

Beverly LaHaye
Chairman



Joey Davis
State Director

FAX COVER SHEET

To: Eunice and Linda

From: Haven

Date: 12/16/02

Re: sexual abuse case

Number of pages including cover sheet : 4

There's some interesting information about this case. We'll see what the defense attorneys do with this.

Haven

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ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH **METRO** THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2002

LAW & ORDER

ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Television news producer is accused of sexually assaulting boy, 13

William T. Sandefur, 50, a television news producer, was charged Wednesday with sexually assaulting a boy, 13, on several occasions at a bathroom at a high school football field in west St. Louis County.

Sandefur, of the 3300 block of Watson in St. Louis, is accused of three counts of first-degree statutory sodomy. He was held in lieu of \$200,000 bond.

Police said they discovered the incidents, which happened in November last year, while investigating another case. St. Louis County police seized a computer and videotapes from Sandefur's home.

Sandefur is executive news producer for KSDK (Channel 5).

Two men accused of sex acts with boy are free on bail

12/12/02

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Rathmann resigns as leader of Pride St. Louis

BY WILLIAM C. LHOTKA AND KAREN BRANCH-BRIOSO
Of the Post-Dispatch

Rolf F. Rathmann and Andrew Buhr, two of four men accused last week of having sexual relations with an underage boy in St. Louis County, have been freed on bail with orders to stay away from the alleged victim.

Rathmann has submitted his resignation as head of Pride St. Louis, which sponsors the annual Pride Festival and advocates tolerance for gays and lesbians. Its board of directors accepted the resignation.

Buhr's status as a low-level presidential appointee remained unclear Wednesday.

On Nov. 8, the White House announced President George W. Bush's "intention to appoint" Buhr to the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

He is not listed among the 28 members on the commission's official Web site. The chairwoman, Sen. Mary Kramar, R-Iowa, could not be reached for comment, and the White House did not respond to inquiries about Buhr.

The commission's job is to pick 141 Presidential Scholars from the nation's brightest high school seniors after reviewing the appli-

cations of 500 semifinalists. Winners are honored each June in Washington.

Buhr also is Hadley Township Republican committeeman and was an unsuccessful candidate for state representative in 2000.

Defense attorney Brad Kessler got the bail of Rathmann, 37, of St. Louis, reduced Wednesday by Associate Circuit Judge Michael T. Jamison to \$100,000 from \$200,000. Rathmann posted \$10,000 cash. He is charged with eight counts of statutory sodomy.

Defense attorney Andrew Hopson got the bail of Buhr, 30, of Richmond Heights, lowered by Associate Circuit Judge Sandra Farragut-Hemphill to \$75,000 from \$150,000, and Buhr put up \$7,500 in cash. Buhr is accused of two counts of statutory sodomy.

Both judges ordered the defendants to stay away from the victim, now 14. Pending their trials, they also were ordered to have no unsupervised contact with anyone under the age of 18.

Still in jail are Richard A. Benstrup, 55, of St. Charles, charged with five counts of statutory sodomy; and William T. Sandefur, 50, of St. Louis, an executive news producer with KSDK (Channel 5), charged with three counts of statutory sodomy.

Officials said the men had no known connections except that each was accused of having sexual liaisons with the boy when he was 13 or 14.

Reporter William C. Lhotka
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Second man is charged with having sex with boy

The suspect heads group here advocating tolerance for gays
Others may be named

BY HEATHER RATCLIFFE
Of the Post-Dispatch

Rolf F Rathmann, president of a prominent group advocating tolerance for gays and lesbians,

was charged with eight felonies Thursday accusing him of sexual contact with an underage boy he met on the Internet.

Rathmann, 37, heads Pride St. Louis, which sponsors the annual Pride Festival. He was named in St. Louis County Circuit Court on eight counts of second-degree statutory sodomy.

On Wednesday, authorities charged William T. Sandefur, 50, an executive news producer for KSDK (Channel 5), with three counts of first-degree statutory sodomy involving the same victim.

Different charges apply because the victim was 13 when he

allegedly had sex with Sandefur, and 14 when he allegedly had sex with Rathmann, officials explained. Bail for each man was set at \$200,000.

Prosecutors said charges against one or more other men who met with the teen may follow.

Officials said the victim appeared to have instigated sexual liaisons with the two suspects using an Internet chat room.

"A crime was committed regardless of the conduct or intentions of the victim," said St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch.

"The theory is that adults are supposed to know better."

McCulloch added, "This case is unusual because we have multiple defendants and one victim. Generally, these cases have multiple victims with one suspect."

Ken Lanning, a former behavioral profiler with the FBI and national expert on crimes against children, said Thursday, "When people think about sex cases involving children, they picture a creepy predator preying on a sweet little angel. But what people don't realize is that the child very often agrees to sex or even initiates contact with the offender."

He noted, "No one keeps these statistics, but the fact



Sandefur
Allegedly molested same teen



Rathmann
President of Pride St. Louis

that boys are out there hustling for sex is certainly not something that is new or has never happened before."

Lanning emphasized, "It doesn't change the fact that there was a crime."

The boy's parents called police several weeks ago when they became suspicious about his behavior. He had accepted several unusual phone calls, prosecutors said.

Authorities said they had found no connection between the suspects except their relationship with the victim. The teen has cooperated with investigators.

"Obviously, this is a troubled youth," McCulloch said. "And he clearly has some conflicts."

Police said Rathmann, a flight attendant who lives in the 3800 block of Virginia Avenue, met the juvenile on several occasions at Bluebird Park in Ellisville from June to October this year.

Sandefur, of the 3300 block of Watson Road, met the boy in a bathroom of what authorities described only as a high school football stadium in west St. Louis County.

Prosecutors said they would offer support for the victim and his family and had no plans to seek any kind of charges against him

Sounds like this came from the 1973 Mo. Law Review