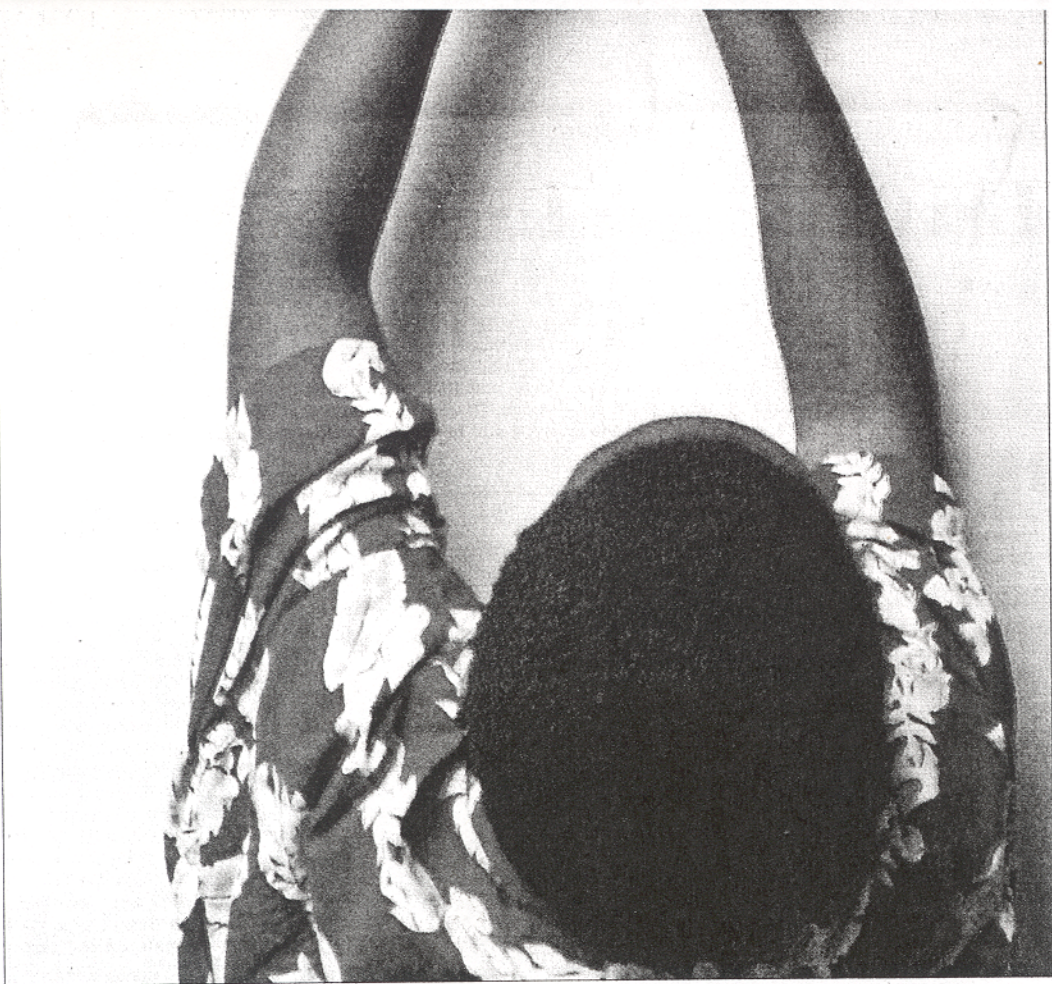


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GUSCHAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

Tony Smith, 8, hangs a "thank you" drawing of flowers in a vase on the wall at his attorney's office at MetroHealth Medical Center. Tony was treated there for post-traumatic stress disorder that made him violent at age 6.

Help marshaled for families on edge

DONNA IACOBONI
Plain Dealer Reporter

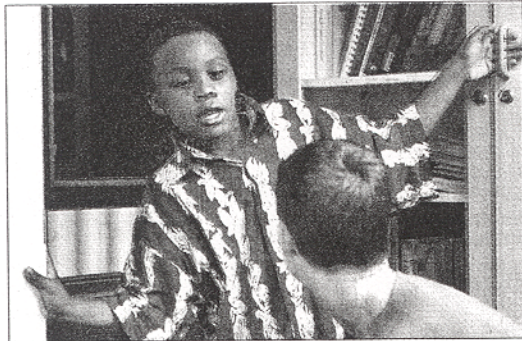
It took two police officers to subdue 6-year-old Tony Smith, who was bent on destroying everything he could reach in his baby-sitter's home.

A few months later, Tony threw kitchen knives at his older sister and his mom, Precious Smith. He bashed the family car with a brick.

His mother caught him, at age 7, smothering his little brother with a pillow.

Tony shattered windows at his grandma's house and was kicked out of every daycare center that dared take him in.

His behavior plunged his family into isolation, desperation and poverty. Smith lost five jobs — she's a nurse's aide — because she seldom made it through a shift without being called



GUSCHAN | THE PLAIN DEALER

Tony, talks with his family-advocacy attorney, Mallyory Curran. Curran helped Tony get the special education and Social Security benefits he needed to recover from post-traumatic stress.

to a

single child. Into the Cleveland family's hell stepped MetroHealth Medical Center pediatricians and a Legal Aid Society attorney specializing in poverty and social

MetroHealth doctors said Tony was suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome, caused by seeing his mother abused by his father, who has since moved away.

Environmental Protection Agency Wednesday that it hopes to exempt even more model years.

The EPA also acknowledged that it had overstated the percentage of vehicles that would be exempt under the 4 years old or newer rule in Northeast Ohio, correcting the figure to only 30 percent.

Ohio EPA spokeswoman Heidi Griesmer said nothing had changed in the past 24 hours and no pressure was put on the agency.

"Our goal [Tuesday], and it is today, is to exempt as many cars as possible," she said.

The tailpipe test is despised by many motorists as an unnecessary tax. Mandated by the federal government, it's designed to test exhaust and catch cars that are exceeding emission limits. Vehicle emissions contribute to ground-level ozone, a colorless air pollutant that damages crops, irritates lungs, causes headaches and induces coughing and wheezing.

SEE E-CHECK | B4

Bondsmen get jail time for smuggling

RACHEL DISSELL
Plain Dealer Reporter

Two Cleveland-area men who made a living catching bail-jumping criminals will serve their own sentences.

Robert Carden Roberts, a 61-year-old Solon man in the bail business for 17 years, drove a deported Canadian drug dealer into United States last year with fellow bondsmen Reginald Bailey of Cleveland.

Tuesday the pair were handed stiff sentences in federal court.

They were trying to return Ken Weckwerth, a 60-year-old who lived occasionally in Cleveland and served time in Ohio prisons twice. He was most recently accused of selling drugs near a school.

When Weckwerth skipped out on his \$10,000 bond, ABC Bail Bond company owner Jeff Goldstein hired Roberts to go to a small rural village west of Ottawa and find him. The bail bondsmen say they didn't know Weckwerth had been deported.

Roberts and Bailey drove Weckwerth to the U.S. border. Border guards on the Rainbow Bridge were suspicious when Weckwerth said he lost his wallet at a casino. But the wallet and Weckwerth's Canadian ID card were found concealed between the van seats. Weckwerth later told police that he was abducted but was convinced by the bail bondsmen to voluntarily return to Cleveland.