

Child porn purveyors evasive

By Sandra Kobrin
Special to Sentinel-Voice
LOS ANGELES (WOMENS E-NEWS) - It can look like any other e-mail, with an invitation to click on a website, often with a nonsensical name.

This week there's been one going around with the subject line: "eb1 LS- L 0 LITA NOW is out !!! with 4 in1 RTF"

For a day or two, the link inside this e-mail, touting something like "little Lolitas" or "young cuties," will direct your browser to a Web page with more than 15 ads for sites that have shocking photos of naked young girls. But two days later, the

link will probably go dead.

That's how child-porn sites work. They're up for a short period, but then move off to new domain names and Web addresses to evade detection from authorities. The unsuspecting recipient can click open explicit images depicting acts of oral sex, anal sex, vaginal penetration, bondage, rape or torture.

"The ease and anonymity of using home computers has revolutionized accessibility as well as the production and distribution of child pornography," according to Ernie Allen. "The fact that child pornography can be purchased using a credit card is causing a global problem and

an immeasurable impact on the sexual exploitation of children."

Allen is CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Alexandria, Va., which operates a tip line to report child porn by telephone or e-mail. In 2001 the group received 21,603 tips about child porn websites. Three years later, that figure zoomed to 106,176.

While the number of child-porn websites operating at any one time is a moving target, Allen figures there are at least 100,000 sites currently up and running, based on the number of reports the tip line brings in.

"Almost half of the cases we have caught are children that are being victimized by their parents, often for revenue," Allen said. "Parents sexually abuse their children and put it up on the Web and sell the pictures." Allen also said that here in the United States, older children, young teens for example, have been persuaded by their relatives and adult acquaintances to pose for porn for money.

Allen said that global sales of illegal pornography that exploits children — including those under 4 years of age — is about \$3 billion a year.

He said many of those (See Pornography, Page 12)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Ready to take a test drive in her new car, Janice Sylee just can't believe all the goodwill she received Tuesday night.

Extreme

(Continued from Page 1)

nized Sylee's selfless acts: "This grandmother has really done everything she possibly could to keep these children together, and for that she deserves the happiest of holidays."

"I wasn't going to give up... and I didn't give up the fight," Sylee said, demonstrating her love and affection for her "babies" and her determination to see that they weren't "lost in the (foster care) system." She worked for over a year to get custody of all the children.

Sylee thanked everyone and said, "I've got so many blessings... it's hard to know where to put them all."

The "Extreme Christmas" promotion was held in conjunction with Weekly's annual Ward 5 Toy Drive. Nearly 1,000 toys were donated and dropped off to Las Vegas City Hall and KCEP and then delivered to local elementary schools in Ward 5.

The car and furniture promotional gifts awarded to Sylee were donated by Shack-Findley Honda and World Market Center. Several other businesses provided other donations.

Weekly said as exciting as it was to give away "a brand new car, a houseful of furniture and toys for all the kids," he said next year's event will be bigger and will help even more families.

Winning big is nice, but giving big at Christmas time is, well, just joyous.

Open school enrollment questioned

By Charles Hallman
Special to Sentinel-Voice
MINNEAPOLIS (NNPA)

The Minnesota open enrollment law, proposed by then-Minnesota Governor Rudy Perpich and passed by the state legislature in 1988, allows students to attend any state high school regardless of where they live. Nearly everyone associated with education, including coaches, administrators and other officials, favors this legislation in itself. But for many students, open enrollment has been used for athletic purposes rather than for its academic intentions.

Open enrollment presently doesn't require a student to explain why he or she is transferring. At the outset, Minneapolis Roosevelt Athletic Director Al Frost says he expressed his concerns about this.

"I told [the late Minneapolis school superintendent] Richard Green that it is going to ruin athletics and it will get out of hand," he recalls. "Bill McMoore [former Minneapolis district athletic director] mentioned the same thing."

"When they put that rule in," St. Paul Highland Park Boys' Basketball Coach Charles Portis points out, "athletics didn't creep into the thinking of most people."

"A number of students are transferring simply because they want to play for this team or that team," says Minneapolis Public Schools Athletic Director John Washington.

St. Paul Harding Athletic Director Jerry Keenan said that if it weren't for athletics, "the number of [trans-

fers] would be small."

Furthermore, open enrollment eliminated the neighborhood-school concept in Minneapolis. "Edison High used to be the Edison community," Washington says, referring to the only public high school on the city's northeast side. "The kids in that area used to go to Edison High School."

It is no different in St. Paul, according to Portis, who has been with the St. Paul Schools for three decades.

"You played wherever you grew up in your neighborhood," he recalls.

"It affects everybody — city, out-state, everyone," says Minneapolis South Girls' Basketball Coach Ahmil Jihad.

The state lawmakers inadvertently but conveniently supplied a perfect loophole in open enrollment for any student who wishes to transfer for athletic reasons. Until four years ago, a student could transfer schools with few or no limitations; a former student-athlete once played basketball at three different area high schools in four years.

"I've seen it totally abused," says Portis.

Then, the Minnesota State High School League in 2002 instituted a one-time transfer rule: The student can transfer and play immediately at his or her new school so long as they are enrolled on the first day of school. If a student wishes to transfer again, he or she must sit out one-half of their varsity season. The student doesn't lose any eligibility, however, if they switch schools or districts

during the year or during the summer because of a change of residence or placement in a foster home (MSHSL By-law 111.00).

Unlike what is currently in effect in Minnesota, other states or urban districts nationwide do have stricter restrictions that apply if a student transfers schools for athletic reasons. For example:

- Student-athletes must sit out one year in Ohio, Kentucky, Missouri, Florida and New York City.

- In Illinois, a student-athlete is ineligible for 30 days and must get the principals of his or her old school and their new school to sign their transfer papers.

- Student-athletes in Seattle must have the principal of their former school attest that the transfer is not for athletic or disciplinary reasons.

Locally, many see athletic transfers, or Minnesota's "high school free agency," as a modern-day Pandora's Box, often creating an unwanted situation at their new school, notes Minneapolis South Boys Basketball Coach Joe Hyser: "They go to that school strictly for themselves."

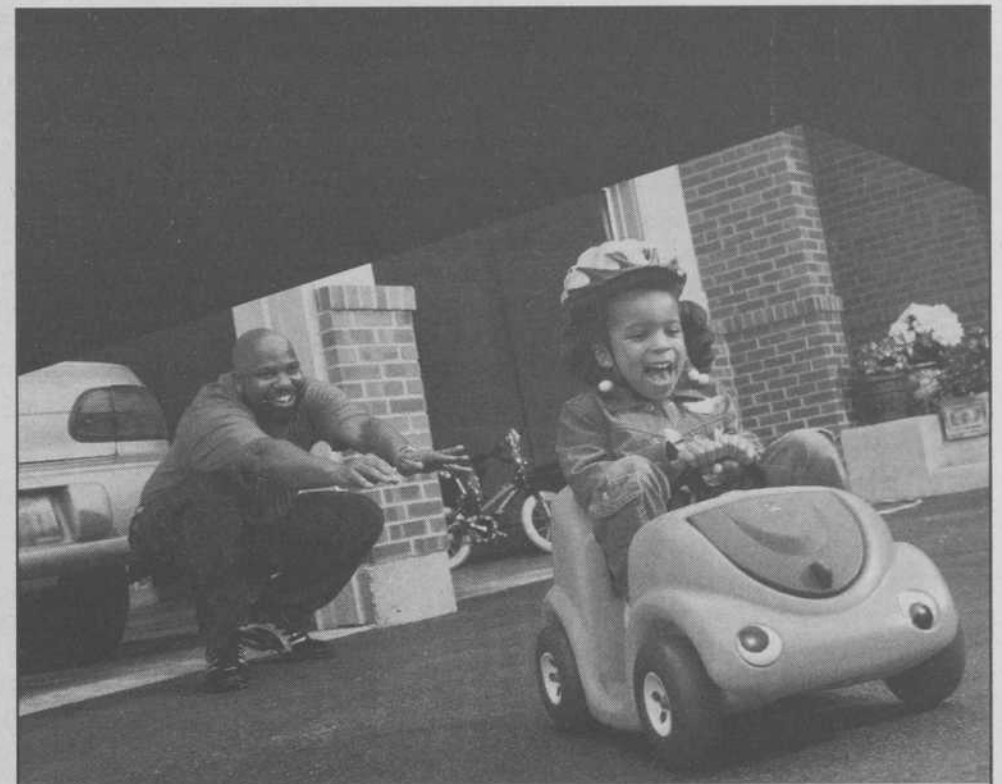
Some players leave for schools they see as winners, Portis says. He lost two players last season "because they thought the program wasn't going to be that good."

Jihad said that parents sometimes use sports as a way to obtain a college scholarship for their child. "A parent is going to move their kid because they ultimately want them to get to a Division I school on a scholarship."

Or, parents sometimes hold the threat of transferring

over coaches' heads, Hyser points out. "I've seen where a young man or woman is unhappy and their parents don't like to see them unhappy," he explains. "The student says they want to transfer because they can play more or it's a better coach."

"I also have seen it the (See Enrollment, Page 6)



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