

Teacher indicted in sex case

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plaints against Fawbush.

Haselton said that parents of Liberty students were being informed by letter of the indictment but that he didn't think it was appropriate to tell them about the allegations when they came to light.

The allegations came from a 17-year-old male student at Buckner Alternative High School who says Fawbush fondled him when he was a second-grader in Fawbush's classroom.

The boy, whom The Courier-Journal will not identify, said last night that during the second half of the 1993-94 school year, Fawbush asked the student to help him in the classroom when the other students left for gym class.

"He had me touch him; he touched me," the boy said. "It was something I didn't know was wrong at the time."

Fawbush's attorney, Juliette House, said her client is "shocked and devastated" by the claims.

"He's been teaching in the same school for 21 years and never had a complaint filed against him for anything," she said.

Fawbush is divorced and is the father of a teen-ager.

The student making the allegations said that the touching occurred a few times during that one year but that the memory of those incidents has tortured him ever since. He said he has been depressed, has had suicidal thoughts and has resorted to self-mutilation.

"There is so much this has changed," he said. "It changes your trust of authority figures. You question your self-worth, your sexual identity. It made me very isolated for a very long

REPORTING SEX ABUSE

Victims of sexual abuse or rape can report the crimes in different ways, said Lynn Meyer, president of the Center for Women and Families. She offered this advice:

■ If an assault has just occurred — Go to a hospital emergency room. That way, a victim has evidence that an assault occurred.

■ If the crime or crimes occurred years earlier — Call a local law-enforcement agency and seek counseling.

■ Victims also can call the Center for Women and Families toll-free at (877) 803-7577 and get more information on its services from its Web site, www.thecenteronline.org.

time."

The student said he had sought help from a therapist and had told her last year that he had been abused, although he didn't tell her by whom. He said he told a school counselor last fall that Fawbush had molested him.

The counselor reported the allegations to the state Cabinet for Families and Children. The school system didn't conduct its own investigation because Oldham County police were investigating, Haselton said.

The student said the reason he has talked 10 years after the alleged inci-

dents is twofold — to get an apology from Fawbush and to encourage other victims of sexual abuse to tell authorities.

"By me doing this, I could convince other people to come forward," he said. "Maybe it will help one kid or 10 kids. Just the idea of getting this out in the open makes me feel so much better about what happened."

In Kentucky, there is no statute of limitations for filing felony charges.

But House speculated that the student could have other motivations.

"What's been in the media recently? The archdiocese cases," she said, referring to lawsuits and criminal cases involving sexual abuse by priests, teachers and others in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Louisville. "I think it speaks loudly, you know, to what has been alleged. Why now? Why not before? Why not ever?"

Officer Matt Cornell, an Oldham County police spokesman, said that because the case is 10 years old, investigators have less physical evidence than they would have had if the student had reported the alleged incidents at the time. However, Cornell wouldn't confirm whether police do have any physical evidence.

But Lynn Meyer, president of the Center for Women and Families, said it's common for victims to wait, and even more common for them not to report the situation at all.

"Only one in 10 rapes and sexual assaults are reported," Meyer said.

The student said that he's glad to have come forward now and that he plans to be a witness against Fawbush should the case go to trial.

"There's nothing that could stop me from testifying," he said.

Friday, February 6, 2004

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Oldham teacher is indicted

Teen alleges sex abuse occurred 10 years ago

By **TONIA HOLBROOK**

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The Courier-Journal

An Oldham County grand jury indicted a Liberty Elementary School teacher yesterday on charges of molesting a 7-year-old boy 10 years ago.

Stanley Keith Fawbush, 49, pleaded innocent yesterday to the three charges in the indictment — one count of first-degree sodomy and two counts of first-degree sexual abuse. All are felonies.

He was released from the Oldham County Jail yesterday afternoon after posting 10 percent of his \$50,000 bond.

Until November, when the allegations surfaced, Fawbush was still teaching, as he had for the last 26 years. All that time was spent in Oldham County schools, teaching kindergarten through third grade.

He has been on paid leave since November, pending the outcome of the investigation by Oldham County police and now the criminal case.

Superintendent Blake Haselton called the allegations "disheartening."

"I know Mr. Fawbush very well, and he has a reputation as an outstanding teacher," Haselton said, adding that he knows of no other com-



Stanley Keith Fawbush pleaded innocent yesterday to sodomy and sexual abuse.

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