most things, that is the only way in which I come to know and accept things. On trust. I lack the peer pressure, the interaction with others and the opportunities which would have caused me to learn or to question what I have taken on trust. Physical restrictions effectively "grounded" me at age seven (So that I have and know almost nothing of running, jumping, hanging out, interacting and competing with my peers except against and within the standards of Catholic scouing,) and I could rarely go out on my own or with others without an adult along to provide transportation and house supervision. Think how you or your child would have reviled at that. Day after day and year after year. And think on its effect. But it did not matter to me for I have scouting. You paint a special space for me to park in. Why? Extend that way back to when I didn't even have my own car. I had more freedom of movement in time and space at six and seven years of age then I did in the next fifteen years of life. Learning very early how to "entertain" myself until the next scouting event came along, usually (and still) just going on hold or standby, the time in between usually of very little value or importance. Even in school, required to stay, without company, by myself during most every "social opportunity" (lunch, recess, etc.). My one real out was and continues to be scouting. I have had to take many things strictly on the trust I was forced to place in other's instruction, most often without any opportunity to question that instruction or the way to use it for 3, 10, 15, 20 years or maybe not at all. So it was with the sexual information provided by our Catholic school system here: 1) Definition. 2) Sex: intercourse, the act that makes babies. 2) To look at a girl is a sin. Anything else will make her pregnant. 3) Dirty pictures of unclad and partially clothed girls or women is disgusting and sinful. My revulsion to pornography, which I hadn't really bothered with anyhow, continues to give me low marks with interviewers who would like to see it in me. 4) You are not allowed to know or even want to know anything else about it until you are married. The church reversed this command when I was something over thirty, but made no effort to provide education to those "adults" who had followed its command. They did also have a giant assembly for the whole school on the horror and sin of self-abuse without any attempt to accurately describe it or to tie it to sex (which they didn't, and didn't even call it masturbation; which IS a normal functioning of a healthy human body) at all. Touch your penis except to urinate and rot in hell forever, there are priests upstairs to hear your confessions. End assembly. An explanation used also by a still practicing local doctor, in that very same week. A doctor who had the medical education to know better and yet quoted exactly the same religious line anyhow. For this completely worthless garbage, which is now my damnation, my parents paid extra and made sacrificial and fought hard so that I could go to regular school and with regular people at Saint Catharine's and Bergen Catholic High School. It is teachings like this that may account for one third of those treated being from the Roman Catholic Church; twice as many as the next nearest church. You couldn't even provide me with enough real information to know or to even suspect that even then, at puberty, my body was already incorrectly functioning and sexually at that. I took their instruction on trust and without any other input on the subject lived to that standard and carried it almost intact into a detective's office twenty years later. For I had trusted what they had told me. No matter how intelligent a man is, he cannot see what he doesn't know how
them broke " church state law " to learn about sex, have no right to have assumed that I did also, or that I knew anything more than the previously outlined nothing that was taught in our Catholic schools. They knew me to be a good Catholic, that and my unmarried status a clear statement of my ignorance of sexual matters. The only right assumption anyone had the right to make, no matter how hard you would like or try to have it otherwise. The teaching of the Roman Catholic Church, that I believed for too long, is such that only the very worst of people have anything to do with sex before marriage. When in fact I find that the reverse is true, most do, not only that, it is almost universally expected. For no skill or subject is truly learned until it is practiced. And I know that for me that is especially true. Since the middle of high school it has become more and more difficult for me to learn much less understand, information that was/is of academic use only. Do it, WITH the book, and then it becomes easily understood. With the book alone, sometimes only meaningless words. Likewise the BSA would have us believe that no one, least of all the sexually active young men, in scouting have anything to do with it at all, or that they need to know anything about it at all. My scout handbook ignores it, my scoutmaster's handbook had, I think, two paragraphs ( my newest one has about a page and a half ). Both books assume a greater working knowledge of it then I possessed. And I had never received a single word by mouth or in person about child abuse ( one of my scouts made Eagle Scout due to force and threats of same but I couldn't recognize it then ) in any form, let alone sexual abuse. In the way the term is used, a sexually active young person cannot be " molested " except by virtue of the laws of the state in which he lives, he has already elected to be sexual with someone else and has enough ideas on it to decide to do it again. I know three girls that are or were being " molested ". All three were aware of it at the time, and when I discussed it with them. One girl lied about her age to escape being " killed " by her parents, another's parents knew of the discrepancy in ages ( but perhaps not of the law ) and the third's absolutely don't care that at fourteen she is having intercourse with a man of twenty eight. Even though the consent age in her state is eighteen. Without exception their attitude toward the sex laws is " Tell them to go ____ themselves. They can't tell me who I can do it with." And though sexually active none seemed to possess enough information to express concern over the possible harm that they might bring to their loved one through his legal liability. But it can never happen with the perfect person in the BSA. " We do not have to tell anyone about that." said the regional administrator. If they had told, I would have recognized ( though not understood ) something wrong that was happening in my life. I couldn't even learn from the mistakes of others, for they were covered up and concealed. Hidden, a sure guaranteed way for it to happen again and again. I was the fourth scout in my prosecutor's jurisdiction in twelve months to have done this for whatever, and I never heard a word about any of the others. And it happened again about a year later in the troop of a friend, also registered in our council, a friend whose Eagle Court of Honor, that I will attend late this spring, is the last thing, save being accepted by my troop, that I look forward to doing in this life. Condemned is the adult, we outside of a rigid structure such as a classroom or meeting hall ( where it seems to be banned from ) discuss or provides sexual information to a youth. And yet damned is that youth who is now, by the single tick of the clock or by many years, an adult without that information. The youth may not have it and the adult doesn't need to be told about it. A few months ago a short program by and for nine to ten year olds was put on TV. As the young people studied their book, mom wanted to know what was going on. To which they replied that they were doing a class project on child sexual abuse and would probably interview people like the police chief, etc. about it. Where was their book in the lives of our young men? For I would surely have borrowed one to read. Where was the outrage that I believe would be forthcoming if our fourth graders came home with such an assignment? Where was the disbelief and reluctance to talk about it on the part of everyone that they went to talk about it? Where was this information in my schooling and later training? Perhaps in the scout executive's handbook, unshared with those who needed it the most. How can the majority of the young people be " permitted " to know so much more then those who work with them, without that information being made available to the big people too? How can an organization like the BSA, that puts its people into frequent contact with young people, do so without making them aware of this danger to themselves and/or the young people from other adults? How can the BSA expose its volunteers to this life threatening possibility and its employees to the legal liability ( called corporate crime ) without so much as a single word to anyone about it? When you withhold needful information from someone, you become responsible.
to see. All that the detective showed me in his laybook, is □ □ Why did you leave out so much? I answered his interrogating as I have been taught to (and it would be more than two years before I would have enough information to begin to understand and to have defended myself. And IF I HAD HAD THAT INFORMATION, THERE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANYTHING TO DEFEND MYSELF AGAINST.). Admitting to the wrong that he was then informing me about, for as I teach to others, so I must live and do myself. Expecting those around me to do so also; to explain what had happened and how it had come to be and to help me make it up to my fellow scouts. Only one did, and eventually for being the true scout that he is, our ranger was required by his boss to break his spoken oath and to abandon his friend and fellow scout to the trash collector. Turned to and encouraged in scouting by ALL, since childhood, an a way in which I can and do interact and contribute as an equal with physically "normal people". In my early years most of my companions were adults and later the scouts from my troop with the gap in ages ever widening. None of those "bad friends" and influences (who might just have broadened my sexual information) for me and practically no good friends either. All my familiarity from scouting and every other influence the so called good ones: Doctors, policemen and their chief, mayors and other public officials, religious teachers, pastors and priests, scoutmasters, camp Yaw Paw rangers, my own assistants, committee members and other parents of our scouts. Good people all, and from here, ask themselves: (as many are still around): what sexual information did you (they) provide? (What question(s) regarding my sexual qualifications (if there are sexual knowledge or experience qualifications. And if there are where are they spelled out) did you (or they) ask of me? You will not find anyone, try as you may, who could or who should ask. Nothing. Nill. Zero input. For there isn't anyone at all except very late a little from a few of the younger people. I had no qualifications to offer, none what so ever, when at age twenty, you asked me to do a task for you. Nothing but a willingness to serve, to do what I now know is God's task for me on earth. "It doesn't matter" those who asked me said, "the BSA provides all the training you need to know" and I trusted them and took their word for it. Egar for any and all information that would help me to do a better job for our scouts, I took and sought every bit of information and every opportunity to do so. And yet not a word was ever said; they couldn't even say that it was needed; about human sexuality and how it might apply to my interaction with our scouts. When they said that I was fully trained I trusted them and took their word for it. I was not even sexually aware of other people until about age twenty five or so and even then lacked the knowledge and understanding to recognize it as such. It was at about this time that I was told by a priest in confession that masturbation was a normal function of the body and that the female could do it also. Even though the younger people had made me so, and to-ward themselves. Not even those of you who worked with me as an older teen, at least two of whom were among those who initially asked me to be scoutmaster; and not a single one of the rest of you in all the years since, have ever commented on or asked me about the complete and total absence of any inter-gender interaction in my life. It was never a secret. I expect(ed) that it will come in its own time. And the occasional question, usually from a young man, "Do you have a girl friend?" is and always has been answered "No. I have not yet had that privilege." No one, least of all myself who didn't have the slightest idea that it was missing, ever thought how this might have left a complete blank in an important area. None ever questioned and, examined me on it or told me to have that blank filled. With a myriad of opportunities to do so, to instruct and to examine me throughout all of a quarter of a century. This subject was ignored completely, leaving a yawning pit for me to fall into to my destruction. A pit, without fence or barricade, without so much as a single warning sign in any language that I could read, into which I fell. And I hope and pray to God that I did not drag any of the younger people to destruction with me, a question that will never be answered for sure until every last one of us is dead. I can and did not present any credential to working with children. I have never worked with children. Your child, perhaps yes, but only with the young men in scouting. My only credential: the training that scouting was supposed to give me complete, as necessary to deal with, as I was trained to see them, these young men, little people, that were to be treated and dealt with in exactly the same way that I would deal with you or any other person. That training and twenty years of living and doing it is a whole lot more then I had when you asked me to do this task for you. But nowhere in all of this was there anything about human sexuality at all. No one has the right to assume knowledge in another without first examining and/or instructing that person in that subject. Those Catholics from my troop (and elsewhere), even if every last one of
for him in that area. When you ask a person to do a task for you, you must inform him of everything that you consider pertinent to that task, especially the dangers or special knowledge or skills required. That is how we have lived all our lives and moving up the ladder, becoming an executive only increases your responsibility, rather than lessens it. When you fail, for whatever reason, the other's mistake is yours. We accept this possibility in our lives and when we have failed to accept it, our courts have forced us to. The executives in the BSA make the decision not to inform their people of this subject, theirs is the responsibility for the uninformed mistakes of those they have asked to do something for them. Their fancy office, title and salary does not get them excused for causing, through their purposeful omission of information, hurt and harm to another. Just this summer we were reminded of this. Three men, previously sitting fat, dumb and happy at their desks, are now taking twenty five years out of their lives to think about their policy to not inform, to not provide the proper tools to one that they asked to do a task for them. He is now dead. But someone complained for him. I am not quite dead of this yet and until I am, I will continue to holler, yell and scream at the top of my voice and through every media I can command: letter, newspaper, billboard, sign on car parked at church and at various scouting events and so on.

WITHOUT MY KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT (TELLING ME THAT YOU WOULD AND LATER THAT YOU HAD FULLY TRAIN(ED) ME) YOU PUT ME IN A POSITION WHERE, GIVEN MY LACK OF SEXUAL KNOWLEDGE, IT WAS GUARANTEED THAT I WOULD EVENTUALLY FAIL AND COMMIT A WRONG FROM WHICH YOU ALREADY KNEW (BUT I DID NOT) THAT YOU WOULD NOT LET ME RECOVER FROM.

I will never institute any proceeding where this would be officially and legally covered. Too many of my friends would be involved and besides, what good would be served if some outsider (court or other executive) forced you to do something before you accepted that you had to do it. I couldn't ask them for money, or for prison terms, or for those responsible to join my conversation; only for them to allow a continuing chance to earn the respect and acceptance of my fellow scouts in my troop and the Isapough lodge. That which they should have done from the beginning. My right and responsibility. A right since it has been required for me to grant it to others and even to be instrumental in causing it to work between others. A responsibility because you must always make it up to those you have, for whatever reason offended, unless you duck your responsibility by going away and hiding. Do you see me hiding? I am only away because it is forced on me. Some of you have never seen me or perhaps you have heard of how hard I had been working at this. I have already put in seven hundred fifty plus hours (750+) of "community service" at camp Yaw Paw since it happened.

Three times more then that required of one who had killed a fellow man. And I will make it 7,500 hours or even try for 75,000 hours as soon as you people here let me. My troop has the same opportunity available to me in our paper recycling program. When Mr. Pinrose, on October 4, 1984, prevented me from actively working at this furthur, he signed my death warrant. The terminating of what I must do, what I am supposed to do, and in the manner required (both ways) since birth should not have come about unless I had again and this time deliberately, stepped outside the law. It is more devastating then originally being told that I had broken the law for at that time I didn't understand or believe it. But at this latter time all that he could accuse me of was working as hard as I possibly could at doing what is the duty of everyone who makes a mistake. Putting things right with his fellow by working with or at least in sight of them. I had been quietly working at it as if it was all and completely my fault. When others resume living their faith and creed, then I will go back to doing so by the ways and means that we have been brought up using and to use.

What good does it serve to condemn me to Hell on earth, for what little time I have left on it, in the very same breath that you begin for the first time to make me aware of the subject area in which I had unwittingly made a mistake? I guess it shows you can throw your weight around, and certainly that your creed doesn't mean too awfully much to you, a two year old can destroy one of his own. The difference being that you know it and he doesn't. Not even under the best conditions, which would include instant and total reinstatement, do I expect to live the eight more years required to erase the civil record of this happening, and so what that is not very important anyhow. But I CAN erase it in your sight, much more important to me, if you will only let me work actively at it. I will work at it exclusively anyhow until I do so. Under present conditions of exile and excommunication, I wouldn't bet even a penny on my chances of being here this time next year; But if I am, you can be sure that I will be fighting just as hard as ever. For scouting here has a value far greater and is infinitely more precious to me then life itself.
"Everybody knows that," said the regional administrator. "I didn't. And I am a seminary, a part of Catholic scouting here at Saint Catherine's and I do indeed have a body, as you may well discover when you drag it out of the woods. But I did not know about this until long after the fact. You do not have to know anything or to understand it to father (or mother) a child. Does everybody really know about it? The warning signs were all there and no one saw them or asked me even one question. A question that I would have had to reply to with ignorance. "What do you mean? I know nothing about that. I do not understand." It was the people of scouting at Saint Catherine's who watched and encouraged me when I was doing good for their sons. Providing the time, money, opportunities, cars, even the family airplane; so that I could do for and with their boys. It was they who stood by while I was physically and emotionally closer to their sons than perhaps I should have been; why in two different four to five year periods I slept in the same room, bed or tent with two youths about two hundred nights. While I know I spent almost two thousand hours for scouting each year, I cannot begin to figure how much total time was spent with just these two, and no one said a single word. It was some of the people in our council who, without comment or question watched what the state of New Jersey defines as aggravated criminal sexual contact between me and their sons. Positive reinforcement from one and all. Their presence didn't make it legal. If there was no complaint then, why should I consider or think it to be wrong? If you went so desperately to know and believe that I (and others) had (have) the proper sexual knowledge to deal with young people, then why don't you teach it? Take it as far as you can go on our own and then bring in an expert, as you would do on any other subject, to explain the fine points, and the rights and responsibilities of both young and old under the laws of where you live. For they differ from state to state. Can you quote the laws of N.J.? How hard was or will it be to find written confirmation of your answer?

Despite your demonstrated attitude of sexual superiority and knowledge acquired from God at birth without necessity of instruction or experience, you do not know it at all. No person should be in close contact with young people without being required to attend training about it. You missed seeing the wrong that I was headed for doing. And right in Saint Catherine's church I watched a man and a dad molest both daughters throughout the mass. Had a member of the sex crimes division been sitting in my seat, perhaps their life would have been over too. I can only believe that they (and others) were aware that they were breaking the law. If a married couple, having dated, courted, conceived and raised two children for eight or nine years could be so ignorant; how do you expect me to be so much more informed without even a hint of it in my training or education? Knowledge is neutral, one must possess it to do either good or evil with it. Knowledge and intent must be present to sin or even to commit a crime. Except for this unmentioned one. How in heaven's name can you have an occurrence, that has happened many times before, one that penalizes only the older person, leaving him fit only for a cardboard box with six feet of Yaw Paw rocks on top and never, ever have talked about it at all? Information about it should be printed in bold capitals in every piece of literature that those who deal with young people receive. Ignorance may be no excuse under the law. But among older catholics in scouting, there is none better, for ignorance was required by the church. For about the first thirty years of my life the church demanded of me ignorance of human sexuality. And those who trained me from the BSA ignored it completely. The policy being not to tell. Well keeping the present stupid has backfired again as it has so many millions of times over thousands of years. Being deprived of accurate and informative literature (You cannot even get the civil rules and regulations in our library, I knew, I tried, even with the help of the librarian, in the fall of 79. And would you, like I did stop searching when in that same week both TV and newspaper reported (misreported as it later turned out) that which you thought was the only bit of information that was required?) that lack has permitted me to commit, with a clear conscience, a far worse wrong then any I could ever have done while in possession of sexual knowledge. A wrong perceived after the fact cannot even receive absolution in confession, so if I am ever going to gain forgiveness, I will have to earn it from those in my troop and at Camp Yaw Paw.

I was told that I had an illness. A mental illness that was treatable. Ignorance is the most preventable of all mental illness and the most easily treated. And the biggest factor in treating any form of it is the help, support and most of all the hope provided by one's friends; all of mine are in scouting. When people are educated and informed everyone benefits. When information is lacking, or worse yet when it is purposely omitted, people suffer. I could have been prevented from having this
"Mental illness" is a semester spent on human sexuality in school (it ought to be part of everyone's school instruction: seeing in kindergarten) and a couple of hours in one of the training courses from the BSA spent on child abuse and how human sexuality relates to the young men in scouting. It took me three plus years of instruction, question asking and answering, counseling for me to realize that, sexually, my body does not respond in a normal manner and was a contributing factor. In fact I had already been dismissed from all civil and medical scrutiny when I reached this conclusion.

Not the doctor or myself could have figured that out without my having at least an academic knowledge of human sexuality. I have been on a chemical treatment program now for two years that has successfully corrected the purely physical, and as such out of my hands, malfunction. Thank God for New Jersey's pharmaceutical assistance program that has reduced the cost of this prescription from one hundred dollars per week to about six dollars per week, I couldn't afford it otherwise. The preventative "medication" of education (which I trusted had been provided me) is still better and less costly.

IF NO SCOUT HAS EVER RECOVERED FROM THIS IN THE SIGHT OF HIS FELLOW SCOUTS, THEN I SHALL BE THE FIRST: OR I SHALL BE DEAD IN THE ATTEMPT. How can there be a subject such as human sexuality which is part of every living being from birth to death, that is so unspeakable, that it isn't (spoken of, that is). That people are not given any formal instruction in, with a penalty that is so severe, and yet there is no leeway permitted for one to make such as one mistake in the learning of it through trial and error? The first error has killed me. Especially since I got my first exposure to human sexuality in the area that is called child abuse. It was never mentioned in anyone in the front line and couldn't even be bothered to give me the slightest weapon with which to defend myself with - knowledge. How could you possibly care so little for me, and for that matter your children? Care so little about our health and safety, life and future as to not tell us anything what so ever about any form of child abuse, not even so little about it that we could recognize it? For making a mistake in this area of it, I am damned for it for eternity in the sight of my fellow scouts. For not even having the concept of child sexual abuse ever shared with me by those around me, I am a rotten, stinking, &**%$#! etc man damned, fallen criminal for the rest of my days. Bad worthless, useless and condemned by my fellow scouts for not knowing what they couldn't be bothered to share and kept for themselves. "You are supposed to know it." WHY? Because Hell on earth is my fate for not knowing about it. HOW? By having it taught in educational and training situations. WHY? Because dealing with young people requires an awareness of it. WHY? Because everyone else broke the laws of God and man to learn of it by doing, and it is inconceivable that anyone could lack the inclination (and opportunity) to do so also. What they have told me is that no matter what I do, how hard I work, I am and will remain just a pervert. Having renounced the bad that I know of, not having anything to do with it and conscientiously counseling those around me to do the same; having promoted, lived, done and shared only the good way of living and dealing with others throughout my entire life; none of that gives me any credit or leaving me with even a chance to regain the respect and acceptance of my fellow scouts. Why did and why do I live it the right way for any? Having what has since been defined as sexual contact with others, many of whom had already "bed" one or more sexual partners, leaves me forever damned in the sight of my peers. I have always done everything that has been shared with me as good in the manner prescribed, having nothing to do with those things that were shared with me as being good. And yet over a mistake in an area that is not even important enough to have been shared with me, you take my life and with it my salvation, not even being able to return to me the faith and ideals we share in catholic scouting. The punishment far outweighs the mistake. Even the "sexts" say and press for laws to be changed, that eleven and up is OK, for those eleven and twelve and up of today are generally informed enough to decide to try it and are going to anyway. They are capable of giving informed consent, and that there should be no stigma attached to such. Even some of the police in the Bronx, New York City (where the age of consent is eighteen) follow this idea - even though they are wrong in writing their own laws by doing so. They purposely ignore the older (eleven or so up) "victims" to get at those who have sex with those even younger than that. They tell the young people that "I know that you have sex with Mr. X. We won't bother with him but won't you please help us with information about Mr. Y or Z who have sex with those even younger than you are, so that we can stop them. They have even told Mr. X that they knew and to get help. And you could
not even share the concept of child sexual abuse with me! I may have hurt others. I do not know. Those who I continue to see on occasion, whom I now know I have offended, do not show and have not voiced any hurt to me. Of others, some of whom I have written to, I have heard very little despite most careful listening through very limited sources. I know I have hurt at least one young man not even directly, for he has once publicly and once privately on the phone, threatened to kill me. Where did he learn his hate? Not from me, for I have only learned it since, from some of the people from scouting. If you had followed our own teachings and such hate would not have been given time to develop. I have been hurt, most surely to be fatal. Committed to love all those around me; and there is not a one of us who can't and doesn't love some one or a bit more than the rest. I reached out to express the care and concern that some others evoked from me, never once crossing the line that my church schooling had drawn as sex, only to be damned for my love; for almost any touch is legally defined as sex. I have hurt people I did and do care about ( even the one who could tell others and not I that I had had a sexual contact with him ) if only through the reactions of others.

At a time of terror and confusion, when I need His presence the most, I have been barred from the one place on this earth where on occasion I know, in every fiber of my being, the presence of God. His standing behind me guiding me in the task He has put me here to do for Him. FOR THAT PRESENCE ALONE, THERE IN OUR CAMP, I WILL FIGHT EVERY PERSON ON THIS EARTH TILL I AM SUCCESSFUL OR KILLED. Sure, He is everywhere. But only in my conscious mind do I know it.

Without His presence I could not have loved another, He is here, with us, watching my struggle to get you to let me finish this task for me in this life. But sometimes there, so busy and surrounded by others I can hardly acknowledge Him, or perhaps in a quiet time. But occasionally He IS, there, present in my life.

Is there a one of you who has let up on your calling and been guided back to it by Him? Every time I have slacked off in the effort that I must put out for my troop, He has brought me back to it. Sometimes with a gentle hint and sometime with a real slap in the face. I am continually reminded to get off my butt and get moving. I will do something. I will not even seek His judgement if I do not at least fight to do this throughout every day of the rest of my life, and with all that I possess. Having known of His calling, is there one of you who knows the utter futility and complete frustration that comes when you ignore it or try to do something else instead?

Every skill, gift and talent given by God, those which must be continuously used; honed, polished and fine tuned by so many of yourselves, so thwarted, frustrated and botched up that it is like I drown in my own pollution. Everything that should flow out from me to scouting in a continous stream through a twelve inch pipe, stopped up to an occasional drop or two. A special purpose tool, totally worthless outside of the environment I was designed to work in.

You took absolutely everything that I could give you including a sacred vow before my Lord and God Jesus Christ to give all of myself for and to Catholic scouts at Saint Catherine's for all of my life, fully realizing the restrictions it would place on me. You took so much that when I had the chance to attend and work at the "ultimate" training course, Wood Badge, I had almost nothing additional left to give. You were already getting all of it. Despite seven long days and nights in the course itself and with two years to complete my goals, I could not honestly set more than one of the required goals that were supposed to be realistically attainable. Having taken everything I could give, the now useless and worthless loyal scout is to be quietly put to sleep like an old dog. Well IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED, I AM NOT GOING AT ALL QUIETLY.

Because I couldn't read your minds, you have taken the only thing on this earth of any value or significance to me; more so than even life itself, for it is my life: Scouting here at Saint Catherine's and Camp Yaw Paw ( if you want to, execute my will and see how little anything else I possess means, for I will make no complaint ) and so long as God continues to give me the strength to live and do so I will strive with everything I possess to get it back; and to do what He has said I will do and in the manner He said I must do it, with everything that I have. How can you have taken everything that I have to give and not even return the beliefs, values and faith that we share? Young and old, you have taken almost every last one of my friends. A couple in scouting who ignore the posession and a couple from scouting who are no longer active and would pay no attention to it anyway. All the rest of my friends, and that includes some that I do not even know yet, are active here in scouting. For anyone who is a real friend of mine has and does share scouting with me.

Friendly with hundreds of other names and faces, none of them spell friend to me for they do not and have not shared scouting with me. I know that I do not and probably will not have any real
identification with the outside scouting. Advised to spend a greater percentage of my time with the big people. I am not off from all but one older friend. For all practical purposes I can only see my closest adult friend five hundred feet over his upturned face and at one hundred miles per hour. They have even kept me from repaying his kindness and friendship, his true catholic scouting spirit, by preventing me from helping him and our other friends with the addition to his house in our camp.

To be completely honest I do not particularly care how or what those outside my troop and council, the local people here, think of me. My eventual salvation or damnation is tied to the performance I give in serving my troop, in fulfilling my vow. And I will not now or at any time throughout the rest of my life, accept the eternal damnation that is surely mine if I let any individual or group of individuals turn me from doing it or at least continuously trying to do it. I will do it and I must work at it with everything I possess. I know this beyond any doubt, better even than my own name which I can read off my birth certificate. For more than two years now I have accepted without question or uncertainty His word that I will do this and that I must work at it with everything I possess. So it is with the people here, especially in my troop, that I must make amends. It is their acceptance that matters. They are family and the only ones I have any identification with anyhow. Those outside of scouting here soon find out that I have very little use or surplus left for them and I have long known that they do not have anything that I want or need. Sure there are those whose professional services I must sometimes use, but through choice they have nothing to offer me, nothing so earth.

It is the people in scouting here, that I must find a way to live and work with, even if that finding and maintaining takes every minute of every day. It is you who taught me how to counsel, to correct without condemning, to guide with patience, using another's own knowledge to help him come up with more information. It is you who taught me that I must and how to accept, work with, respect, and even eventually to love the worst of people, even those I did not like. Not to give up on anyone who entered, especially a fellow scout or even anyone that I had even only once seen some good in. Not to give up on him, maybe not ever, but certainly not unless he had clearly and repeatedly demonstrated that he was totally unable and unwilling to live within the rules. When he says that he likes doing bad and will continue to do wrong, then you have, perhaps, the right to abandon him. It was you who taught me to respond to another's need for help, even if his own stupidity put him there, and whatever the need. It is you who taught me to forgive, NOW, any hurt or offence done me by another. Whatever it may be, to forgive without conditions or mental reservations. We are somewhat unique in the small size of our scouting family and this is the way we do it here; in scouting here at Saint Catherine's and at Paw Paw. You taught it that way and/or supported me in teaching and living it that way. I did not know then and I do not know now how they do it in Alaska, Texas or even Central New Jersey, I did not, do not and will not be living there for my home and task is here. This is the way we do it here in Glen Rock. Why do you suddenly let others from elsewhere prevent you from living as you teach that you do it here? Why do you cause me to learn and to live a way of life that you are unwilling to live yourselves? WHY? IN GOD'S NAME I ASK YOU WHY? WHY DID YOU CAUSE ME TO TEACH THIS LIE TO YOUR CHILDREN; A WAY OF LIFE, THAT AS FAR AS I HAVE FOUND SO FAR, NOT A ONE OF YOU, SAVE THE RAYMOND T. BANTA FAMILY AT YAW PAW, HAS THE COURAGE AND CHARACTER TO LIVE EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY, YOURSELVES ???

Much of this way of life is our faith - "articles" of religion that makes us a Catholic Scout Troop. A troop sponsored by a church, a church that owns the charter and is granted by the BSA the right to "...can and should give direction to it", Every single teaching of our church is the first of that direction. If you could teach these articles to me as well that I could know, understand, use, and teach them; then surely you know how to live them yourselves. How will you face your Lord having put aside His teachings before God and man? Will He want to hear how some ten god from elsewhere made you do it? Will He want to hear how it was the majority or more popular decision or how it was easier rather than right? If there are special cases that allow us to put aside His teachings, where, in literature we would all have, are they listed and compiled? My faith puts duty to God before ALL else. The oath I speak as a scout puts duty to God in first, before anything else. Neither faith, oath or law would permit me to knowingly respond to another human being in the way the members of my scouting family, my troop and council, have responded to my mistake. Don't we say it in scripture and in song " what so ever you do to the least of My brothers, that you do unto Me " Could I respond to my God in that fashion? How can you? How can any catholic let anyone, whatever his station, cause him to put aside any of his church's teachings? To let anyone take
away your right to freely practice your religion is a threat to the church which once started is easily continued and expanded. Our church’s charter grants it the right to give direction to its units anyhow and everything it teaches is the first of those directions. A big deal was recently made in church about the unreported damage to two cars in our parking lot. I haven’t yet heard any big deal about the continuing unchristian treatment I have received for almost six years.

No one MAY cause me to put them aside. No one CAN by imposing their might, which doesn’t necessarily make them right, but my opposition must be loud and clear for so long as they continue to do so. Your putting aside of this which you have taught, Your continuing refusal to do, as you teach that all of us MUST do. Your expressed attitude that I am complete and total shit now and forever. It is a complete and total condemnation of me, one of your own. One in which YOU instilled every single value of good ( or ? bad ? ) that I possess. Unforgivable say your words. Unredeemable says yours actions. Evil and without any good or useful function, worthless for any task what so ever is your claim. All this toward one that you misinformed, that you left uninformed about an important area of human interaction. One that you have been and will be responsible to and for from the mid nineteen fifties to the end of my life. I WILL HAVE THIS JUDGEMENT REVERSED. Even if it continues to occupy every minute of every day, even when it may appear that I am doing something else. I WILL STAND WITH MY TROOP IN HONOR AMONG MY FELLOW SCOUTS !

I was told, last year after thirty years in scouting, that there is a policy, one homosexual experience and you are out of scouting. Where in our handbooks is this written so that I may know it and share it with a scout who may have this experience? Where is that homosexual experience defined? And in words that even that scout can understand? They can’t even be bothered to explain to us that most young men of scouting age; recognizing, knowing, acting on it or not, go through a strong homosexual phase. I most certainly did not understand it. The most intimate form of it happened to me before I was able to reconcile the church’s definition of sex and that act as homosexual sex. Lesser forms of contact had happened with me unrecognized for they did not meet the definition in either a heterosexual or homosexual form. Ten percent of the population is born of God with homosexual orientation. Even though it cannot be “caught” ( A heterosexual person cannot catch or be made into a homosexual and neither can a homosexual be made into a heterosexual. Either can at times try and perhaps like the other experience. ) that ten percent is forever barred from scouting through no fault of their own. Since either heterosexual or homosexual can choose to be celibate, shouldn’t they, like a priest, be allowed to choose that for scouting? I can and do thank God that I do not have homosexuality to deal with too. Being among the majority of heterosexuals, untried and unpracticing as I may be, sixty percent of whom have had one or more homosexual experiences ( Quite often in their early and beginning forays into human sexuality ). Shall that policy be enforced against all these people also?

The image of a Catholic Scout comes from living your stated ideals and faith in the eyes of others, all the time. Any purposeful putting aside of these ideals tarnishes that image. Both however, supposedly leave room for a more human being to make a mistake and recover from it. Which tarnishes the image more, putting aside your beliefs toward one of your own or living your ideals, making them work in the eyes of all and for all, even the mistake maker? I believe in and more importantly live the ideals of Catholic Scouting that I have learned and taught. I am known for it by ninety nine percent of all those who know or will know me. I willingly supply the energy to polish the image. I am willing to be the polishing cloth that is cleaned and used again. But I will be deemed if I will be the polish or paper towel, to be used and thrown in the trash. That isn’t the way we do it here. If I lack a value or whatever, the failure is yours; yours for not instilling it in me in the first place. Tell me what it is and I will wind it, bringing it back for all to examine.

I used to believe that none of you ever knew or had anything to do with sex before your marriage, as I had been taught. That you all regually followed all the rules of both church and state. Now I know enough to be reasonably certain that most of the people around me have had what the state defines as sex with others before they were legally permitted to do so, and thus breaking the law. And some, having reached that “legal” age of consent continued to reach out to another who had not yet reached that age and in doing so broke the law and in the same way as did I. Knowing so and not caring; or like me, caring and not knowing, the law cares not, except that it was broken. I was introduced to human sexuality, most certainly not by design or intent, by some of
your sons. Eleven and twelve year olds who can and do have sexual intercourse and other sexual contacts to their heart's content, without let, hindrance or severe punishment from anyone. I had never heard of an activity that they can freely do that I couldn't join in. Some would require a cage to stop them, others a collar and leash. Some are even able to say (and one hears too much of this lately in many areas of misconduct, even from those who are but weeks from full legal responsibility) "I know I am breaking the law and not allowed to do it. I do not care. I am too young for them to do anything to me." It was these fine young men from our council and parish who introduced me to this subject. You can put this aside and out of mind for yourselves, for your children and those others old and young around you for in reality you don't have very much choice, do you? It has already happened. It does not disqualify you or them from living your lives. How can you hold my introduction to human sexuality, which rightly should have come from schooling and training, forever against me because it came from sexually active younger people closer to me. I too want it put aside and forgotten, so that I can resume living my life, soon, before my body is incapable of doing so. I want a chance to choose good over evil. To live correctly with my fellow scouts, without the daily reminder that all that is or can be expected of me is to repeat a wrong that I have done. I may have been legally capable of giving informed consent to doing this wrong, but I was most certainly unable to give INFORMED consent, for I lacked any background to be informed from. My mistake was so gross, disgusting, terrible and so on; to have loved a younger human being; that you couldn't even make me aware that it could happen to me or under what conditions. Given exactly the same circumstances, I would probably do the same again. Fortunately it cannot, for discovering my lack of knowledge, in a most terrible way, you have caused me to become informed and in the only way in which an unmarried Catholic may do so. (I have since, to see if I could have found out more, looked for but have been unable to find human sexuality, or sex ed 1,2,3 for adults listed in any "community or night "school) in an academic program, run by "sexperts" for those who have done wrong. We have always had to give those around us the chance to make an informed choice even if we learn of their mistake and must inform them first. Why is it that I may not have any chance among my people, to choose knowingly, willingly, conscientiously; the right way and in full view of my fellow scouts and perhaps, from afar, even those I have offended? Given an informed choice you know what I will and must choose: serving my troop and hence my God over any and all wrongdoing that I can conceive of. I do not know why I must continue to beg for forgiveness, when it should have been forthcoming, for a mistake born of a physical malfunction and lack of information possessed by but unshared with me by those around me. There is no shame in any dysfunction of the human body - mine or anyone else's. No shame in following, in the absence of contradictory information, the information provided (as commands) by the Roman Catholic church and information provided by other normally reliable sources like TV news and newspaper. There is no dishonor in not knowing what others would like you to know about without benefit of their teaching or otherwise sharing it; nor is there dishonor in any mistake, however serious it appears to others, made in following a clear conscience, even one misinformed and uninformed by the church and the program. The shame is in not being even allowed to make it up to all of those who are offended and on those who, having caught and required that of me all of my life, now prevent me from doing so. The shame is on those who require a certain way of doing something and cannot be bothered to share that way with others and who prevent a mistake from being put right. The shame is in hiding what others have a right and a need to know of and have an understanding about and then condemning them for not having read your minds. The dishonor is to allow anything or anyone to turn you from living your faith and spoken oath, to keep for yourself information required by the task you have asked another to do for you and over which you are willing to destroy him when he fails to perform as you would like. The greatest dishonor is to hold yourself aloof from that which you teach to and require of others; formulating a policy that willingly accepts the destruction of a human being as an acceptable price for the "luxury" of not having to be bothered to inform and educate others in that particular subject, and keeping it to yourself until another has made a mistake in it. With the help of this disgusting and unspeakable subject, sex, God made me in His image. But you, the people of the BSA and Saint Catherine's church, (and you are not dealing with someone just off the street with this in his past, but with someone from here throughout all that matters of a lifetime."
one that you failed, not once but twice. You failed me and our younger scouts by not finishing my education and training. And again, me, by failing to, as of yet, in the common ideals we live by. And them by setting an example of bigotry, hatred and intolerance that has no place in a catholic scout, young or old. You people, here, shaped, formed, educated and trained me, leaving out human sexuality entirely and yet instilling a conscience that won’t let me knowingly or willingly do wrong, not even to speeding down the street, and that, for example, will try forever, if that is what it takes, to locate, talk to, apologize to and if possible make it up to all of those who I have been told that I have injured (some I will never reach without friend and help of records in scouting). A conscience that holds me responsible for the hurt or harm I may do to another or cause him to do to another through my failure to inform or direct him properly. No matter how long it may take me to become aware of this, it requires me to then seek his forgiveness and to do everything humanly possible in assisting him to regain the respect and acceptance of those he has offended. This, by your own teaching and example, I MUST DO. Whether it be real and actual or inherited from another, your share of responsibility in this should require you, even if you will not admit it publically, to at least permit me the ongoing, contributing and available safe opportunities to regain the acceptance and forgiveness of my troop and camp. Both have these opportunities and know they can be worked. EVEN IF THROUGHOUT THE REST OF MY LIFE, THE PEOPLE HERE CONTINUE TO SAY THAT I HAVE NOT YET DONE ENOUGH, THAT I HAVE NOT YET MADE IT UP, THAT I STILL MAY NOT COME IN OUT OF THE COLD AND BE WITH MY FELLOWS, WELL I WILL AT LEAST BE WORKING TOWARDS IT. I did not resign from scouting, the church, or the human race just because I unwittingly made a mistake born of ignorance. I still hold, believe and teach the values of Catholic scouting that you instilled in me. Too bad you had the knowledge of human sexuality and child abuse and keep it for yourself rather than sharing it with me. One can be both a scout and a catholic and make a mistake - sometimes even a serious one. Why do you all continue to act as if I purposely renounced everything we believe in? Rather then, as it has happened, simply encountered something beyond my ken, something for which I had no previous experience or book learning to refer to. Something that I handled the wrong way. I am part of Catholic scouting here at Saint Catherine’s now and for the rest of my life and having been part of it for the last thirty years, I claim the right to a chance to regain your respect and acceptance if for no other reason then that you people here have required it of and received it from me during all of that time, and it was freely given to all. I will continue to ask for that chance, from the people here, if necessary, every day of the rest of my life. You do not cause me to live and to teach others a way of living and dealing with people over all those thirty years without having it demanded of you by me in my need. I have a right to turn to the people here and ask "WHY"?? Why did you leave this out? And to demand that they accept their share of responsibility. I have a right to turn to my friends and family in scouting, each and every last one in or at least from, and ask them for their help, understanding, forgiveness and support. I have a right to expect them to live up to their spoken oath and written creed. I have a right to turn to the catholics in my troop and expect and demand that they respond to me as Catholic scouts, as the faith we share requires of each and every one of us. I have a right to be told by both the catholics in my troop and by others in scouting that they do not hold with and to the definition of sex provided by the Roman Catholic church (and to what they do hold to) to be told that it is utterly and totally worthless outside the confines of a church. And to be told that before making a mistake in following it or having made one, before being condemned for it. And to do all this without being told that my people here may not do so, for some tin god from afar forbids it. It may very well be that in the final judgement, their burden for their act of purposeful omission will outweigh my act of ignorant commission. If a hypocrit is one who teaches one thing and then does it in reverse, then what is a hypocrit who imposes his hypocrisy on others, using his power and might to make others do differently from that they were taught and to teach? Now that they have taken The Supreme Being out of scouting, perhaps they are replacing Him as God with god - a superior human being? Such as yourselves perhaps. I know that I am not a god, infallible and free from any error or mistake. I am not a god, like yourselves, omniscient: able to know all about everything, to understand, recognize, know and be familiar with all of the meanings.
ramifications, nuances, mechanics, ins and outs of any subject such as human sexuality - in which I have had no education, training, experience or other exposure to; other then that unintentionally provided by the more knowable and advanced young men around me. I am not a god, able to assume and demand; knowledge of and compliance with any subject and its rules that I have not personally instructed and/or examined a person in, or for which he has not produced a license or other credential showing that another has made that examination and instruction. If I am remiss or forgetful in my instruction or examination, I have no one to blame but myself for the mistake(s) of that person in that area and I must assume full responsibility for the hurt or harm that he may do to himself or to others. Just as in my case the scouting program and the church must assume their share and burden of responsibility. I am not a god, to be judge, jury and executioner. I can only conceive of a situation in which very weakly evidence might cause me to agree that a person had done something wrong, but without his confession a doubt would forever linger and in any case I would go no further. I cannot possibly know enough about what happened and why to usurp God’s prerogative. I might just make a mistake, but He can not. A god can work miracles. Surely with so many gods around me in scouting, they will soon combine to work a very minor miracle; to say one simple word, yes, instead of get lost and drop dead. The rest is only details which can eventually be worked out by men.

You brought me up in an atmosphere of “instant” forgiveness of a wrong done by another, without reservations, or if those reservations did exist to allow them to be dispelled by giving that person a chance to live and work in my sight until my forgiveness is complete and unconditional. To leave the punishment to God and the penance to the church. And if the only acceptable penance for not knowing that which you were unwilling to share, is my death, then let pastor, chairman and scoutmaster come forward and unambiguously and in plain English say so over their signatures. I will perform it that very same day. I can act in no other way, so if “to forgive is divine” then in this respect I too am a god (how about the rest of you gods?); for it is how I have been taught by yourselves, it is what I teach to our scouts as it is right, for I may someday be on the other end of the stick needing forgiveness, and because I ask my god to forgive me in the same exact way that I forgive others, and many times daily. There is no one from here who will ever convince me that he would accept forgiveness from another without the acceptance of the other. Let alone desiring forgiveness without acceptance from your God. “Ok I forgive you, says your God in judgement, now get out of My sight and life forever. Stay away from Me and Mine for eternity” That is the only “forgiveness” that I have ever been offered by my fellow scouts and I will not ever buy it. And I do not think that you would buy it either if you were being damned, as you have done to me, for a mistake made with a clear conscience. You taught me that I must be willing to die for my faith, what I believe in, rather than deny it or put it aside. The dying will be the easy part. But do you forget that it obliges us to live the way we believe in everything we do everyday? The world must be made to fit around my faith, not my faith modified to fit the world. And it costs: in time, in effort, in money and so on. It influences my business decisions and my other dealings with people. It is not always popular, but that is the price demanded for being what I am, a Catholic scout. No one, not Ronald Reagan, president or Ben Love, Scout executive has the right to cause any one of us to put them aside. They may send their minions to make me do so by force, but my opposition must continue even if they do away with me for it. They are, after all, simply human beings and required to live to the same rules as I. Especially if they teach or promote those rules, even if they made them. Their exhausted positions must and should cause them to be more scrupulous and attentive to them than either you or I must be. If I give my word, I keep it. If outside forces prevent me from doing so now, then later I will. Should I find an “excuse”, even once, for not fulfilling my promise, keeping my word, then my word becomes forever worthless; for I can again and again find and make excuses as I did once for not holding to it. After that, not even my word over my signature, with ten witnesses and twenty lawyers makes it any good. Should I speak an oath, as I have in scouting, it is much more serious and binding on me and will not be put aside for any reason. A sacred vow, spoken before God is so much more serious that it is even a sin to speak one without good and just cause. No man or god will cause me to put aside the vow I spoke to serve the scouts of Saint Catharine’s for all of my life. Any obstacle put in my way will be gone over, under, around, or through or I shall be found dead at its base. Only force will prevent me from fulfilling it, nothing but death
will stop me from trying to fulfill it. I will continue to do everything that I can think of to gain the opportunity to do so. The trust fund, currently $3,400.75, will continue to take every last penny not needed for sheer survival, of the one thousand or so I earn each year, and will continue to do so until such time as my two hands are contributing directly to my troop. Even if it is only the stacking of old newspapers, a job I worked many long years to gainfully turn over to others. That fund will soon be protected to the exclusive use and benefit of the boys in my troop ( Catholic Boy Scouts at Saint Catharine's ) as best as I can arrange. Everything else I have, except my model planes left to two scouts, will be left to the benefit of Camp Yaw Paw, as will be any raffle or sweepstakes winning. This I had promised many years ago, but had not arranged until 1982. I will not break this promise or any other.

There is one of you that you could continue to accept in your presence who also stepped outside the law ( believing himself, as did I, two and three quarters years within it ) and custom. The latest scoutmasters handbook says he could not possibly be inaccent. Do you deny his presence among yourselves because he knowingly asked for a homosexual experience? Do you remind him each and every day that he is expected to step outside the law again? And at any and every moment and opportunity? Do you tell him that it is the only way he is expected to act? Ever! Do you tell him that it is not safe for him to be in the presence of his fellow scouts? Or that it happened at all is all that matters? Or did you tell him the correct date and give him a chance to live it? Almost any useful information would have made me "safe" before and after. Do you tell him that he cannot possibly learn this new subject and skill, to have his misconceptions corrected and still associate with his friends? Do you continue to tell him that he is forever unacceptable to his troop for making that mistake? Do you, as some have tried to tell me, tell him that his presence can never be accepted, for the words of Liberty Mutual ( or whoever ) are more, much more, important than the words of Jesus Christ? I know that you have not for I followed some of his experiences after I left. Yet you tell all of the above to me. You have imposed on me the cruelest and harshest punishment that anyone could levy. You have taken my life, mind and soul and left behind an empty shell with nothing. And you have done it far longer then the three years of education and medical treatment imposed by the state. Longer even then the five year maximum sentence that it can impose, and have given no time off for good behavior. You have said that you intend to continue this most terrible punishment throughout every second, of every minute, of every hour of the rest of my life. A life sentence for learning from those you taught and trained me to love and care for. You were able to treat with this one human being in the manner prescribed for dealing with all others. And it is your own training of me and your teachings that demand that the young people be treated the same way as you would treat any other person. Were you able to do so simply because he knew so much more than I did and was so much more sexually experienced than I? As said before the 1983 printing of the scoutmaster's handbook says on page 134 that a person of fifteen cannot be assumed to be acting in innocence, why not? I didn't know as much as he and I was thirty four. If, as you should have at the time, you had thoroughly investigated, you would have found that despite the differences in years ( for I came to human sexuality twenty years later then most ) you had only sexual experimentation between those who were not yet sexually mature or informed. The guidelines are there on how to handle it. I did not even have this small amount of information to use. What do I have to do to soften your hearts of stone? You know you can deal with a sexual lawbreaker as a human being, for you have already done it. When will you forgive me and let me be human again???

I belong to a family. The family of Catholic scouts here at Saint Catharine's. These and others from our council more important and closer to me then those who are family by accident of birth or marriage. A family of people who, in all the years I was permitted in their midst, accepted and used the direction of our church to make Catholic scouting work - all the time. A people who have given ( or left out ) every value that I have today. It matters not that the individuals in it have changed or have been replaced almost completely seven or eight times so far in my lifetime, the scouts, young and old, here at Saint Catharine's are my people, my family. And our camp my home; for it is where my heart always is and forever will be. I will return home to camp, if only on the
last day of my life. In die there as a criminal trespasser in the only place on the earth I want to go or to be. The son of my vow to serve scouting at Saint Catherine's. A place that I have spent thousands of hours over thirty years to make go and better, for others. My home. And a criminal again if I ever set foot in it. I am and always will continue to be part of this family of Catholic Scouts here until that joyful day you pile six feet of Paw rocks over my head. I just hope that the present epitaph will not still be valid. "John: Scout. The young scouts of his troop taught him how to love. The old scouts how to hate. In and of their hate he died." Destroy the family to quiet me and you will need two coffins, one for the troop and one for me. Scatter the family through indifference and apathy and face a campaign to reunite it that will make my personal struggle look like a single post card to but one person.

I belong to a family, not to a cold impersonal corporation whose "business" decisions are divorced from the values they are in business to promote. Whose paid employee has already told me that they are more worried about the "image" of the company and their pay check and future promotion within the corporation than with the ideals they are in business to promote. People who can and have twisted my words into something I did not say or ask. One of whom can call for my death saying "the future of the youth of America demands it." Pompous ass. His own training program left out important information that I needed but they kept it unshared. People who have, values, procedures, etc. that they, for the most part, keep for themselves until they trot them out to impose as penalty on someone and then justify themselves by calling it company policy. A people who can use their power and position to prevent my family from living their religion and who prevent others from living the very values that their business promotes. A person who teaches one right to do something and then does the opposite is a hypocrit. I do not belong to that type of corporation, for I have no title, desk or paycheck, and could not ever subscribe to that kind of teaching and doing at all. Only to the scouting family here at Saint Catherine's and Paw Paw. That little part of this world, as small as it is, is the only thing that I have and any value.

I stay at home, while many others move all over the world, to make it better here by my patient and plodding efforts.

Scouting at Saint Catherine's is the task I must work at while I am "in this life." I will not deny my faith " before God and man " as so many of the members of my troop have done. Not so long as God continues to give me the strength to do His calling. I have (and do) watched the world go by, very often literaly through the window. Watching other people do "their thing" almost all of those things closed to me because of the residuals of polio, and the rest of no interest. I physically cannot do them no matter what effort I put into trying. So what! It does not matter, for God has given me complete and total satisfaction and fulfillment in scouting, and I can do it even if I am finally confined to a wheelchair or worse. My compensation for the mobility He took from me for His own reason: TO find all I need in doing His task for me. Scouting here has kept me physically and mentally healthy all these years. It is why I GET up in the morning. It is, perhaps because I now know it is His promise to me, the only thing of value, importance and significance to me. It is my duty, my joy, and the entire purpose of my life on this earth. NO ONE, NO MORTAL MAN OR god, WILL TAKE IT FROM ME AND KEEP IT, NOT WITHOUT A FIGHT THAT WILL LAST UNTIL HE ALSO TAKES AND TERMINATES MY EXISTANCE ON THIS PLANET. A cowed animal will fight most fiercely, way beyond his size and stature, and the less hope or chance that he sees, the more violent becomes his struggle. Not even a mistake in an area that not a single person on the face of this earth ever considered important enough to instruct me in or share with me, will take it from me or cause me to stop fighting. Scouting is both the carrot and the stick in my life and when they put aside my permission to be with my friends and family, they removed the only thing that anyone could use to threaten me with. I now have absolutely nothing to loose and everything to gain by trying to get my excommunication lifted.

I will not, as our pastor has suggested, go play with the other broken people (Garbage - for once it is grown, you more often then not want it out of sight by themselves, not interacting with "normals"). It is an idea that revolt me to the very core of my being. I will not go away. My duty is here, my house is here and my home is nearby and all of my friends are here. I will not go to have my faith questioned, eroded and lessened. The people of Saint Catherine's have already done a very good job of that. I will not have my conscience lessened and guilt over breaking His teachings erased. It is the advise of the devil; even if I do know that there are those who could and would do it. And I will not shut up. Put a gun to my
head or beat me near to death with my own crutches and I will still continue to ask you to "please let me come". Even if it were not required, I would still continue to come to our church. As a continuing plea and as a reminder to you all, when you see me there and in town, that you knew it. And have an obligation to me and to your faith.

Every minute that I have and will continue to spend with the young men, the women, of our church and community over the last five or six years has been intentionally and deliberately used to demonstrate that I can, that I do, and that I intend to and will continue to live within the correct information that I now possess. After boys, Saint Catherine and other school students, younger parishioners, scouts, each and every one treated in the same manner as I have been trained to and have used for more than ten years.

If the pastor, Scoutmaster, and committee chairman of my troop ever spend enough time to thoroughly convince me that they will be better off without my presence in the family, (I suspect however that this time would work more for my cause then theirs, for it would take years), then I will show the depth of my love for all my friends and lay down and die for them. But they will have to convince me first. The moment any one of the three or another empowered to do so steps forward and extends their forgiveness, we forgive you John; then from that moment forward I will rejoin the presence of my friends and family in scouting. Doing whatever task there is to be done for the troop or at camp, however menial, I will knock on that door, day and night will I pound on it, until you, the people here in Catholic Scouting at Saint Catherine's, open it for me.

Call It what you like, others have tried to. The preceding is a statement of the courage I have to stand by my convictions. What I have come to believe through your teaching. The loyalty and strength of purpose that parts of the scouting program have caused me to have and to pledge. The strength of purpose or faith that our religion demands from each of us. You INSTILLED IT IN ME. through scouting and Catholic schooling you instilled it in me. You are stuck with it till the end of my days for there are not enough years left in my life for you to "de-instill" it. I will have died in and of your hate long before you could get truly started. You offer a human sacrifice to appease the tin gods from afar. Will you continue to do so? Or will you put the teachings of our Lord God Jesus Christ to work. More difficult perhaps in time and effort spent, but not impossible.

If sacrifice you must have, then I will holler and yell, kick and fight right to the end. Even when you have choked the last breath from my body, your rope or mine - makes no difference - dead is dead, you will still hear the screams of a tortured soul. Where does a soul go when it dies in Hell? Tormented by the very people, who having left out the most important information of all that is needed and who having instilled every conceivable value of good, damn me for this one lack, refusing to return their own spoken oath and promises or even the promise that is a shared religion. If you do not know how to do it right you have not been paying much attention to your "spiritual advisors", your priests and teachers in religion throughout your life - start listening to them. You were able to teach it to me over forty years and have me teach our young people how to do it for twenty. You don't know how to live what you teach? Reread your handbook and then do it - just as you require of a younger scout. Need you an example? Look to our camp ranger, he does it. Ask him, perhaps he can tell you how to do it. I was taught to do it and all I can tell anyone is that "I do it because I teach it that way, and as I teach then so I must also live and do. What I will not or cannot live I most certainly will not teach or require of others." - I have no use for a body that is not allowed to be repaired. One that is not allowed to be, under any circumstances, with its closest and most important friends. A body that is not permitted to perform the task God asks of it in this life. Where I go when the task of serving the scouts of Saint Catherine's is finished, I will not need a body. It isn't even any good to me as a respository for the soul. For every day of failing my task bring closer to certain damnation. Every prayer leading to anger and rage. Each mass a lesson in the hypocrisy of those around me. Thus will you live says the Lord through His priests. Aman says the people. Only to put it aside until next week's amen. If the presence of my body among you is so revolting that you cannot accept it. Think how much more it disgusts me, for I too share our values. Its presence offends me beyond even my patience to endure it. And I shall cut it off. And if I put aside one of His teachings in doing so, who can fault me for it? For I have the best example of how to do so right.
here in front of me. Those I have looked to throughout my life, the Catholic Scouts of Saint Catherine's. I will do so if I can ever figure out how to explain to Him how I had so little faith in His promise that I WILL do this only important thing to me that I could not wait for Him to fulfill it.

I will never hear your "I won't". You promised me the tools to do the task you asked me to do. You cheated me and left me to do it anyhow, without the most important of them. Is there any wonder that I made a mistake? You owe me. It is your responsibility even if you inherited it from your predecessor or those "higher up" your conscience should make you deal with it the right way and it should tell you that you must do it and not leave it to your successor. It is impossible for me to ever hear your "I can't". The wheelchair I was supposed to live in for life sits rusting in the garage because I didn't hear "you can't". They said "you can't" to schooling at Saint Catharines, Bergen Catholic; to summer camp and later employment there; to hiking with my troop at Philmont - not once but both times. And I heard them not. To flying a plane, working bulldozer and back hoe - not for you. Not climbing ladders and roofs and building walls and so on. If you have not seen me doing them, look around camp Yaw Paw at the "you can't" I never heard but did them anyhow. Did them because if I listened to "you can't" I would long ago have died a vegetable. Did because God is always with me in my life. His promise that I will do this and knowledge that "With God all things are possible", that hope alone, is all that keeps me alive right now. I ask those who are active in scouting here, especially at Saint Catherine's to bring Him in on this matter, and I suspect that you will find that perhaps after all, you can. Make a little more room for Him in your life and perhaps in doing so you will find you have a very small space for me too.

My humble apologies to Saint Catherine's BSA troop 27 and any others in or outside of the Ridgewood - Glen Rock council who may have been offended by my actions. I am sorry for the broken body that, despite appearances to the contrary, prevented many, and/or modified most of the other, so-called, common or shared experiences that are so taken for granted by all. I am sorry for the ignorance left by that and by those entrusted with my education and training, they having decided not to provide needful information. I am sorry for the dysfunction of my body, masked for so long by that lack of information. And most of all, I am sorry for any act of care, concern and love shared with or however clumsily offered to another that you subsequently and after the fact defined for me as sexual and therefore inappropriate. Whatever the reason you assign, I beg you to forgive me and let me come home.
Troop 27 Council
176 Lawn Rd.
Glenside, Pa 19038

November 13, 1975

Dane Sikes,

I was a member of Troop 27 from 1972 through 1976. In that time, I came up the ranks to Star Scout and I was a Patrol Leader for two years. I participated in almost all activities, the monthly training trips, Summer Camps, one trip to Philmont Scout Ranch, and I was an officer of the local Brotherhood council.

I believe that Scouting is something that has built my self-confidence and a high set of moral values.

I am 27 years old, married for 3 years, we have a 3-year-old son and we are expecting our second child in January. When my son is old enough, I will encourage him to join Scouting. I hope he will be as interested as I was.

I recall my memorable experiences, in Scouting to the most conscientious man I have met, the leader of Boy Scouts. This man is John Renzke. If it was not for John, I would not have stayed in Scouting for the time I did. I have remained in contact with John ever since.

John has informed me about the incident involving a Scout, and told me in depth of the treatment he was undergone by the local team in their field. I believe that this will never happen again now that John has been educated. The greater part of John's life has been dedicated to Scouting. I think that you could make a mistake by not reinstating John Renzke as Scout Master of Troop 27.
If you will not reinstate him the least you could is allow him to devote his valuable time in service to Camp Yan Pan which I am so proud to have donated many hours of my own personal time to. If you need any more information on wish to speak to me you may call me at home (214-202-4007) or we can arrange a meeting during my next visit to New Jersey. Sincerely scheduled for March 1986. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
November 19, 1985

Mr. Steven Higgins
5633 Pearce Street
The Colony, Texas 75056

Dear Mr. Higgins:

We are in receipt of your letter regarding John Denneke. The situation surrounding John’s departure from Troop 27 and his efforts over the past two years to return is sad and complicated. In lengthy letters to us John has explained his hormonal imbalance (his term) and the apparent results of his rehabilitation. We have also seen copies of medical references and prognosis in this regard.

John’s request has been reviewed in depth by our committee, the Pastor of St. Catharine Parish (our sponsor), the Ridgewood/Glen Rock Council, and the Boy Scouts of America national office. All have agreed that, although John is totally disheartened by our decision, the broader long term interests of the troop and council must be served and John should not be permitted back into any role in Troop 27. Regarding the other matter you mention of allowing John to volunteer at Camp Yaw Paw, that decision is beyond the purview of this committee and rests with the national scouting office and the Ridgewood-Glen Rock Council Executive Committee.

Although we consider our written replies to John to be private, let us assure you that we went to great lengths to be honest, clear, and very sensitive in our explanation of this decision. In addition, Msgr. Holmes, our Pastor, met with John on two occasions to explain this decision and also try to convince him to search out other personally fulfilling outlets for service.

We are sure that John appreciates your interest in his quest. For his sake, we hope your involvement has helped soften his frustration and anger with this currently irrevocable decision. If you could convince John to find other avenues for service besides scouting, you would be accomplishing a great deal to help this troubled and angry young man find some peace.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

ST. CATHARINE PARISH SCOUT COMMITTEE
905 Maple Avenue
Glen Rock, N.J. 07452

cc: Ridgewood/Glen Rock Council
Mr. Ben H. Love
Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, Texas 75038

Dear Mr. Love:

Coming from the Northeast Region perhaps you have heard of me. Recently in the decision of December 12 sent me by Mr. Sokolsky, in 1980 when we all found that I had done wrong in learning from the wrong people. Perhaps in any of the years since September 1956 that I have served Troop 27 of the Ridgewood – Glen Rock Council, #359.

It doesn't seem as if I am dealing with those who believe in the values of scouting as I do, those who have taken everything I could give in sharing them with others. Certainly not with those who have had me hunt for if necessary and find the good that is in everyone and then find someway in which to work with that person.

My enclosed reply to Mr. Sokolsky's letter is pretty much self-explanatory though long – but if I am dealing with the same kinds of scouts that have caused me to commit my life to sharing the values of scouting with my troop, then I think that they would give this a different conclusion.

Merry Christmas

[Signature]

John Deneke
Mr. Harold Sokolsky  
Box 350  
Dayton, New Jersey 08810

Dear Mr. Sokolsky:

In our phone conversation of 10 - 16 - 84 at which we set up our supposedly first meeting ( of 10 25 - 84 ) you indicated that I should be prepared to answer, eventually, soul searching questions from many people. Our meeting I understood was a preliminary one and a deeper discussion would follow the submission of additional information. I have been preparing mentally and spiritually since then for the second and what should have been the more important meeting. Your letter of December 12 has it all wrapped up already. Tied with a bow and delivered just in time for Christmas.

How can the BSA have given careful consideration when you have yet to let me present my case? I didn’t even have the doctors’ recommendation in my hands until December 5. Circumstances do often alter cases. You can so easily take the life of a human being? Condemn him, in his absence and without an impartial hearing, to a life sentence. Exiled from home, the one place of meaning, importance, and peace to him on this earth. Excommunicated for life from all his friends and fellow scouts — those who think, act, live and do the same values, ideals, and interests as himself; never to do anything of importance to him again for the rest of his life. How can your best interests be served by repudiating in the sight of many the values and ways of dealing with other people that you are in the business to promote and which you require others to live. Is there no appeal, no way in which to reduce the term of sentence? Must I pay for this innocently and unintentionally incurred debt with every breath I take all the days of my life without being permitted to at least be working actively at reducing it?

There are those around me who would help return me to some functioning place. All but one are volunteers. But the paid people step in and prevent this. It is almost as if there are two BSAs. One with its paid people who have their own books, values and training which they do not share with the bulk of their members. And the rest of us who use other books and values supplied by you which do not contain all the information that you have. We can rightly expect you to follow the values that you supply us, but how can you expect us to accept and follow your instructions and decrees made to some other standard when they conflict with values followed by some of us for a lifetime? For example: In our brief discussion you expressed the view that the BSA is rapidly anti homosexual. Not by the values of the scout law — quite the contrary. 10% of the population of the world is born or formed ( by age 7 to 9 ) this way and the experts admit that they don’t definitely know why or how. To make a homosexual into a heterosexual ( or vice versa for that matter ) is an extremely long, difficult, expensive and time consuming process which is almost totally dependent on the patient’s motivation and determination to convert from one to the other. Do you give this person, when he or she discovers it at whatever age, the chance to choose one over the other? Scouting or his sexual orientation? I am glad I never will have to choose between the two. Yes I have had some such experiences but then again so has 60% of the population of this country at one time or another in their lives. I have even had a vasectomy because I wanted to have the heterosexual experiences others around me said that they preferred and which I cared, right near the end, to realize could never happen as long as there was more than zero percent chance of conceiving a new life and putting another through an experience that I would not accept for myself for anything. How can any man ever at any time put himself where he could accidently create a new life that he was not fully ready, willing and able to care for? This is the expressed policy of the BSA (professional) and conflicts with several of the scout laws and is not expressed in either the Scout handbook or the Scoutmaster’s handbook. A single sentence added to the part of the (new to me) Scoutmaster’s handbook dealing with the sending of the homosexual scout for help would make it part of our literature. "... assist him in securing help." Simply add For it is not possible for one to be both a homosexual and a scout at the same time. I don’t know, but does being a professional bypass the values required of the others? Did he never really learn them or has time and occupation put them so far away that they have lost some of the hold that they should have on his decisions? The business man with wealth, power and influence versus the little guy who may possibly have only the simpler values to hold on to. Perhaps only a job to the professional who could easily take his skills and abilities elsewhere. We each work(ed) at it some 2000 hours each year, the professional gets his paycheck and livelihood and I get no more than the satisfaction of doing what is the most important thing of this world; it is my life.
Last night at mass I was sought out by a currently active scout. One that I had guided through his first year of scouting in my troop. In the presence of his parents, he shook my hand and wished me a Merry Christmas. All three knowing what had happened, all not why. All three watching without knowing the details of, how hard I am working to right the wrong that for whatever reason I had done. How will you explain your hypocrisy to them? How will you, or will you even bother, soothe the hurt and dispel the disillusionment suffered by one of the most important members of our local scouting community? Who did and would help me and who believes in our basic teachings and who knows me well enough to dispute your claim that I am totally and completely and utterly worthless, useless now and forever. Not salvageable under any conditions, for any purpose whatsoever.

What will you tell the scout who has already asked, "That's not fair, you have already satisfied the doctors, and it isn't the way they make us do it. And anyhow why can't you do something where you are not working directly with the boys of your troop for a while?" He knows - it happened in his troop too (but nobody thought to get the boy to proper medical attention). He probably would have been involved with me if I had not been made aware of the wrong that I had been doing. Even strongly suspecting that he had been a very close potential victim back then, his reaction to hearing the beginnings of my story was "Thank you for telling me". Exactly the same as I would expect from any scout because scouting taught me to react that way. The concept of an unpardonable sin in others does not exist in my mind because of my training in catholic scouting.

The most widely used and accepted way of healing a rift between peoples is good honest hard work by the wrongdoer alongside of, or at least in view of those he has offended. The experts have said that this should have started right away for the best benefit of all, especially the young people involved (who are now all 5 years older and probably all out of view). Without commitment, promise or anything from others, I have worked at it this way. Giving over 800 hours of community service to scouting at and for Camp Yaw Paw in 1981, 1983 and 1984. With 97 % of it between October 20, 1983 and October 4 of this year. I have worked with men who have known me since I was a boy and with others who grew up with me in scouting here. All of them expect the extra hard work from me for this is the way I have always reacted to the needs of our council at camp. I do not know how many know of my illness, it wasn't publicized. How many did Mr. Fillippsky, and just recently Mr. Fenrose call? Those who don't know accept it as my normal response; those who do, see me breaking my back to right a wrong that they do not know I had no intention of committing. I have worked alongside of and even given direction to men from my church that do know. Even providing transportation for the one man who for 20 years has never been afraid to take me to task over anything he considered incorrect, without so much as a question to me or to my presence. Is there no longer any positive example to others in the sight of one surviving with all his might to right a wrong that for whatever reason he has committed? Working hard without having a chance to enjoy any of the fun. Absolutely none? I have made much progress at making peace with those around me because I could, on occasion, be where the people I had to reach might be. Would you purposely build this healing process that must and will go on until I am at peace with every member of my troop - past and present, young and old? I know that given time this can be done. Is it not the right of those around me, who know me, to determine whether or not I am fit for anything or not? Do you know me so well as to be able to make that decision fairly? Are you close enough to what is going on to recognize and see the attitude and willingness to learn and to work hard that I can, do and will show to those who are around me? Or has recognition of these values in others gone away too? Are you so afraid that the little merit gained each hour, as it is supposed to do, will in time erase the debt I have incurred?

I have fought a permanent, incurable and disbelieving illness every day of my life since age seven, one that was supposed to put me in a wheelchair for life. The chair is still there in the future and a whole lot closer than I would like. One that prevented a normal, despite appearances, interaction with others. It throws out almost any and all assumptions that you would make based on your own experiences while growing up. Think about it - for many years longer than normal almost anywhere the boy went a parent had to go too, for transportation or because no one would have the crippled child without the parent or some other close supervision. An illness that isolated me almost totally from others all during schooling and for some time after. Counseling has pointed out that even now it does so, for people find it harder and more difficult to deal with one who has a disability and therefore most take the easy way out, they don't. You people found out at the same time I did that I had this second illness. Your Mr. Fillippsky and our Msgr. Holmes sent me to someone - a detective as it turned out who took the information and advised me that I had a curable illness and provided a doctor's name with the help of devotion of youth and family services. His boss the prosecutor said that he
was only going to stick with it" to ensure that I went to and continued treatment to the end (which was the fall of 1982) so as not to have it reoccur. The judge said that I was to go to see the doctor and report back about it for three years. The state diagnostic and treatment center for this checked me out and in effect said that I was not compulsive, not habitual and not severe enough for them to bother with. The doctors said it was no problem, and these are not some general practitioners but people who have spent many many years researching and dealing with human sexuality. They provided lots of information most of which I had been unaware of and most importantly lowered my sex drive to where it should normally have been for me by reducing the testosterone level in my body (the reason I continue with them, to get the drug which is very new to this use, is that the agreement is to continue monitoring for side effects and bi-weekly reporting so as to judge its effectiveness; this for as long as practical which is OK by me and the term is indefinite at this point.). The hormone level cannot be changed without drugs, the mind has no control over it and it cannot be recognized as a problem without considerable sexual knowledge. I have successfully fought this second and curable illness and will continue to fight its effects along with the polio. I will really know the cure when it is recognized by the people of my Church and I can stand in the presence of the members of my troop there. I find it impossible to believe that you would have so little trust in those kinds of experts that you would go to when you find or think you have a medical problem; if you even recognize it before some episode makes it known, clear to all and public knowledge.

Will you insist that I carry this ignominiously earned title with me to the grave? Doesn't one have to work at keeping a title, however earned, in order for it to continue to be applicable? I have not only worked very hard to shed this unintentionally earned title during the last 4½ years but have worked so very much harder and longer to earn and keep the title of scout. I will continue to do both. Can you honestly and with a clear conscience condone a person anywhere, anytime, anywhere for anything done in ignorance, due to misinformation provided by normally acceptable and reliable sources? Due to an organic or physical malfunction unknown and unsuspected? Can you really in your heart hold that person morally responsible? Have you forgotten the value of moral support as it is called, the encouragement, hope and outright help of one's friends that is so vital to successfully combating any sickness?

When we met on 10-25 I had driven there in a car belonging to one of my victims. We have come to terms to such an extent that we can even fly together, a situation where there must be complete and total trust in whoever is doing the piloting and absolutely no tension between the pilots. At that meeting where we never even got to discuss at all how there couldn't be a reoccurrence of my illness; you are one who is an exception to the statement in our current Scoutmaster's handbook (a far more informative section than I had to work with, but still incomplete). "A boy of 15 or so cannot be assumed to be acting out of innocence." I was not only innocent at 15, but at 25 and still very much so, just beginning to reach out to others this way, at 34 when my ignorance was exposed to all, myself included. Sex education had been left to "Mr. Some Body Else" who turned out to be, and late at that, some of the young men around me were quite sexually active. No one else had ever cared enough or thought enough of it to share this skill and knowledge with me. Especially one of those 15 year olds mentioned above. He was able, with knowledge and experience ask for and share with words and discriptions I later found to be correct. The training received from BSA, the only guidelines to working with young people as I have done since 19, has been summed up more than once as "They are not children (kids), they are young men. Treat them the same as you would any other person." I saw from afar how he was treated, the same way scouting has taught me to deal with all people. How can it never ever be made to work for me? Did this learning experience cause me to cease to be another person? He was granted immediate continuance and yet he walks around with a 40% chance of doing the same as I did. My fault. If he isn't still in scouting, I know him well enough to beleive that there is a 90-95% chance he will be again.

The BSA gave me all sorts of training. Making Sure that I could tie a knot, check a membe, dig a latrine, fill out a form and which one and so on. You assumed nothing that was important when it came to dealing with scouts. But absolutely nothing on human sexuality as it applied to young men even, was it assumed that "Some Body Else" supplied it? No one ever mentioned that young people of scout age go through a strong homosexual phase or that it was possible to actually and physically love them. Until I had started treatment NO ONE, NO HUMAN BEING, NO GROUP OF PEOPLE HAD EVER DISCUSSED THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MY PRESENCE IN ANY MANNER, SHAPE, OR FORM. "WHY?" What of the other 59 unreported incidents that went on for my one reported one. And yet your book tells you that I can never or ever recover recover from this experience. No matter how or why;
or what I do in the future, there is absolutely no possibility of recovery from it. All this contrary to the ways of living and dealing with others that you require of through the books that you supply us. The values you are in business to promote which say that it is possible and demands that it be given a chance. An illness that was guaranteed to occur as surely as if the people around me purposely arranged things so that it could happen. You would destroy the entire foundation of and a man’s life over it without even a full and impartial hearing. You would convince me that I have lived a gigantic lie all my life? To have perpetuated such a snarky hoax all these years on those around me would be a crime so much greater than any you could conceive of me ever having actually committed. Aren’t these values supposed to be used and held to even when things go wrong? You would repudiate the entire system of values that we share without doing it face to face? You have to do it by letter, Mr. Penrose did it by letter and I suspect he was shamed into delivering it by hand and he was best read the entire time he was in my house and he had to let the letter speak for him. You feel the wrongness in flushing a human being, one of your own people for years and years, down the sewer perhaps? Instead should you not be looking, as we have been taught to do, for some good, however small, and finding some way in which to use it?

Did the discovery of this turn me instantaneously into evil incarnate? With every good and the ability to do good completely wiped out? Do you expect 30 years of living the values of scouting and sharing them with others to disappear and go away by decree? Is the drive and determination that all around applauded as dedication and devotion to my troop going to go away anytime short of my death? Especially when my commitment to serving God in this life is to use every resource at my command to bring the best possible catholic scouting program to the youth of Saint Catherine for as long as I live. Within two days at wood badge, the other men recognized my sensitivity and my total devotion to my troop. And by the end of the week one was able to say "You are too god damned honest for this world." Yet I could not complete even the course there for I was unable to honestly set attainable goals in more than one area for I was totally committed and already doing the best I could.

The motivation to do this by through things it really wouldn’t do has been scouting. The only real motivation to doing my best throughout my treatment has been to be fit to fulfill my obligations to my troop to eventually be able to support it as much as possible under whatever restrictions might be found necessary by our committee. It is not possible to present to me a curable illness and not have me working unceasingly my life when I do daily fight the one that is incurable. I get satisfaction and fulfillment from sharing scouting with the youth of my parish far beyond anything anyone could or would pay me for. The recent advice of a priest when my motivation was questioned was "As long as you do it for love of God, neighbor and self, regardless of what others may think of your motivation, do it. You may even on occasion have to break the prohibitions put forth by others."

The time has long since past when I need a piece of paper to tell me or those around me that I am a scout. [I am however careful not to present myself as a registered representative of the SSA ] Its lack only prevents me from sharing the joys and rewards that come from scouting. No declaration or decree can or will unmake this scout unless it is possible to also destroy in him all the values of scouting. This experience has made me a better scout not a worse one. Almost everywhere I go I am known as a scout. I do not have a single friend, young or old, who is not now a scout or who was not previously a scout. My disability marks me as a figure that is hard to forget. My virtually one of a kind vehicle has been known all over the area as that of a scout for 13 years. I can still go into a store and be greeted by "Here comes the scouts" Almost no one who knows more than my name and face doesn’t know or soon find out from others that I am a scout and that scouting comes first before anything else in my life. And as Dr. Martin Luther King jnr. said it "A man isn’t a man unless he has something he is willing to die for." Scouting is my only claim to that title. The same knowledge to the young people with whom I interact almost daily. It is obvious after knowing me only a short time. I WAS WRONG. BUT I WAS NOT UNCERTAIN in the information that I had acted on and not a single young person has been in danger since the day I was given the correct information. Not the scouts I saw on that very day or the one that visited with me this afternoon or any of the other young people who have been around me inbetween. Some are, have been or occasionally will be scouts; in my town and in others. Some know my history, most do not. While I must leave the specific working on scouting with those who are scouts to their registered leaders, I do and will continue to encourage them and to promote scouting at every opportunity for I know that it works when everyone gives it a chance to.
Scouting teaches one to stand up for what is right even if others laugh or threaten him. It has caused me to swear an oath to help other people at all times and to do my duty to God. On the night of my Vigil Honor ordeal, in addition to the ceremonies themselves, I stood before my God and vowed to bring catholic scouting to the young men of Saint Catherine, using every resource I could command for as long as I shall live. When you attack this commitment you attack my faith. So far I have withstood all attacks on it. To turn my back on it would be to deliberately dampen my soul and I will not do that deliberately. I must and I will find some way to do my duty to God. Even in the face of this adversity, it is right for those at all levels to be guided by the basic values that we share with the young people around us. It is right and proper to fight for letting these be used by those who would use them toward one who got involved in something beyond his skill, knowlage and experience. Some people have fought for a hopeless cause even to the forfiture of their life, in the belief that what they were doing was right, and they were later declared "hero".

You said it several times in our conversation - over my denials and you state it in your letter. I did not then and do not now request re-entry as a volunteer leader. That I want it and will always work to earn it should by now be obvious. But I will not request it from region or national until I have earned the backing and support of my troop committee, my church its sponsor, and the volunteers in the council who know me. I ask only for the opportunity to work at redeeming myself in front of or at least in view of those of my friends and fellow scouts who were and/or are offended by my illness (especially our local professional). At the local council level by working at Camp Yaw Paw where I have already made such a good start (with the knowledge of and I had thought the blessing of your professional as I had talked with him on the phone from there several times, twice when I was the sole occupant of camp). And at the troop level where an equal opportunity exists that I know I should eventually take advantage of if you would lift the prohibition placed on them recognizing my existence. I caused a building to be built at my church for us to recycle newspapers. It is a regular, on-going and almost daily thing that can be done with no one or only another adult. I will some how, some way, some day make amends with these people, even if with no others for I must work at fulfilling my vows and be at peace with those with whom I worship on Sundays. Will you threaten them with loss of charter or whatever if they, however belatedly, come to realize their obligations? After all the charter belongs to the sponsor who can and should give direction to the troop. They may remember as scouts to help one of their people, as catholics for several reasons including perhaps that we pray together ".... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Can there not be a reconsideration at this time or the near future where it would be possible for me to present my case to others? Hopefully those who have lived as close to the basic values of boy scouting for as long as I have and who are not required by their book to reject me simply because at one time I learned something twenty years too late from the wrong teachers.

Today the Christian world celebrates the birth of a Man. A Man whose teachings are reflected in every part of being a scout. May He grant guidance and inspire to all and the courage for each of us to do what we know in our hearts is right.

John Denker

John Denker
December 12, 1984

Mr. John Denke  
P.O. Box 1001  
Glen Rock, NJ 07452

Dear Mr. Denke:

Your request for re-entry as a volunteer leader of the Boy Scouts of America has received careful consideration.

I regret to inform you that for the best interest of Scouting we cannot let you serve in any membership capacity, nor permit you to be associated in any way, including your desire to help with projects in camp where there is no direct youth involvement.

This is a difficult conclusion for us to make, but our best interests must take precedence over your personal wishes.

Sincerely,

Harold Sokolsky  
Regional Administrator

cc: Frank O. Penrose, Jr., Scout Executive, #359  
    Paul I. Ernst, National, S108

Located on Route 130 and Georges Road in South Brunswick, New Jersey
Boy Scouts of America  
1325 Walnut Hill Lane  
Irving, Texas 75062  

P. O. Box 1001  
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452  

R. Easter Sunday 1985  

Mr. Paul Ernst:  

In reference to your letter of January 23 1985:  

With all due respect sir I have made no application to anyone for reregistration. Any indications that I have done so are based on misinformation and assumptions. I tried to correct Mr. Sokolosky when he said it in our one meeting. And again at Christmas in my letter when he had written it as so. If such a request comes, 5 - 10 - 15 - 20 years or when ever, it will come from my fellow scouts at Saint Catharine church and I said so at Christmas. Perhaps such an assumption is why I was told by Mr. Penrose to go see someone at region in the first place. Unless it be that I was working too hard at paying a debt that becomes greater and more important to work at paying with every rejection of my feeble efforts to repay it.  

My sole purpose in visiting region in October, any and all documentation presented, and the purpose of my appeal at Christmas was and is to be able to continue to work at redeeming myself in front of my fellow scouts here in Glen Rock for being so ignorant of and unfamiliar with all of human sexuality that I could make a mistake that you all now refuse even the human necessity of an opportunity to work at redeeming oneself in view of those one has offended. You have the resources to let that continue: A camp ranger and his family willing to live what you and we teach to others and give me the opportunity to work at it by helping him at camp on weekdays. Even those few other adults I came in contact with accepted that. And we all knew that it is possible for me to work quietly and out of sight in that manner for we have already cooperated to do so for a year and some 750 hours. Coming when asked to, staying home when scouts were expected. Doing anything that was asked. And I was not told by anyone why it had to stop. It has never been required for a person to be registered to help out at camp.  

I did not ask or seek opportunities to be allowed in contact with our young scouts or for any recognition of any kind for the time I put in, and I would not have contacted national, region, council or troop about anything for a long long time, if ever, for I had found an acceptable way to work at righting a wrong I had done. To do as we have been taught to do: namely work as hard as possible for as long as it takes (even if that is a lifetime) to satisfy everyone who was offended by something we might have done that it was unintentional and not going to be repeated. With or without the help, support or permission of my fellow scouts I will do so even if that task is known to require more time then I will live. You people have the ability to permit that "working at" to be fruitful and contributing to scouting.  

With or without the help and support of my fellow scouts I will seek for ways to redeem myself in view of all my fellow scouts here in Glen Rock every day of the rest of my existence. Asking everyone: the members of my church, the men who guided me as a young scout, my former scouts and their families and any of those I know active or not in scouting to help me obtain that chance. I will ask them where are the true scouts like Ray Banta and those others who taught me that our values must be lived at all times and at any cost, even in our business decisions? I will ask if
anyone is willing to help or provide an opportunity for me to square things with my fellow scouts for something wrong that I knew was not wrong at the time. So that some day I will be at peace with them and acceptable, even in some small way, in their presence. I will continue to pray that my excommunication will someday be lifted far enough for me to be permitted to visit my friend and a true scout and to help him with what needs doing on that day.

Do all of you really find it so hard to live in the way that you teach to and require of others? Does it really cost you so much to allow me to work in that way at reconciliation with the people of my troop, church, and council?

Why should I accept anything less from the scouts of my troop, church, and council than what Catholic Scouting has demanded and freely received from me throughout the last thirty years?

John Denette

[Signature]
January 23, 1985

Mr. John Deneke
P.O. Box 1001
Glen Rock, N.J. 07452

Dear Mr. Deneke:


We have had communication with your troop and with the Ridgewood & Glen Rock Council concerning your registration. At the present time, we must agree with the unit regarding your registration and feel that we could not accept your involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. We certainly wish you the best in any other ventures in which you are involved but ask that you refrain from trying to register with the Boy Scouts.

We regret this difficult decision but must stand by the best interest of the youth of America.

Sincerely,

Paul Ernst, Director
Registration, Subscription & Statistical Service

cc: Council 359
Mr. Paul I. Ernst, National, S108
Boy Scouts of America
1325 Walnut Hill Lane
Irving, Texas 75038

Dear Mr. Ernst:

I do not know your position, but as Mr. Sokolsky sent you his letter of December 12, 1984. I am sending you my reply.

It doesn't seem as if I am dealing with those who believe in the values of scouting as I do, those who have taken everything I could give in sharing them with others. Certainly not with those who have had me hunt for if necessary and find the good that is in everyone and then find someway in which to work with that person.

My enclosed reply to Mr. Sokolsky's letter is pretty much self explanatory though long - but if I am dealing with the same kinds of scouts that have caused me to commit my life to sharing the values of scouting with my troop, then I think that they would give this a different conclusion.

Merry Christmas

[Signature]

F. STARON
JAN 7 1985
John Deneke

To Whom It May Concern:

Mr. John Deneke is currently in treatment in our clinic to reduce his sexual drive. He had completed the standard psychological treatment given here at the clinic, but returned in Fall of 1983 voluntarily, when he felt further treatment was necessary. He was placed on Provera, a medication which he has taken daily for the past year. This medicine has been shown to decrease sexual arousal and drive. We have been following his response on a weekly basis and he has shown no recurrence of interest in sexually deviant or inappropriate behavior while on the medication.

Based on the above, it is my feeling that Mr. Deneke have a trial of returning to scouting as long as he continues on this medication, that he continues to be seen at the clinic every two weeks, that he has regular blood tests to insure that he is taking the medication, and that he has regular lab measurements to determine his level of sexual arousal. As long as he complies with this, his chances of engaging in sexually inappropriate behavior would be less than 5%. The Boy Scouts of America must make the decision as to whether or not Mr. Deneke can be involved in scouting, but if you have any further questions, please contact me at 960-5851.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Kavoussi, M.D.

RK:cls

November 20, 1984
Mr. Harold Sokolsky  
Box 350  
Dayton, New Jersey 08810  

Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452  
Christmas Day 1984  

Dear Mr. Sokolsky:

In our phone conversation of 10 - 16 - 84 at which we set up our supposedly first meeting (of 10 25 - 84) you indicated that I should be prepared to answer, eventually, soul searching questions from many people. Our meeting I understood was a preliminary one and a deeper discussion would follow the submission of additional information. I have been preparing mentally and spiritually since then for the second and what should have been the more important meeting. Your letter of December 12 has it all wrapped up already. Thed with a bow and delivered just in time for Christmas.

How can the RSA have given careful consideration when you have yet to let me present my case? I didn't even have the doctors' recommendation in my hands until December 5. Circumstances do often alter cases. You can so easily take the life of a human being? Condemn him, in his absence and without an impartial hearing, to a life sentence. Exiled from home, the one place of meaning, importance, and peace to him on this earth. Excommunicated for life from all his friends and fellow scouts — those who think, act, live and do the same values, ideals, and interests as himself; never to do anything of importance to him again for the rest of his life. How can your best interests be served by repudiating in the sight of many the values and ways of dealing with other people that you are in the business to promote and which you require others to live. Is there no appeal, no way in which to reduce the term of sentence? Must I pay for this innocently and unintentionally incurred debt with every breath I take all the days of my life without being permitted to at least be working actively at reducing it?

There are those around me who would help return me to some functioning place. All but one are volunteers. But the paid people step in and prevent this. It is almost as if there are two RSAs. One with its paid people who have their own books, values and training which they do not share with the bulk of their members. And the rest of us who use other books and values supplied by you which do not contain all the information that you have. We can rightly expect you to follow the values that you supply us, but how can you expect us to accept and follow your instructions and decrees made to some other standard when they conflict with values followed by some of us for a lifetime? For example:

In our brief discussion you expressed the view that the RSA is rabidly anti-homosexual. Not by the values of the scout law — quite the contrary. 10% of the population of the world is born or formed (by age 7 to 9) this way and the experts admit that they don't definitely know why or how. To make a homosexual into a heterosexual (or vice versa for that matter) is an extremely long, difficult, expensive and time consuming process which is almost totally dependent on the patient's motivation and determination to convert from one to the other. Do you give this person, when he or she discovers it at whatever age, the chance to choose one over the other? Scouting or his sexual orientation? I am glad I never will have to choose between the two. Yes I have had some such experiences but then again so has 60% of the population of this country at one time or another in their lives. I have even had a vasectomy because I wanted to have the heterosexual experiences others around me said that they preferred and which I came, right near the end, to realize could never happen as long as there was more than zero percent chance of conceiving a new life and putting another through an experience that I would not accept for myself for anything. How can any man ever at any time put himself where he could accidently create a new life that he was not fully ready, willing and able to care for? This is the expressed policy of the RSA (professional) and conflicts with several of the scout laws and is not expressed in either the Scout handbook or the Scoutmaster's handbook. A single sentence added to the part of the (new to me) Scoutmaster's handbook dealing with the sending of the homosexual scout for help would make it part of our literature. "... assist him in securing help." Simply add For it is not possible for one to be both a homosexual and a scout at the same time. I don't know, but does being a professional bypass the values required of the others? Did he never really learn them or has time and occupation put them so far away that they have lost some of the hold that they should have on his decisions? The business man with wealth, power and influence versus the little guy who may possibly have only the simpler values to hold on to. Perhaps only a job to the professional who could easily take his skills and abilities elsewhere. We each work(ed) at it some 2000 hours each year, the professional gets his paycheck and livelihood and I get no more than the satisfaction of doing what is the most important thing of this world; it is my life.
through his first year of scouting in my troop. In the presence of his parents, he shook my hand and wished me a Merry Christmas. All three knowing what had happened, not why. All three watching without knowing the details of, how hard I am working to right the wrong that for whatever reason I had done. How will you explain your hypocrisy to them? How will you, or will you even bother, soothe the hurt and dispel the disillusionment suffered by one of the most important members of our local scouting community? Who did and would help me and who believes in our basic teachings and who knows me well enough to dispute your claim that I am totally and completely and utterly worthless, useless now and forever. Not salvagable under any conditions, for any purpose whatsoever.

What will you tell the scout who has already asked? "That's not fair, you have already satisfied the doctors, and it isn't the way they make us do it. And anyhow why can't you do something where you are not working directly with the boys of your troop for a while?" He knows — it happened in his troop too (but nobody thought to get the men to proper medical attention). He probably would have been involved with me if I had not been made aware of the wrong that I had been doing. Even strongly suspecting that he had been a very close potential victim back then, his reaction to hearing the beginnings of my history was "Thank you for telling me". Exactly the same as I would expect from any scout because scouting taught me to react that way. The concept of an unpardonable sin in others does not exist in my mind because of my training in catholic scouting.

The most widely used and accepted way of healing a rift between peoples is good honest hard work by the wrongdoer alongside of, or at least in view of those he has offended. The experts have said that this should have started right away for the best benefit of all, especially the young people involved (who are not even 5 years old and probably all out of view). Without commitment, promise or anything from others, I have worked at this way. Giving over 600 hours of community service to scouting and for Camp Yaw Paw in 1981, 1983 and 1984. With 97% of it between October 20, 1983 and October 4 of this year. I have worked with men who have known me since I was a boy and with others who grew up with me in scouting here. All of them expect the extra hard work from me for this is the way I have always reacted to the needs of our council at camp. I do not know how many know of my illness, it wasn't publicized. How many did Mr. Fillipsky, and just recently Mr. Peterson talk? Those who don't know accept it as my normal response; those do, see me breaking my back to right a wrong that they do not know I had no intention of committing. I have worked alongside of and given direction to men from my church that do know. Even providing transportation for the one man who for 20 years has never been afraid to take me to task over anything he considered incorrect, without such as a question to me or to my presence. Is there no longer any positive example to others in the sight of one surviving with all his might to right a wrong that for whatever reason he has committed? Working hard without having a chance to enjoy any of the fun. Absolutely none? I have made much progress at making peace with those around me because I could, on occasion, be where the people I had to reach might be. Would you purposely halt this healing process that must and will go on until I am at peace with every member of my troop — past and present, young and old? I know that given time this can be done. Is it not the right of those around me, who know me, to determine weather or not I am fit for anything or not? Do you know me well enough to be able to make that decision fairly? Are you close enough to what is going on to recognize and see the attitude and willingness to learn and to work hard that I can, do and will show to those who are around me? Or how recognition of these values in others gone away too? Are you so afraid that the little merit gained each hour, as it is supposed to do, will in time erase the debt I have incurred?

I have fought a permanent, incurable and disabeling illness every day of my life since age seven. one that was supposed to put me in a wheelchair for life. The chair is still there in the future and a whole lot closer than I would like. One that prevent a normal, despite appearances, interaction with others. It throws out almost any and all assumptions that you would make based on your own experiences while growing up. Think about it — for many years longer than normal almost anywhere the boy went a parent had to go too, for transportation or because no one would have the crippled child without the parent or some other close supervision. An illness that isolated me almost totally from others all during schooling and for some time after. Counseling has pointed out that even now it does so, for people find it harder and more difficult to deal with one who has a disability and therefore most take the easy way out, they don't. You people found out at the same time I did that I had this second illness. Your Mr. Fillipsky and our Magr. Holmes sent me to someone — a detective as it turned out who took the information and advised me that I had a curable illness and provided a doctor's name with the help of deviation of youth and family services. His boss the prosecutor said that he
(which was the fall of 1962) so as not to have it recur. The judge said that I was to go to see the doctor and report back about it for three years. The state diagnostic and treatment center for this checked me out and said that I was not compulsive, habitual and not severe enough for them to bother with. The doctors said it was no problem, and these are not some general practitioners but people who have spent many many years researching and dealing with human sexuality. They provided lots of information most of which I had been aware of and most importantly lowered my sex drive to where it should normally have been for me by reducing the testosterone level in my body ( the reason I continue with them, to get the drug which is very new to this use, is that the agreement is to continue monitoring for side effects and bi-weekly reporting so as to judge its effectiveness; this for as long as practical which is OK by me and the term is indefinite at this point.). The hormone level cannot be changed without drugs, the mind has no control over it and it cannot be recognized as a problem without considered sexual knowledge. I have successfully fought this second and curable illness and will continue to fight its effects along with the polio. I will really know the cure when it is recognized by the people of my Church and I can stand in the presence of the members of my troop there. I find it impossible to believe that you would have so little trust in those kinds of experts that you would go to when you find or think you have a medical problem; if you even recognize it before some episode makes it known, clear to all and public knowledge.

Will you insist that I carry this ignorantly earned title with me to the grave? Doesn’t one have to work at keeping a title, however earned, in order for it to continue to be applicable? I have only worked very hard to shed this unintentionally earned title during the last 1/2 years but have worked so very much harder and longer to earn and keep the title of Scout. I will continue to do both. Can you honestly and with a clear conscience condemn a person anywhere, anytime, anywhere for anything done in ignorance, due to misinformation provided by normally acceptable and reliable sources? Due to an organic or physical malfunction unknown and unsuspected? Can you really in your heart hold that person morally responsible? Have you forgotten the value of moral support as it is called, the encouragement, hope and outright help of one’s friends that is so vital to successfully combating any sickness?

When we met on 10-25 I had driven there in a car belonging to one of my victims. We have come to terms to such an extent that we can even fly together, a situation where there must be complete and total trust in whoever is doing the piloting and absolutely no tension between the pilots. At that meeting where we never even got to discuss at all how there couldn’t be a recurrence of my illness, you met one who is an exception to the statement in-out current Scoutmaster’s handbook (a far more informative section than I had to work with, but still incomplete). "A boy of 15 or so cannot be assumed to be acting out of innocence." I was not only innocent at 15, but at 25 and still very much so, just beginning to reach out to others this way, at 34 when my ignorance was exposed to all, myself included. Sex education had been left to "Mr. Some Body Else" who turned out to be, and late at that, some of the young men around me who were quite sexually active. No one else had ever cared enough or thought enough of it to share this skill and knowledge with me. Especially one of those 15 year olds mentioned above. He was able, with knowledge and experience ask for and share with words and discourses I later found to be correct. The training received from BSA, the only guidelines to working with young people as I have done since 19, has been summed up more than once as "They are not children (kids) they are young men. Treat them the same as you would any other person." I saw from afar how he was treated, the same way scouting has taught me to deal with all people. How can it never ever be made to work for me? Did this learning experience cause me to cease to be another person? He was granted immediate continence and yet he walks around with a 40% chance of doing the same as I did. My fault. If he isn’t still in scouting, I know him well enough to believe that there is a 90-95% chance he will be again.

The BSA gave me all sorts of training. Making Sure that I could tie a knot, check a means, dig a latrine, fill out a form and which one and so on. You assumed nothing that was important when it came to dealing with scouts, but absolutely nothing on human sexuality as it applied to young men even, was it assumed that "Some Body Else" supplied it? No one ever mentioned that young people of scout age go through a strong homosexual phase or that it was possible to actually and physically love them. Until I had started treatment NO ONE, NO HUMAN BEING, NO GROUP OF PEOPLE HAD EVER DISCUSSED THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MY PRESENCE IN ANY MANNER, SHAPE OR FORM. "WHY?" What of the other 59 unreported incidents that went on for my one reported one. And yet your book tells you that I can never ever recover recover from this experience. No matter how or why;
to the ways of living and dealing with others that you require of us through the books that you supply us. The values you are in business to promote which say that it IS possible and demands that it be given a chance. An illness that was guaranteed to occur as surely as the people around me purpose, arranged things so that it could happen. You would destroy the entire foundation of and a man's life over it without even a full and impartial hearing. You would convince me that I have lived a gigantic lie all my life? To have perpetuated such a monumental hoax all these years on those around me would be a crime so much greater than any you could conceive of me ever having actually committed. Aren't these values supposed to be used and held to even when things go wrong? You would repudiate the entire system of values that we share without doing it face to face? You have to do it by letter, Mr. Penrose did it by letter and I suspect he was ashamed of delivering it by hand and he was best red the entire time he was in my house and he had to let the letter speak for him. You feel the wrongness in flushing a human being, one of your own people for years and years, down the sewer perhaps? Instead should you not be looking, as we have been taught to do, for some good, however small, and finding some way in which to use it?

Did the discovery of this turn me instantly into evil incarnate? With every good and the ability to do good completely wiped out? Do you expect 30 years of living the values of scouting and sharing them with others to disappear and go away by decree? Is the drive and determination that all around applauded as dedication and devotion to my troop going to go away anytime short of my death? Especially when my commitment to serving God in this life is to use every resource at my command to bring the best possible catholic scouting program to the youth of Saint Catherine for as long as I live. Within two days at wood badge, the other men recognized my sensitivity and my total devotion to my troop. And by the end of the week one was able to say "You are too god damned honest for this world." Yet I could not complete even the course there for I was unable to honestly set attainable goals in more than one area for I was totally committed and already doing the best I could.

The motivation to push this body through things it really wouldn't do has been scouting. The only real motivation to doing my best throughout my treatment has been to fit to fulfill my obligations to my troop- to eventually be able to support it as much as possible under whatever restrictions might be found necessary by our committee. It is not possible to present to me a curable illness and not have me working unceasingly in my life when I do daily fight the one that is incurable. I get satisfaction and fulfillment from sharing scouting with the youth of my parish far beyond anything anyone could or would pay me for. The recent advice of a priest when my motivation was questioned was "As long as you do it for love of God, neighbor and self, regardless of what others may think of your motivation, do it. You may even on occasion have to break the prohibitions put forth by others."

The time has long since passed when I need a piece of paper to tell me or those around me that I am a scout. [ I am however careful not to present myself as a registered representative of the RSA ] Its lack only prevents me from sharing the joys and rewards that come from scouting. No declaration or decree can or will unmake this scout unless it is possible to also destroy in him all the values of scouting. This experience has made me a better scout not a worse one. Almost everywhere I go I am known as a scout. I do not have a single friend, young or old, who is not now a scout or who was not previously a scout. My disability marks me as a figure that is hard to forget. My virtually one of a kind vehicle has been known all over the area as that of a scout for 18 years. I can still go into a store and be greeted by "Here comes the scouts." Almost no one who knows more than my name and face doesn't know or soon find out from others that I am a scout and that scouting comes first before anything else in my life. And as Dr. Martin Luther King jr. said it "A man isn't a man unless he has something he is willing to die for." Scouting is my only claim to that title. The same knowledge to the young people with whom I interact almost daily. It is obvious after knowing me only a short time. I WAS WRONG. BUT I WAS NOT UNCERTAIN in the information that I had acted on and not a single young person has been in danger since the day I was given the correct information. Not the scouts. I saw on that very day or the one that visited with me this afternoon or any of the other young people who have been around me inbetween. Some are, have been or occasionally will be scouts; in my town and in others. Some know my history, most do not. While I must leave the specific working on scouting with those who are scouts to their registered leaders, I do and will continue to encourage them and to promote scouting at every opportunity for I know that it works when everyone gives it a chance to.
Scouting teaches us to stand up for what is right even if others laugh or threaten him. It has caused me to swear an oath to help other people at all times and to do my duty to God. On the night of my Vigil Honor ordeal, in addition to the ceremonies themselves, I stood before my God and vowed to bring Catholic scouting to the young men of Saint Catherine, using every resource I could command for as long as I shall live. When you attack this commitment you attack my faith. So far I have withstood all attacks on it. To turn my back on it would be to deliberately damn my soul and I will not do that deliberately. I must and I will find some way to do this duty to God. Even in the face of this adversity, it is right for those at all levels to be guided by the basic values that we share with the young people around us. It is right and proper to fight for letting these be used by those who would use them toward one who got involved in something beyond his skill, knowledge, and experience. Some people have fought for a hopeless cause even to the forfeiture of their life, in the belief that what they were doing was right, and they were later declared "hero".

You said it several times in our conversation — over my denial and you state it in your letter. I did not then and do not now request re-entry as a volunteer leader. That I went it and will always work to earn it should by now be obvious. But I will not request it from region or national until I have earned the backing and support of my troop committee, my church, its sponsor, and the volunteers in the council who know me. I ask only for the opportunity to work at redeeming myself in front of or at least in view of those of my friends and fellow scouts who were and/or are offended by my illness (especially our local professional). At the local council level by working at Camp Yaw Paw where I have already made such a good start (with the knowledge of and I had thought the blessing of your professional as I had talked with him on the phone from there several times, twice when I was the sole occupant of camp). And at the troop level where an equal opportunity exists that I know I should eventually take advantage of if you would lift the prohibition placed on them recognizing me existence. I caused a building to be built at my church for us to recycle newspapers. It is a regular, on-going and almost daily thing that can be done with no one or only another adult. I will some how, some way, some day make amends with these people, even if with no others for I must work at fulfilling my vows and be at peace with those with whom I worship on Sundays. Will you threaten them with loss of charter or whatever if they, however belatedly, come to realize their obligations? After all the charter belongs to the sponsor who can and should give direction to the troop. They may remember as scouts to help one of their people, as catholics for several reasons including perhaps that we pray together "... forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."?

Can there not be a reconsideration at this time or the near future where it would be possible for me to present my case to others? Hopefully those who have lived as close to the basic values of boy scouting for as long as I have and who are not required by their book to reject me simply because at one time I learned something twenty years too late from the wrong teachers.

Today the Christian world celebrates the birth of a Man. A Man whose teachings are reflected in every part of being a scout. May He grant guidance and insight to all and the courage for each of us to do what we know in our hearts is right.

John Deneko

CONF009430

DYKES_L_007299

Plaintiff's Exhibit 534
Page 88 of 132
1/18/85

Dear Paul,

Would you please call me in regards to the enclosed letter.

I have tried calling you on the 800 number yesterday, it rang and someone appeared to pick it up but no one answered my Hello. Today it just rang and no one answered it.

You sure have phone problems.

Sincerely,

Frank [Signature]
January 18, 1985

Mr. John Deneke
P.O. Box 1001
Glen Rock, N.J.

Dear Mr. Deneke:

Thank you for your continuing offers to financially and personally support the scouts of Troop 27. We continue to believe it is inappropriate for us to accept your offers to support our scouting program. You will probably continue not to agree with our points of view but with the explanations which follow we hope you will better understand them.

At the outset of this letter we think it is most important for us to emphatically say that it is NOT from a lack of forgiveness that we continue to refuse your generous offers of funding and/or participation in the troop adult leadership. Please try to understand that our motivations for scouting in this parish are the same as yours—your inner commitment to scouting, as evidenced by your previous years of dedicated service and continuing attempts to help, is probably even more intense than ours. It is to that very commitment which you have that we appeal for understanding at this time.

To the matter of your financial offers, we must say no thank you because it goes against the current approach we are taking to implement our scouts' practice of the scout Law to be "thrifty." For some time now we have insisted that each scout EARN his share of the money required to operate the troop. We have no dues and we accept no offers of financial support. The scouts earn the money required by taking their regularly assigned duty, with their patrol, of working on our newspaper collection shed. We expect to continue this practice for the foreseeable future. Therefore, we offer a sincere thank you to your offer but we cannot accept it.

Regarding the matter of you once again being personally involved in the troop, our response requires a more lengthy explanation. We recall from your letter a year ago that you spoke of both completed and ongoing cure with your hormonal imbalance. As we told you then, we are sincerely happy for your progress. You have been through a lot and we are genuinely happy for your successes. Given what you have been through these past four years, we are sure that it comes as no surprise especially to you that we frail human beings of this committee cannot erase from our memories the situation surrounding your departure from the troop. It cannot be denied that, for some time, the unfortunate occurrence surrounding your former medical problem hurt the growth of Troop 27.

CONF009432

DYKES_L_007301
Ernst talked to
the SE 1-9-85, they
will go further investigation
and get back to us
To: Kellie More
Date: 10-10
Time: 12:40

While you were out

M. John Dykes

445-0361

Message:

He was sent to repair his ex's

Both have been a

He's been a

Over

23-0005

SOMERVILLE, NJ

He told him that he's

decommissioned.

He wants to talk
to someone about

getting re-instated.

Debbie

He was the Artistic Director in

1981. Let's do it when time. He is
good. We should have a lunch

here.

R de
December 12, 1984

Mr. John Denke
P.O. Box 1001
Glen Rock, NJ 07452

Dear Mr. Denke:

Your request for re-entry as a volunteer leader of the Boy Scouts of America has received careful consideration.

I regret to inform you that for the best interest of Scouting we cannot let you serve in any membership capacity, nor permit you to be associated in any way, including your desire to help with projects in camp where there is no direct youth involvement.

This is a difficult conclusion for us to make, but our best interests must take precedence over your personal wishes.

Sincerely,

HAROLD SOKOLSKY
Regional Administrator

cc: Frank D. Penrose, Jr., Scout Executive, 359
Paul L. Ernst, National, 3108
MR. SOKOLSKY,

It is my understanding that the enclosed letter from Dr. Kavouss, was produced in consultation with Dr. Abil (who has been away for several weeks) and that I will not be hearing from Dr. Abil directly.

If I can provide further information or if it is desirable for me to visit anyone else anywhere, please let me know and I will do it.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

John (Signature)

CONF009436

DYKES_L_007305
October 3, 1984

Mr. John Deneke
526 Doremus Avenue
Glen Rock, N.J. 07452

Dear John,

It has been brought to my attention that you have devoted many hours of service to the rehabilitation of the Main Lodge at Camp Yaw Paw. For this I thank you for your time and energy.

Back in the fall of 1981 you and I met, at which time you requested permission to be allowed back into Scouting. I said to you, at that time, that you could not be involved in this Council in any way. This decision has been made by the National Council Boy Scouts of America. Therefore, I am obligated to comply with that decision.

I also said to you, at the time of our meeting, that your only recourse for any future involvement in Scouting was for you to go through the National Council by way of the Northeast Regional Office.

Therefore, I must again inform you that at this time you are not welcomed at Camp Yaw Paw or at any other Scouting activity or function of the Ridgewood-Glen Rock Council.

I am sorry that I must take this position, however, it is my obligation.

Sincerely,

Frank D. Penrose, Jr.
Scout Executive

FDP,Jr.:mjt
This form is to assure that you have attended your assessment/treatment sessions. Please have your technician/therapist sign below indicating your attendance and have your relative sign indicating their awareness of your attendance as well as your next appointment.

<table>
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<th>Days of Attendance</th>
<th>Signature of Technician/Therapist</th>
<th>Date of next Appointment</th>
<th>Signature of relative (indicate relationship)</th>
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<td>1/21/84</td>
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<td>Joel Abel MD</td>
<td>12-15-84</td>
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<td>W. A. Brown MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-5-84</td>
<td>Joel Abel MD</td>
<td>7-15-84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** There appears to be a handwritten note that reads, "spent the hour trying to make care work."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Today's date:**

**How many 10 mg Propecia did you take today?**

**How many excitations did you have today?**

**How many erections did you have today?**

**How strong were your erections today (0 = none, 10 = very strong)?**

**How many ejaculations did you have today?**

**How strong were your sex drive today (0 = none, 10 = very strong)?**

**How was your sense of control over erection/erection (0 = none, 10 = complete)?**

**How many sexual activities (coitus) did you have today?**

**What is your weight today?**

**Which of the following have you noticed today?**

1. **Faint**
2. **Headache**
3. **Redness of body hair**
4. **Hot flashes**
5. **Increased need for sleep**
6. **Vomiting**
7. **Depression**
8. **Difficulty concentrating**
9. **Nervousness**
10. **Swelling**
11. **Discharge on my breast**
12. **Headaches**
13. **Sweating of breasts**
14. **Pain in my legs**
15. **Other (write down what)**
16. **Other (write down what)**

**Immediately:**

* Call Dr. Adler at 212-980-5851 (day) or 717-333-1227 / 717-333-1226 (night)
May 13, 1981

John Deneke
Box 1001
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452

Dear John,

The following information pertains to my treatment of you from September 11, 1980, until April 23, 1981, here in the Sexual Behavior Clinic. You had requested that I provide you with information pertaining to your treatment. Please read over this letter so that you are quite familiar with its contents. I have included an additional copy for you, should you need it.

To Whom It May Concern:

John Deneke, 35 years of age, has been treated in the Sexual Behavior Clinic from 9/11/80, until 4/23/81, because of his arousal to young boys. During that time, he underwent 29-one and one half hour treatment sessions that included treatment to reduce his arousal to young boys, treatment to accelerate his arousal to adult sexual partners, social skills training (how to initiate and carry out conversation with people you have just met), assertive training (how to express your feelings towards others: how to ask for behavioral change in others), sex education and treatment to alter any cognitive distortions he has regarding the appropriateness of sexual involvement with young boys.

John is now completed the intensive treatment outline above, and it is my recommendation that he be seen monthly over the next year here in the Sexual Behavior Clinic, to make certain that he continues to carry out the treatments that he has learned in the group therapy sessions. One year from now, I would suspect that the frequency of these contacts could be reduced to once every six months, but really, we need to re-evaluate that problem a year from now and to make that judgement.

Sincerely yours,

Gene G. Abel, M.D.
April 26, 1982

John Denke
P.O. Box 1001
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452

Dear John,

The following letter summarizes our recommendations, as of April 26, 1982. Please read over this letter so that you are quite familiar with its content.

To Whom It May Concern:

John Denke, 36 years of age, has completed 30, 1½-hour treatment sessions, and has been followed monthly, for a total of 12 months (as of today) to insure that he has responded to the treatment. John has attended his follow-up sessions diligently, and continues to maintain his improvement post-treatment.

Because John has done so well, I believe he need only be seen once every three months, and we will start this frequency of contact as of today.

I hope this information is of help to the reader.

Sincerely yours,

Gene G. Abel M.D.

Gene G. Abel M.D.
John Deneke  
P.O. Box 1001  
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452  

Dear Mr. Deneke,

The following letter is to bring your case up to date as to where your treatment stands with me here at the New York State Psychiatric Institute. As you know, we have followed you now for three years and have treated you for your arousal to children. We have continued to follow you on completion of the intensive portion of your treatment, and you have continued to do well.

Your attendance has been excellent with us. We see no evidence that you have ongoing interests in involving yourself with children, and I now feel that your case can be closed with us.

It is our policy to always "leave the door open" and should you ever need to contact us please give me a call at 212-960-5851.

I hope the above information is of help to you.

Sincerely yours,

Gene G. Abel, M.D.
July 8, 1980

Mr. Robert F. Filipski
Council Executive
Glen Rock Council #359

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: John Denkke

Dear Mr. Filipski:

In response to your letter of July 3rd, concerning the above Scout, we are enclosing a confidential record sheet.

We would appreciate your completing this record sheet, and returning it to us as soon as possible, so we can identify this man in the future. Also, any other information made available to you would be appreciated, to support our action of placing this man on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration, Subscription and Statistical Service

tl
enc.
On Sunday, April 22, 1979, at
received a phone call from the,

stating that the firm,

four children,

and

Scout of Troop 27

attended by St. Catherine ACT Club.

After much more, the firm were especially notified by

their Scout master, John Smith, at the

same time. I contacted him to

get the complaint in writing.

On April 23, 1980, we

discussed the issue with Mrs. Emma Smith.

of the Governor's office. I also told them that

I was notifying the Care center for the Children

as they are wards of the State.

The issue was received by the care center

and turned over to the Ranger County

Prosecutor for investigation. The

issue was

come into my office to discuss

written statement. The

report for that

issue. Alice T. would meet with
Mr. Thorne on Tuesday evening 10:00 at the
Fort Hotel.

For April 27, 1980 at 10 AM, Mr.
Holman & I met with Senator
John Drake and informed him of
the allegations I stated in my
letter back then. At the time I
also informed him that I thought
there would be prosecution. They
thought that might happen at some time. He
simply stated, "I can't believe it.
They Holman informed me Drake that
allegation is in the hands of the
Broward County

On April 27, a meeting was called
at the Holman office. The
Chief of Staff and Mr. Scott Commissioner
also present at the meeting were
the County Commissioners, Mayor
Drake and
the Broward County's Attorney,
Lawton, who addressed the group
and requested that support our
investigation. They
said they needed to give their report before
the Florida Board could conclude their report on the

CONF009448

DYKES_L_007315

Plaintiff's Exhibit 534
Page 104 of 132
July 3, 1973

Mr. Paul L. Ernst, Director
Registration & Subscription Service
P.O. Box 61930
Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Texas 75221

Dear Mr. Ernst,

Please find a copy of our original letter to your office concerning John F. Rice.

At this time I am also enclosing a letter from the Dept. of Human Services, State of New Jersey. This is more proof of the allegations against Mr. Rice.

If you have any questions concerning this, call me at my office.

Sincerely yours,

Robert F. Willski
Audit Executive

\[377/nul
unc]
APPENDIX A

CONFIDENTIAL RECORD SHEET
REGISTRATION, SUBSCRIPTION, AND STATISTICAL SERVICE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Full name: John Deneke
Address: 525 Doremus Avenue
City: Glen Rock, State: New Jersey, Zip Code: 07452
Date of birth: Sept. 1945
Approximate age: (To be used only when date of birth is not known)
Religion: Catholic
Nationality:
Occupation: into Electronics - Unemployed
Education:
Weight: 135 lbs
Height: 5'7"
Race: White
Color of hair: Dirty Blonde
Color of eyes:
Outstanding characteristics or interests:
Handicapped - Had Polio as child has braces on both legs to hips
walks with two crutches.
Married or single:
Single
Children:
Wife's name:

Scouting connections:
Unit No.: 27
City: Glen Rock
State: N.J.
Rank: Scoutmaster
Office: 11/66
Date registered: 11/66
Date:
11/66
5/80
Special recognitions: Eagle Award - Scouters Award - Philmont Leader Woodbadge 1978.
Suspended or denied registration for following reasons:
See attached letter.

SPECIFY THE FACTS WHICH LEAD YOU TO RECOMMEND DENIAL OF REGISTRATION,
AND LIST ATTACHED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS (STATE ONLY KNOWN FACTS, NOT
CONJECTURE, OR SPECULATION)

Signed: Robert Stieglitz
SCOUT EXECUTIVE
Council: Ridgewood Area
Glen Rock #359

CONF009451

Plaintiff's Exhibit 534
Page 107 of 132
DYKES_L_007318
May 16, 1980

Mr. Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration & Subscription Service
P.O. Box 61030
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport, Texas 75261

Dear Mr. Ernst,

On Tuesday, April 22, 1980, I received a phone call from Mrs. [redacted], stating that her two foster children, and [redacted], Scouts of Troop 37, sponsored by St. Catharine's R.C. Church in Glen Rock were sexually molested by their Scoutmaster, John Beneke. At this time I instructed [redacted] to put her complaint in writing.

On April 23, 1980 Mrs. [redacted] discussed the issue with Msgr. Holmes, Pastor of the sponsoring institution. Also that she notified the case worker for the children, as they are wards of the state. The issue was reviewed by the case worker and turned over to the Bergen County prosecutor for investigation. That afternoon Mrs. [redacted] came into my office to deliver the attached written statement. I informed her that Msgr. Holmes and I would meet with Mr. Beneke on Thursday morning at 10 a.m. in the Scout office.

On April 24, 1980 at 10 a.m. Msgr. Holmes and I met with Scoutmaster John Beneke and informed him of the allegations and showed him Mrs. [redacted] letter. At the time I also informed him that the county would also be prosecuting. Mr. Beneke did not deny anything at this time. He simply stated, "I can't believe it." Msgr. Holmes informed Mr. Beneke that activities in the Troop would be temporarily suspended until the investigation was completed.
On April 30 a meeting was called by Mr. Holman of all the parents of the Scouts of Troop 27 and the Scout Committee. Also present at the meeting was our Council President, Richard Norris and Detective Thorn investigating officer of the Bergen County prosecutor's office. Detective Thorn addressed the group and requested their support and indicated that they needed to give their approval before Detective Thorn could interview each Scout in the troop. All parents talked with Detective Thorn individually.

On May 7, 1980, Detective Thorn called me at my office and informed me that on May 5, 1980 the County Prosecutor charged John Deneke in the Bergen County District Court on four counts of aggravated sexual contact. On May 6, 1980 John Deneke pleaded guilty to all charges. Detective Thorn then stated that Mr. Deneke will be sentenced in about 6-8 weeks.

I will notify you of the sentence when I officially hear from Detective Thorn.

John Deneke has been replaced as Scoutmaster of Troop 27 and it is our recommendation that his registration opportunities in the Boy Scouts of America be denied.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Tiller
Council Executive

FF/ncl
enc.
Enclosed please find the signed forms that you sent me last week.

Also a check for ten dollars which might cover the cost of sending me the council bulletin each month that it is printed. If the amount is insufficient let me know how much more to send.

Please enter the address of the current committee chairman for troop 27 at Saint Catherine's on the enclosed envelope and remail it for me. Thanks.

Sincerely

John Deneke
Troop 27 Committee:

Please use the enclosed for the troop's 1942 outdoor program.

I have sixteen snowmobile suits that were used by the boys during the winter months, if you would like to have them or give them to the present members, have someone contact me for delivery.

If there is ever anything that I could do for the troop, I will do it if asked. For despite appearances and despite having been ill I find that I must in some way complete the commitments I made to serve troop 27 of Glen Rock as long as I was living.

Sincerely,

John Danke
February 1, 1932

Mr. Denke,

The Troop Committee thanks you for your recent communication. However, it has been deemed inappropriate to accept the offer.

Please find enclosed your postal order.

[Signature]

Charles Sedgren
Chairman

cc: File
Pastor
Secretary
Would you please enter the name and address of the current chairman for troop 27 of St. Catharines, and re-mail it for me. There is no rush but safety of delivery is important.

Happy New Year

John Deere
GENTLEMEN:

IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE MORE BOYS WHO CAMP TOGETHER THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THE BETTER.

PERHAPS YOU WOULD CONSIDER USING THE ENCLOSED TO HELP THE SCOUTS GET TO CAMP THIS SUMMER. THE RIGHT AMOUNTS IN THE RIGHT PLACES MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE AS TO WEATHER OR NOT A BOY MAKES IT TO CAMP.

Yours in Scouting

John [Signature]
TO: John Danke

DATE: January 21, 1983

The receipt of your communication is acknowledged. The matter was discussed with the executive officer of the Sponsor. The discussion resolved that nothing would be gained by a discussion and review by a committee not completely aware of past events.

Your offer to support Scouting in some way is appreciated. It was resolved that your donation be deposited in the Council Campership fund anonymously with Scouts and Cub of St. Catharines units receiving priority.

This course will be followed unless modified by you. If any major objection should arise, you may request return of your donation. Modification and/or objection should be directed to the Fund Chairman at the Scout office.

This course has been decided upon to minimize any embarrassment to the troop and it's former nearest arising from past events.

For the Troop and Sponsor,

Mike F. Hallahan
Scouting Coordinator
DEAR MR. PENROSE:

WHEN WE LAST SPOKE, 2-7-83, you said "I DON'T KNOW YOU SO I CAN TELL YOU THIS..." I have often wondered since then if you would have said differently if you had known more of the fact that my life is vowed to the direct service of the scouts of Troop 27? If I recall correctly the balance of our conversation could be summed up as you telling me that as far as Troop 27 and Council were concerned I was not cureable had no way in which I could ever regain or be of any use to my troop and that therefore I might as well get used.

HEREAFTER in this letter,
THE WORD YOU IS MEANT TO MEAN TRAIN AND COUNCIL AS A GROUP, NOT YOURSELF AS AN INDIVIDUAL EXCEPT PERHAPS AS THEIR VISIBLE REPRESENTATIVE.

I BECAME SICK WHILE IN THE SERVICE OF MY TROOP. WITH CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS I WENT TO FAR IN TRYING TO SHOW THE CARE AND CONCERN I FEEL FOR EACH AND EVERY ONE THAT I WORE FOR. I WAS UNABLE, AS IN THE INTERVIEW ABOVE, TO PROPERLY EXPRESS MYSELF TO OTHERS TO ITS HELP. EVEN WHEN I SPEND DAYS WRITING AND REWRITING, I AM OFTEN UNABLE TO COMPLETELY SAY ALL THAT I MEAN AND INTEND TO SAY.

IS THERE NOT SOME TREATMENT OR CURE (COCAINE, DRUGS, HYPNOTISM, SURGERY, "BLACK WASHING," OR COMBINATION OF THESE AND/OR OTHERS NOT LISTED) THAT YOU ALL COULD APPROVE AND ACCEPT AS LEADING TO AN EVENTUAL RETURN TO REGULAR PARTICIPATION?
IN TROOP 27 I HAVE TAUGHT CAMP ACTIVITIES.

ALL THAT I HAVE TAUGHT AND
HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN SCOUTING AND
THE CHURCH WHERE MY TROOP IS
SPONSORED LEAVES ME BELIEVING
THAT SUCH AN EVENT SHOULD
BE A REAL POSSIBILITY.

YOU PRESENTED ME WITH A
PROGRAM AND WAY OF LIFE THAT
I ENTUSIASMATICALLY AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY
EMBRACED AND LIVED FOR MORE THAN
TWENTY FIVE YEARS. SAVE FOR THE
SOUL WHICH IS RESERVED FOR GOD ALONE,
ALMOST ALL THE REST OF ME BELONGS
TO THE SERVICE OF MY TROOP AND THEM
AND FOR IT TO OUR CAMP. A FEW
SHORT AND SIMPLE WORDS CAN AND DO
REFLECT THE PATH I TAKE IN MY LIFE'S COMMITMENT, BUT THEY WILL
ALSO CONTINUE TO LEAVE SPIRIT
AND MOST OF MIND IN YOUR
CARE. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH
DOCTORS, LAWYERS, AND PRIESTS IN
THE STATE TO OUTWEIGH YOU, YOUR
VIEW AND EVALUATION OF MY PAST.
Present and future performance continues to far outweigh their written opinion. Will you help me find some way to work at reearning the right and privilege of directly serving in some small way my from and our camp. If I must I continue to play the role you cast me in. That or the mean, nasty, incurable dirty and man who is supposed and believed by most to have joined his father at age 11 and who wants re-instatement solely to have illegal physical contact with boys?
July 8, 1980

Mr. Robert F. Filipski
Council Executive
Glen Rock Council #359

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: John Denek

Dear Mr. Filipski:

In response to your letter of July 3rd, concerning the above Scouter, we are enclosing a confidential record sheet.

We would appreciate your completing this record sheet, and returning it to us as soon as possible, so we can identify this man in the future. Also, any other information made available to you would be appreciated, to support our action of placing this man on the Confidential File.

Sincerely,

Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration, Subscription and
Statistical Service

tl
enc.
July 3, 1980

Mr. Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration & Subscription Service
P.O. Box 61030
Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Texas 75261

Dear Mr. Ernst,

Enclosed please find a copy of our original letter to your office concerning John Deneke.

At this time I am also enclosing a letter from the Dept. of Human Services, State of New Jersey. This is more proof of the allegations against Mr. Deneke.

If you have any questions concerning this, call me at my office.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Robert P. Filipski
Council Executive

RFF/ncl

enc.

Camo Yaw Paw · Route U.S. 202 · Mahwah, New Jersey 07430 · 201-327-5250
May 16, 1980

Mr. Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration & Subscription Service
P.O. Box 61030
Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Texas 75261

Dear Mr. Ernst,

On Tuesday, April 22, 1980, I received a phone call from Mrs. [redacted], stating that her two foster children, [redacted] and [redacted], Scouts of Troop 27, sponsored by St. Catharine's R.C. Church in Glen Rock were sexually molested by their Scoutmaster, John Deneke. At this time I instructed Mrs. [redacted] to put her complaint in writing.

On April 23, 1980 Mrs. [redacted] discussed the issue with Fr. Holmes, Pastor of the sponsoring institution. Also that she notified the case worker for the children, as they are wards of the state. The issue was reviewed by the case worker and turned over to the Bergen County prosecutor for investigation. That afternoon Mrs. [redacted] came into my office to deliver the attached written statement. I informed her that Msgr. Holmes and I would meet with Mr. Deneke on Thursday morning at 10 a.m. in the Scout office.

On April 24, 1980 at 10 a.m. Msgr. Holmes and I met with Scoutmaster John Deneke and informed him of the allegations and showed him Mrs. [redacted]'s letter. At the time I also informed him that the county would also be prosecuting. Mr. Deneke did not deny anything at this time. He simply stated, "I can't believe it." Msgr. Holmes informed Mr. Deneke that activities in the Troop would be temporarily suspended until the investigation was completed.
On April 30 a meeting was called by Harr. Holmes of all the parents of the Scouts of Troop 27 and the Scout Committee. Also present at the meeting was our Council President, Richard Morris and Detective Thorn investigating officer of the Bergen County prosecutor's office. Detective Thorn addressed the group and requested their support and indicated that they needed to give their approval before Detective Thorn could interview each Scout in the troop. All parents talked with Detective Thorn individually.

On May 7, 1980, Detective Thorn called me at my office and informed me that on May 5, 1980 the County Prosecutor charged John Deneke in the Bergen County District Court on four counts of aggravated sexual contact. On May 6, 1980 John Deneke pleaded guilty to all charges. Detective Thorn then stated that Mr. Deneke will be sentenced in about 6-8 weeks.

I will notify you of the sentence when I officially hear from Detective Thorn.

John Deneke has been replaced as Scoutmaster of Troop 27 and it is our recommendation that his registration opportunities in the Boy Scouts of America be denied.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Filipski
Council Executive

FFF/ncl
enc.
Jun 30, 1980

Monsignor Richard J. Holmes
St. Catherine's Church
905 South Maple Avenue
Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452

Re: Alleged Abuse, Troop #27, Boy Scouts of America

Dear Monsignor Holmes:

It is the responsibility of the Division of Youth and Family Services to investigate all child abuse and neglect referrals as outlined in N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.11. On April 22, 1980, the Division's Bergen County District Office received an allegation of abuse involving the above noted organization. I have attached for your information, the results of the investigation concerning this allegation.

As you will note, abuse was substantiated in this case as the alleged perpetrator admitted to sexually abusing one of the complainants as well as other boys in his troop.

The investigation was turned over to the Prosecutor's office where it resulted in the arrest of the perpetrator. He is currently awaiting sentencing.

In light of the fact that the incident has not apparently affected the boys, this office is taking no further action in this case. However, it is recommended that scouts be educated regarding abuse and abusive situations. The children should be encouraged to report any known or suspected abuse to their parents or the Division of Youth and Family Services.

Under the State confidentiality statute, N.J.S.A. 9:6-8.10a et seq., reports and records concerning child abuse and neglect are confidential. In accordance with the statute, however, we can release the attached report to you to help to ensure that proper care, treatment or supervision is provided not only to the specific child or children involved here, but to all children under the care and supervision of the Boy Scouts of America. In conjunction with the provision of proper care, these reports may be used in any investigations or disciplinary actions you may find necessary.

The law requires any agency or person receiving these reports to preserve their confidentiality, and it provides for criminal penalties for
anyone violating its provisions. Therefore, when conducting appropriate investigations and disciplinary actions, steps should be taken to limit access to persons necessary to the investigation or disciplinary action. The materials and the information contained therein may not be disclosed to the public or to the press either directly or as part of any otherwise public records or proceedings.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Ann Klein
Commissioner

cc: Bernice L. Manshel, DIFS
    Joanne Finley, Dept. of Health
    Robert J., Boy Scouts of America
INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE REPORT

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Child's Name
Date of Birth
Case Number
Parent's Name
Foster Home Address
DYFS Office Supervising
Date of Incident
Institution
Institution's Address
DYFS Office Investigating

August 2, 1968
M 15713 a

December 18, 1967
A 2447 b

[redacted]
7-23 Henderson Blvd., Fair Lawn, NJ

Bergen
April 19, 1980
Boy Scouts of America
Troop #27, sponsored by St. Catherine's Catholic Church
Glen Rock, NJ

Bergen

ALLEGATION

On 4/22/80, at 5:05 p.m., Ms. Elsie Campbell, DYFS caseworker from Bergen DO, received a sexual abuse referral from [redacted] regarding two foster children residing in her home: [redacted]. The children had attended a weekend camping trip from April 18-20, 1980, at the Alpine Boy Scout Camp in Alpine, New Jersey. On the evening of 4/19/80, it was alleged that Scout Master John Denke summoned [redacted] to his tent and began to kiss, hug, and sexually molest the youngster. [redacted] was able to get [redacted]'s attention. [redacted] came into the tent, with [redacted] running out. Mr. Denke reportedly molested [redacted] in the same manner until the boy was able to free himself and leave the tent.

STATEMENT OR REACTION OF CHILDREN

A visit was made to the foster home of 4/23/80, by Ms. Campbell and investigative worker. We were told the following account: On Friday, 4/18/80, while at the Alpine Boy Scout Camp in Alpine, New Jersey, Mr. Denke allegedly invited both [redacted] and [redacted] to his tent, but they were tired and did not go. On the evening of Saturday, April 19, 1980, Mr. Denke summoned [redacted] to his tent. They were alone. [redacted] stated that Mr. Denke kissed him on the mouth and rubbed his genitals through the boy's pants. Mr. Denke attempted to put his hand down the boy's pants, but [redacted] pushed him away. [redacted] was able to get [redacted]'s attention. When [redacted] came into the tent, [redacted] left.

[redacted] stated that Mr. Denke hugged him and rubbed his genitals, outside of his pants. Mr. Denke told the boy to relax, and when [redacted] began to leave, told him to come back later.

STATEMENT OF ALLEGED PERPETRATOR

When the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office was informed of the alleged sexual abuse by the investigative worker on 4/23/80, Lt. Albert Ryans requested that DYFS delay in contacting Mr. Denke. This would give the prosecutor's office the opportunity to contact the perpetrator first. We agreed to cooperate.
On 4/29/80, Mr. Denke and his attorney, Mr. Robert Levin, came to the prosecutor's office to meet with Detective William Thorne and the investigative worker. I was present at the onset of the interview, but it was requested that I leave as Mr. Denke was uncomfortable giving an informal statement in my presence. I did hear him state that he wanted to get the proceedings over as quickly as possible. When Detective Thorne read the statements of [redacted] and [redacted] to Mr. Denke, the perpetrator agreed to the allegations of [redacted], but denied fondling [redacted].

The following informal statement was given to Det. Thorne, not in my presence, and is quoted from the prosecutor's report:

"On 4/29/80, Mr. Denke and his attorney, Mr. Robert Levin, came into our office and with Mr. Levin present, Mr. Denke gave me an interview whereby I was allowed to ask questions and he would answer only these particular questions. He refused to give a formal statement at this time, however, he would answer questions if I directed them to him. I arrived at the decision to ask Mr. Denke if I would mention members of the troop would he tell me if he had sexual contact with them or not. He agreed and the following came to light:

1. [redacted] statements are attached.
2. Deneke fondled his genitals and placed his hands down his pants, took place in Denke's home. Statement attached.
3. [redacted] and kissed and fondled his genital area, placed his hand down his pants - statement attached.
4. Mr. Denke felt that 3 or 4 years ago he may have had some activity with him but he was uncertain.
5. Mr. Denke stated he fondled his genital area, placed his hand down his pants. Mr. Denke also stated that he had [redacted] penis in his mouth and both he and [redacted] masturbated each other. Mr. Denke stated that there was never any force used and that in [redacted]'s case [redacted] was the instigator. The oral sex and the masturbation took place in early November of 1979.

These are the boys that Mr. Denke answered yes to. The remaining boys he claimed he had no sexual contact with."

STATEMENT OF WITNESSES

Not applicable.

STATEMENT OF INSTITUTIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

1. Mr. Filitski of the Boy Scout Council in Bergen County stated that he had been contacted about the sexual abuse by Monsignor Holmes of St. Catharine's Church, who sponsored the troop. Mr. Filitski had no direct knowledge of Mr. Denke, as the sponsoring institution selects and approves the leaders. Then the Boy Scout Council approves of the selection. The leaders are not appointed by the council. Mr. Filitski knew of Mr. Denke's participation on the camp staff the previous two summers. He had not received any negative reports regarding Mr. Denke prior to this referral. Mr. Filitski requested a copy of all written documentation for the Boy Scout files so that Mr. Denke would never be approved as a boy scout leader again.
2. Monsignor Holmes stated he had been surprised and shocked at the allegations. He hoped that the matter would be expedited as quickly as possible. Mr. Deneke had been removed as scout leader to Troop #27 by Monsignor Holmes immediately after he had been informed of the sexual abuse by the foster mother.

MEDICAL STATEMENTS OR REPORTS

Not applicable

CHILDREN'S LOCATION

Both continue as foster children placed in the home of 7-23 Henderson Blvd., Fair Lawn, New Jersey.

EVALUATION

The alleged sexual abuse has been substantiated through statements from the children molested, corroborated by admission of the abuse by the perpetrator.

REMEDIAL ACTION TAKEN

A. Both St. Catharine's Church and the Boy Scout Council have removed Mr. Deneke as a scout leader.

B. The investigating unit has not taken any action as the prosecutor's office is handling this aspect. Investigative worker did refer Mr. Deneke to treatment program for sex offenders. Ms. Campbell and foster mother discussed advisability of counseling for [redacted] and [redacted] but the need was ruled out as the boys do not appear to have any residual difficulties. They were allowed to ventilate their feelings at length.

COUNTY PROSECUTOR

The Prosecutor's office was contacted by investigative worker regarding the abuse on 4/23-80. A complete investigation was made by that office. Mr. Deneke was arrested on 5/5/80, and charged with four counts of aggravated sexual contact. Mr. Deneke pled guilty to three of the counts and is awaiting sentencing.

SIGNATURES

Prepared by Patricia Blumenthal Caseworker 5/15/80

Approved by Michael Sullivan Assistant Supervisor 5/15/80

Eileen Pellegrino Investigating DO Supervisor 5/16/80

Eileen Pellegrino Investigating DO Supervisor 5/29/80
RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Investigative worker feels that the Boy Scout Council should either screen prospective scout leaders directly with possible community and police checks or conduct training sessions to help sponsoring institutions be more thorough and objective in selecting applicants.

B. Incorporate an educational aspect into the Boy Scout program that would identify potentially abusive situations (physical or sexual) and encourage children to report any compromising situations immediately, without fear or guilt.

Prepared by  
Caseworker

Approved  
Assistant Supervisor

Approved  
Investigating DO Supervisor

Approved  
Regional Administrator
May 16, 1980

Mr. Paul I. Ernst, Director
Registration & Subscription Service
P.O. Box 61030
Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, Texas 75261

Dear Mr. Ernst,

On Tuesday, April 22, 1980, I received a phone call from Mrs. [redacted] stating that her two foster children, sponsored by St. Catharine’s R.C. Church in Glen Rock, were sexually molested by their Scoutmaster, John Deneke. At this time I instructed Mrs. [redacted] to put her complaint in writing.

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I will notify you of the sentence when I officially hear from Detective Thorn.

John Deneko has been replaced as Scoutmaster of Troop 27 and it is our recommendation that his registration opportunities in the Boy Scouts of America be denied.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Filipski
(Council Executive)

RF/ncj.
enc.

cc: Northeast Region
Attn. Roland Moore
Bay Scouts of America

April 23, 1956

I am a Boy Scout entering to Alpena, my two
fathers camp (Campig) were actually
conducted by Scoutmaster John Denke.

He called into his tent first and hugged
and kissed him and put his hands all over his
body. He kept telling him not to resist and to relax
while he bent on with his hands.

We ran into his tent trying to get away
from Frank Wilson who was chasing him and
unfortunately he came into John's tent for help.

John got him around and got away

John then proceeded to do the same to

We mean handled him all over and told him to relax
and then when I fought him to get free he hit him
and told him to come back when all the others
were asleep and make sure they made no
noise. They did not return.

Sunday is behind them a little


Mrs.

Hester Mather

23 Headlee Rd.

Fairlawn, N.J.