

Sex Predators...

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE



Bill McCollum is the 36th Attorney General of Florida, elected in November 2006. Since taking office, he has positioned Florida as a national leader in the fight against child pornography and internet child predators. At his request, the Florida Legislature provided the resources to greatly expand the Attorney General's Child Predator CyberCrime Unit (CPCU) and passed laws giving law enforcement new tools and greater punishments for those who prey on children over the internet. Additionally, with the cooperation of the state's school superintendents and school resource officers, the Attorney General's Office has prepared a cybersafety program to present in all of Florida's middle and high schools.

Tim Orman was arrested at his Jensen Beach home by officers with the AG's CyberCrime Unit, the FBI and the Martin County Sheriff's Office. A Hillsborough County man was taken into custody for child pornography possession and promoting the sexual performance of a child. Marcus James Morgan was arrested at his Thonotosassa home today by CyberCrime Unit officers, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

But we needn't look farther than Jacksonville to know predators abound in our own neighborhoods. A February news release from the Attorney General announced that, thanks to the AG CyberCrime Unit, a Jacksonville doctor at the Mayo Foundation, Irfan Nawaz, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for traveling to meet someone he thought was a child, intending to have a sexual encounter with that child.

The arrogant Pakistani said he laughed at "how stupid girls are in this country, and I thanked God I did not marry someone from this country." Judge John Merrett imposed the maximum sentence, telling him, "Irfan Nawaz, you are a degenerate. You are a hypocrite, and you are a bigot. You invited behavior from young women to confirm your disgust for our country. On behalf of my countrywomen, I join you in thanking God that you didn't marry anyone from this country." His lawyer said he will likely be deported after his sentence.¹

Other recent news items relate the following arrests:

- Kyle Richard Schlau arrested at his home in March for promoting the sexual performance of a child through child pornography.

- James Higgins, 34, arrested last September by members of the JSO Vice Unit after getting a complaint from a concerned citizen. Analysis of a seized computer revealed 15 different child pornography videos.

- Retired Marine Colonel John Watson, ROTC instructor at Ribault High School, arrested in March on charges of possessing child pornography involving images and movies of teens and children as young as 5 and 6 years old.

- Marvin Madkins, 29, of Newport News, Va., for bringing two underage girls from Virginia to Jacksonville where they were forced to engage in sex acts with multiple people to earn money for lodging, food and other items. An alert security guard at a hotel chain called police after he found one of the girls in a room with pornographic videos and her friend in another room with a man. Prosecutors said Madkins sought customers for the sex acts using various methods, including postings on Craig's List. He was convicted by a jury in Jacksonville and faces a maximum penalty of life in prison.

- And, finally, Adam Shepherd, a 25-year-old Jacksonville father who in February traveled 200 miles across state to have sex with children, ages 6 and 9. This pedophile, who lives within one block of a middle school, a city park and a public library, was arrested in Pasco County following a high-speed chase from Hernando County, where he had arranged to meet the girls.

According to newspaper accounts, Shepherd drove to Spring Hill in his Ford F150 truck, expecting to have sex with two little girls (who actually didn't exist). When he arrived and was confronted by deputies, "perhaps envisioning what might happen to him in jail if word got out that he was accused of wanting to have sex with a kindergartner and a third-grader, Shepherd decided there was no way he was going down easy."²

He fled the property, ramming two patrol cars in the process. Driving 90 mph, he ran red lights, sped around cars on the shoulder of the road, hit a civilian car and another police car before being stopped sticks were deployed.

Searching his vehicle, officers found two large stuffed Valentine toys, two boxes of heart-shaped candy, a box of condoms, a loaded handgun and additional ammunition, a cell phone and camera. He had told the source

phones, have no clue how knowledgeable and adept even very young children are in the use of communications technology. But their technical know-how doesn't mean they are always smart in its use.

Judith Newman wrote an excellent article in the May 2009 *Reader's Digest* that every parent should read: "Porn has gone interactive - and your kids are at risk. From 'sexting' to video chats, how to fight back." She told how she gave her 7-year-old son her iPhone to "noodle around with. He told me he was playing on Disney's Club Penguin, but when I turned on the phone later, the page that popped up was ***.com." You don't want to see what that website is all about. When she confronted him about it, he seriously explained that he was interested in the human body.

Newman's concern about her son's blasé acceptance of the pornographic images he viewed was reflected in a remark by her friend's 15-year-old daughter: "Mom, it's no big deal." But 'sexting' is a very big deal. Newman says, "Not because sexual curiosity and boundary pushing aren't normal parts of growing up; they are. The thing is, on the Internet, nothing ever truly vanishes. It's possible that a teen's knucklehead homemade *Girls Gone Wild* moment sent to her boyfriend stays on his computer or cell phone forever...then again, it is

can't be that many teenagers sending or receiving inappropriate photos of themselves," or that your child couldn't possibly be participating in such activities, Newman says, "Think again." She cites the results of a canvass conducted last fall by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy: one in five girls and almost as many boys have sent or posted nude or semi-nude pictures or videos of themselves.

I wish we could reproduce Newman's entire article, but as parents you can - you MUST - learn more about this subject. If you have a computer in your home and are computer illiterate, BECOME LITERATE! If your child has a webcam and/or cell phone, monitor its use. Many guidance sources are available to parents; you just have to search for them.

See the box of tips and instructions provided by FDLE Special Agent in Charge Dominick Pape in the sidebar on page 8. Go to <http://www.danielkids.org/sites/web/index.cfm> for free parenting tips. The FBI's website (<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>) posts *A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety*. JSO's website contains a similar page of tips under its Community Events section: *Parenting Tips Guide*.

The *Reader's Digest* also lists these options for wary parents:

Yoursphere.com (a social networking site that restricts membership to kids and teens)

Websafety.com (sells software that can be downloaded to your kid's cell phone and computer to alert you if he/she is sending inappropriate texts or photos)

Safe Eyes from Internetsafety.com (lets you track your child's instant messaging, monitor social networking sites and impose limits on his/her online minutes)

Cell Phone Spy Elite (a device from brickhousesecurity.com that retrieves deleted text messages from cell phones)

Life has changed dramatically since we were kids, the rules are different, everything we deal with is more complex. But if we are going to ensure that our children reach adulthood relatively unscathed, we have no choice but to learn about the enticements lurking everywhere in their world - and how to deal effectively with them.

¹ Paul Pinkham, *Jacksonville physician: teen girls are stupid, promiscuous*, Times-Union Feb. 7, 2009.

² Steve Huff, *The True Crime Report*, and Danny Vice, *The Weekly Vice*.

Online Resources for Parents

Parenting tips: <http://www.danielkids.org/sites/web/index.cfm>

FBI - *A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety*:

<http://www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm>

Parenting Tips Guide: <http://www.coj.net> (JSO Community Affairs)

Yoursphere.com

Websafety.com

Safe Eyes from Internetsafety.com

Cell Phone Spy Elite from brickhousesecurity.com



- Glynn County man, 56-year-old Harrell Hall, arrested in April on five felony counts of computer pornography and child exploitation. He had arranged to meet a 14-year-old girl with the intention of having sexual contact.

- Ponte Vedra High School athletics employee arrested in February for sending an email soliciting a 16-year-old boy for sex. Law enforcement was informed that William Turner, 46, had sent pornography to the boy and had asked him to meet him for sex. A cyber-crime investigator gained permission from the boy and his parents to monitor his Yahoo account, and when he arranged to meet the boy in Jacksonville for the sexual encounter, law enforcement officers were waiting instead.

who identified him he was bringing a camera to photograph his actions. He also told the unnamed source that he had committed the same unspeakable crime with other little girls, even babies. Who knows how many children this sick pervert has violated - and how many more like him there are throughout our community?

Pornographic texting

As close to home as the danger of online predators, however, is another threat to your children's welfare and future. Who would have thought that the convenience of a simple cell phone could result in your teen being labeled a sex offender? Most adults, having grown up without the Internet or cell

possible those photos will be sent to everyone she knows (and doesn't know), will turn up as her first Google hit when she's looking for a job, or, just maybe, will land her in jail."

Recent news broadcasts, for example, tell about a 15-year old Pennsylvania girl who faces charges for possessing, distributing and creating child pornography after she sent topless photos of herself to a man on MySpace. An 18-year old from Orlando began serving five years' probation and had to register as a sex offender after forwarding naked photos of his 16-year old girlfriend to friends. The secret word is Hannah. And there are many other such accounts.

Lest you think these stories are overblown, that "there