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

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Rathmann resigns as leader of Pride St. Louis

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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 Kramer, 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. Bentrup, 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.

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