

Manuscript used to convict molester

Entries note hundreds of victims

By Cheryl Wetzstein
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A man thought to be one of the nation's most prolific child molesters has been convicted in a California court based on testimony from eight of his victims and a manuscript he was writing about his 35 years as a pedophile.

Dean Arthur Schwartzmiller, 64, of San Jose, Calif., faces up to 153 years in prison when he is sentenced Oct. 16 on 12 charges of child molestation, taking obscene pictures of a minor and possession of child pornography.

Law-enforcement officials said the case is unique because of the memoir manuscript and seven spiral notebooks, written in code, that contained more than 36,000 entries about Schwartzmiller's sexual activities with children.

"When we found the notebooks and the manuscript, we realized we had come across a serial child molester and essentially a sociopath," said Steve Fein, deputy district attorney in Santa Clara County, who prosecuted the case.

"I haven't seen too many people keep code or that detailed a log on their sexual contacts with children," said Detective Robert Dillon, who works in the San Jose Police Department's child exploitation unit and testified at the trial in Santa Clara County Superior Court.

Mr. Dillon said that based on the notebooks' 1,500 pages, Schwartzmiller abused between 250 and 300 children — predominantly boys in early adolescence. Boys were listed in categories such as hair color ("Blonde boys"), behavior ("Boys who say no") and explicit sex acts.

Schwartzmiller also had been writing a memoir about his life and his political views. Most chillingly, the manuscript had "paragraph summaries" of more than 100 boys, including "their names, specific characteristics about them and what he

had done with them," Mr. Dillon said. "I've heard of other [pedophiles] with 10, 15, 20 victims but nobody as extensive as this."

Schwartzmiller came to the attention of California authorities after he fled the scene of a traffic accident. Police visited his home and met his roommate, Fred Everts, a convicted child molester. Police arrested Everts after discovering he had violated his parole.

Schwartzmiller learned of Everts' arrest and fled to Washington state, but called one of the boys he was later convicted of molesting and asked him to go to his home and destroy certain materials. The boy told his mother and she went to police with the pornographic materials they found including photos of her own semi-naked son, press reports said. Schwartzmiller was soon arrested.

The boy and his cousin, now 13, testified against Schwartzmiller. Schwartzmiller defended himself, and accused the cousins, who are in California illegally, of striking a deal with prosecutors to gain legal residency in exchange for lying about him. Schwartzmiller further argued that consensual sex with boys shouldn't be a crime if the boys have reached puberty.

Jurors found Schwartzmiller guilty Sept. 18 after four hours of deliberation.

Mr. Fein described Schwartzmiller as having "no remorse. He has no feelings that anything he has done is wrong. He's essentially proud of how he's led his life and what he's done."

As prolific as Schwartzmiller is thought to be, the nation's most notorious child molester may still be Rex King, described as "Mr. X" in Alfred Kinsey's research.

King, a forestry official who traveled for work, is estimated to have molested 800 children, including infants, according to his meticulous records. Kinsey included King's sex acts in his 1948 book on male sexual behavior.