

Patricia Bolster



3-10-045

Emancipation Project
P.O. Box 11030
Glendale, Ca. 91226

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my understanding that you are spearheading a probe into the machinations of WWASP, specifically ~~M~~ majestic Ranch Academy in Randolph, Utah. I recently removed my youngest child from that program. I am appalled at what is being done to children at these facilities. There needs to be some oversight and regulation over these programs. Thank you so much for caring enough about our children to give representation and voice to these most vulnerable members of our society. I am enclosing a copy of my declaration of my experience with these people. I sincerely hope it will help to end this duplicitous and unscrupulous exploitation of concerned and loving parents.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bolster

(I have been employed as an English teacher by the East Side Union High School District for the last 10 years, I currently teach at Piedmont Hills High School in San Jose, Ca)

DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY
PURSUANT TO 28 USCA 1746

I, Patricia Ann Bolster declare and state as follows:

.2-25-05

I took Angie (my child) out of Majestic Ranch Academy on Tuesday, Feb. 15. I had read something on the Parent BBS on Sunday 2-13 that alarmed me, and I started doing on-line research then, which I finished on Mon. 2-14. I pulled up some very disturbing facts, but the one that made me resolve to go & get my child was when I accessed the Utah Attorney General's web site which stated that Wayne Winder had been arrested and charged with multiple counts of child abuse and sexual abuse of a minor. Eventually, a deal was made, he was put on probation and all went on as usual. This appalled me, and I decided I was going to pull Angie immediately. I posted a message on the BBS to this effect late Monday night. Tammy (one of the directors of the school-- Wayne is the other) called me Tuesday morning to talk about my concerns. She asked if it would make me feel better if I could talk to Angela, I said that it would, but that I was pulling her anyway. (I was not supposed to be allowed to talk to Angie until she reached level 4, I think, but apparently here Tammy was willing to make an exception.) Tammy told me that the charges had never been proven. I told her that as a teacher in California, my credential would have been pulled if I had been arrested for multiple counts of child abuse, physical assault and sexual assault. I told her that I felt things had been misrepresented to me, and to have Angie ready at 3:30. She said that she would do that.

When I got to the Ranch, they sent out for Angie. As soon as she saw me, she started to cry. I asked her if she was willing to behave appropriately at home now, and go to school, and do as I told her. She said she was. I said "Where are your things?" Tory told me that we could not go get her things, that she would pack them up and send them on. They refused to let Angela say goodbye to any of the girls. Angie had not known that I was coming to get her. She left with me with only the clothes on her back...they would not let her even get her toothbrush. On our way to Wyoming, I discovered exactly what kind of place I had left my child. Angie volunteered all of the following information, although it corroborates everything I have since pulled up on the web about these schools. I had been assured that there would be no corporal punishment...not so. Kids who misbehave are forced to the ground on their faces, knees up behind them, arms pulled back across their backs, while staff sit on them. (Kind of in a 'hog tied' position). Angie kept getting demerits because, according to Tory, she "took too much food" at mealtimes, and then could not finish it all. Angie told me that the staff serve them, and she could not eat the food. She said that they got food poisoning a number of times, that food to be prepared (meat) was left out on the counter for 2 days at a time prior to being prepared, and that bug killer sprays (to get rid of pests) were sprayed over the open vats and kettles of food. Angie lost 50 pounds while she was up there. I paid \$565.00 for uniforms for Angie. When I got her, she was wearing holy socks, her shoes were wet and frozen (the shoes she had to wear outside...they had sent back another pair of dry hiking boots I had gotten for her), and the pants and shirt she had on had seen better days. I also paid an additional \$100 a month for expenses...not sure for what exactly...toothpaste? Stamps?

The hair supplies I sent up for her were never given to her. I did not get all of the letters she wrote me, and she did not get all the letters I wrote her. I could go on with this, but I will just give you a few more horrific details of ranch life. When parents or outsiders come to the ranch, they turn up the heat, other than that the heat is off, or very low. The kids get only 1 extra blanket. This program was much harsher than I had been led to expect. The kids are expected to walk in a straight line outside, with their hands crossed behind their backs, and their heads down, chins on their chests. Angie slipped and fell while doing this and lost all of her points, for 'breaking line'. The points awarded and taken away seem very arbitrary. Kids who misbehave are put in isolation, where they only have boxers (boys) or bra & panties (girls) in a very cold room. They are watched constantly, while showering (cold showers), dressing and using the bathroom. Angie says they turn off the heat completely, but I think they must leave it on just a little, because otherwise kids would freeze. If the kids pet the sheep dogs, then the dogs are shot (this was corroborated by other testimony I got off of the web). Angie got really sick while she was up there...Tory told me she had a 'little fever'. A staff person took her temperature on the weekend, while the head honchos were off site, and Angie's temp was 103.3. They let her go to bed for half a day.

I got a student loan to put Angie into the program(over \$30,000 at 5%: I have yet to have the unused portion of the money credited back to the lender. It was all sent to R&B Billing...and I called them recently about sending the unused portion back to the lender...but that has yet to happen.) This was all arranged very expeditiously by Bob Hawley at Teen Help. Jane Hawley (his wife?) was the person I originally talked to. They were very warm and folksy...I did not realise they were married until I put the last names together...they told me they had had a son in the program, and it had been fantastic for him. I really feel that I was lied to all throughout this process. They also have the web saturated and linked, so that you are routed to their site in a variety of ways; they employ a technique called 'spamdexing', to make sure that web surfers looking for any of about 100 youth related topics are steered to their sites. I know that this made me think that these were reputable programs. I was never told that Teen Help, 4 defiant teens or the other sites were all run by the same group of people. I was never told that the same family/group association runs all the seminars and the schools and the referral centers. Robert Lichfield owns WWASP. His brother-in-law, Dan Peart, owns and operates Majestic Ranch. Majestic Ranch is the third largest employer in Rich County Utah, so it makes sense that the officials there want to see it stay open...which may be why they seem to have so little zeal in checking out misconduct there. I am furious and outraged.

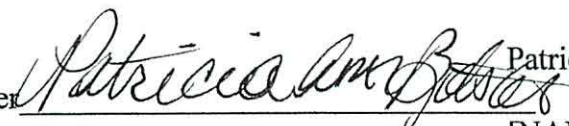
Now, for the irony...they did do what they said they'd do...I gave them a spoiled, bratty, overweight, lying, self-indulgent, manipulative, unhappy child, and they have returned to me a lovely, svelte, well-mannered, poised young lady who works a pretty good program. I, too, found that the seminars benefited me tremendously; however the end does not justify the means...for in the end, all we have are the means...our methods shape us, and form the essence of who and what we are. I am very proud of my child, who took a lot of lemons and made lemonade. However, I believe that these results could have been achieved without such draconian methods. I do not believe in harshness or brutality and I am outraged that my child was brutalized, and was told that it was with my knowledge and consent.

They still have not sent me all of her effects. I feel fortunate that I was able to retrieve her with a minimum of damage done to her psyche. She lost 50 pounds, but on

her it looks good. Any longer there and she might have suffered irreparable damage to her health. I went to the final seminar, "Keys", and brought this information and shared it with some of the other parents of kids with whom I had bonded during the previous seminars. They thought that I should bring it up within the seminar, so I entered the seminar and did so. The facilitator told me I was not on the list to be admitted to the seminar...which was true. She said "Then you are in violation of integrity for being here." I said "What about the violation of integrity you and your employers are doing in lying to us about the connection between WWASP and the programs, and the way you are brutalizing our children?" She said "I want you to leave." I replied "I am sure that you do, but first I want to make sure that the parents here know the truth about what is happening to our kids." Quite a few parents in the seminar said "We know." and "Who cares?"...which I found a bit odd. I care, and I am outraged that I was lied to. As I left, she said "I invite you to look at yourself and your lack of integrity." I said "I am just fine with my integrity. I invite you to look at yourself." I don't really believe in Hell, but if it exists, there has to be a place reserved for that woman and people like her, who profit off of torturing children. In the time since I went to the ranch to get Angie, staff & former staff have made complaints that have been 'investigated' by the local authorities. Majestic Ranch is the third largest employer in Rich County. Richfield is a major contributor to many local and state politicians in Utah...they are not about to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs over a few disaffected 'juvenile delinquents'. Everything my child told me about the food (being left out for 24+ hours before being cooked, and food poisoning) and the other horrible conditions at the ranch has been borne out by the newspaper accounts and testimony of former staff. When I got Angie, I took her immediately to our family doctor. She had head lice, scabies, and some other bizarre rash. I e-mailed the ranch, and suggested that they check the girls. I called a day or so later, and was told by Tammy that there was no problem like that there. (Angie told me earlier that one of the kids had head lice, and she had brought it to the attention of staff, and was hushed.) The sad fact is that this enterprise will probably continue as long as greedy people can get away with profiting off of parental desperation and the misery of those who are helpless, and as long as there is such little help, few resources and no assistance built into the state, federal and local system for parents who are at their wits end trying to control and deal with kids who are out of control.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed

on March 8, 2005,

Bolster  Patricia Ann

[NAME OF DECLARANT]
SPECIAL NOTE: STATUTE DOES
NOT REQUIRE NOTARY]