

Respectability cloaks many

Child molesters defy image

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The Traverse City Record-Eagle
By MARILYN WRIGHT
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — As the enlarged picture of the child pornography racket is brought into focus, the image of the "typical" child molester fades into the background.

In place of the "dirty old man in a trenchcoat," can be seen an intelligent well-educated male, cloaked in respectability. He also could be an astute businessman who uses tax dollars to support his perversion and line his pockets.

He might be the family priest, a scout leader or a Big Brother. Or he could be a child counselor, school teacher, camp director or probation officer. He could even be a millionaire.

The men so far identified by police as alleged child abusers and pornographers in the underground network are all of these.

Richard Halverson, 51, arrested by New Orleans authorities for aggravated rape and aggravated crimes against nature on eight to 12-year-old boys, was the former leader of Boy Scout Troop 137, disbanded following a police raid on its headquarters. He was also a probation officer and foster father to two young boys, wards of the state.

The Rev. Claudius I. (Bud) Vermilye Jr., 48, awaiting trial on 16 separate counts involving child abuse and por-



nography at Boys Farm, Inc. in Alto, Tenn., was an Episcopal priest. He was also director of the farm which received wards of the Tennessee courts.

Gerald S. Richards, 29, now serving a 2-10 year sentence in Jackson Prison for criminal sexual conduct with a 10-year-old boy, was the director of Brother Paul's Nature Camp for Boys, the alleged pornography operation on North Fox Island in northern Lake Michigan. He was also a school teacher, child counselor, licensed hypnotist, myomasiologist (Swedish, Japanese and Chinese massage), naturopath, and candidate for political office in Port Huron.

Francis D. Shelden, 48, sought by state and federal authorities on two counts of criminal sexual conduct involving eight and 14-year-old boys, was a director of Brother Paul's and owner of the island where illicit sex acts allegedly took place. He is also a pilot, geologist, part-time university professor, amateur botanist, land developer, oil consultant and investor. He earned a bachelor's degree from Yale and a master's degree from Wayne State University.

The family firm, Shelden Land Co., developed Rosedale Park and Grosse Pointe Farm, two of Detroit's prestigious subdivisions.

Prior to his disappearance from Michigan and warrants for his arrest on the sex charges, the Ann Arbor millionaire served on the board of directors at Cranbrook Institute of Science and Boys Republic, Inc., both in the Detroit area, and was a volunteer with the "Big Brother" program sponsored by the Ann Arbor YMCA.

Shelden's letter of resignation to Cranbrook was postmarked from Kearny, N. J. where two other suspected front organizations — the Church of the New Revelation and Ocean Living Institute — are purportedly located.

Shelden also has been identified as a staff writer of Better Life Monthly, a publication promoting the "boylover" movement, police said.

For some time, the background of a man believed by authorities to be a kingpin of the child pornography racket remained almost as much a mystery as his present whereabouts.

Dyer Grossman, 35, disappeared approximately four months ago after he was charged in a St. Clair County warrant with two counts of criminal sexual conduct involving 10 and 14-year-old boys.

Grossman has been linked to four organizations suspected of being fronts for child pornography. He is listed as vice president of Brother Paul's Childrens Mission and executive director of Ocean Living Institute. He is also identified as "youth director" for the Church of the New Revelation and Educational Foundation for Youth. The latter organization is purportedly located in Chicago, Ill.

Based on information obtained from Grossman's New York driver's license, Ottawa News Service staffers traced him to an apartment in Carmel, N. Y. where he lived from August, 1975 to January, 1976.

Ms. Jerry Maldonado, manager, described Grossman as a "strange person, the way he came and went." The apartment was poorly maintained. She recalled, with barely any furniture and no curtains.

It was such a "dirty mess," Maldonado said, that Grossman did not get his \$275 deposit returned when he moved out.

The owner of the apartment, Ted McGlasson, confirmed the manager's description of the apartment.

He said "tons of photographs" were found hanging on all the walls and a large number of newspaper clippings were left lying around.

McGlasson recalled that the photos were not pornographic in nature but were primarily of "children enjoying sports activities at summer camp."

The apartment owner said Grossman told him that he did a lot of work with boys' groups, then asked him (McGlasson) if he would "donate some land for a camp."

McGlasson said he turned Grossman down.

Both McGlasson and Maldonado said Grossman frequently carried a camera around with him, and they believed the photographs on the walls had been taken by the fugitive.

McGlasson also said Grossman became "very vulgar and abusive" when told he would not get back his security deposit. Grossman gave a Poughkeepsie, N.Y. forwarding address when he moved out.

Reporters then traced Grossman back to the Harvey School, in Katonah, N.Y., where he taught science from 1973 to 1975.

Employment records at Harvey School, a private boys' academy for students in fourth through ninth grade, show that Grossman earned his B.A. from Cornell University in 1963.

While at the school, reporters obtained a photograph of Grossman which was turned over to state and federal authorities conducting the search for the fugitive.

One science teacher at Harvey remembers that Grossman expressed considerable interest in oceanography, relating that Grossman said he was planning on teaching the subject at the University of Hawaii when he left the school in 1975.

Prior to joining the Harvey School, Grossman taught for 10 years, from 1963 to 1973, at the Blair Academy, an exclusive boarding school for boys in ninth through 12th grade in Blairstown,

(Continued on Page 12)

Page 12

Thursday, April 7, 1977

...Child molesters defy image

(Continued from Page 1)

N.J. Although records are somewhat incomplete due to a changeover in the school's administration, a spokesman at the academy said she believed Grossman taught science and history. Before that, Grossman said he was director of a boy's camp in Vermont.

When Grossman left Blair Academy in May, 1973, he gave a Los Angeles forwarding address, but turned up three months later at the Harvey School.

Evidence that he was in California in May, 1975 can be found on an application Grossman submitted to the Contra Costa County Big Brother

organization there.

In that document Grossman listed his occupation as youth director of Ocean Living Institute, Inc. and said he had earned a B.A., an M.A. from Harvard University, with additional training from the Northfield Counseling Institute.

He then apparently returned to Carmel, N.Y. in August, but went back to California sometime in 1976. According to New York Dept. of Motor Vehicle records, Grossman was arrested on a traffic violation in California on Aug. 27, 1976.

The Gallup Poll

Americans back tough porn laws

By GEORGE GALLUP
Special to the Record-Eagle

PRINCETON, N.J. — A just-completed national study of public attitudes regarding the exploitation of sex and pornography brings to light the following facts:

1. Although the American people in recent years have grown far more liberal in their sexual attitudes, only a small percentage favor a relaxation in community standards regarding the sale of sexually explicit material. Nationwide, 45 percent say local standards should be tougher, compared to 6 percent who say they should be less strict; 35 percent feel they should be kept as they are now.

2. While public opinion tends to favor stricter controls, a close division of opinion is found on the question of whether there should be a single nationwide standard in determining obscenity or whether each community should set its own standards. About one person in 10 feels there should be no standards whatsoever.

In 1973 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local judges and juries should decide whether material is obscene rather than having a national standard.

Those favoring a single national standard include those who cite First Amendment problems with the present system. But support for such a standard also comes from those who feel that community-set standards allow people in one community with strict standards to go to neighboring communities where standards are less strict.

3. In the matter of just a few years, theaters showing X-rated films, adult bookstores and massage parlors have spread to all parts of the nation and into communities of all sizes.

Some indication of this growth is seen in the results of further survey questions which sought to determine whether people are aware of the showing of X-rated movies in their own com-

munities and the presence of adult bookstores or massage parlors.

Nationwide, half of all persons (50 percent) report that X-rated movies are shown in the theaters of their communities. Three in 10 (31 percent) say they are not shown, while 19 percent indicate they do not know.

In addition, about four in 10 (38 percent) say there are adult bookstores or massage parlors in their community, 35 percent say there are not, while 27 percent say they do not know.

4. One-third of all adults in the survey say they have seen an X-rated movie at least once. Sharp differences are found on the basis of age, sex, educational background and church membership.

Six in 10 among the youngest adults (18 to 29) have seen an X-rated movie; 42 percent of men compared to 28 percent of women. Nearly half of persons with a college background have seen a movie with this rating compared to one-third of persons with a high school background and only one person in six among those whose formal education did not go beyond grade school.

Following are the questions and

results by key groups:

"Do you think the standards in this community regarding the sale of sexually explicit material should be stricter than they are now, not as strict, or kept as they are now?"

	Should Be	Stricter	Not As	Same	As Now	Opinion
NATIONWIDE	45%	6%	35%	14%		
Men	49	7	40	13		
Women	50	4	31	15		
College background	33	7	44	16		
High school	49	5	34	12		
Grade school	56	3	22	19		
East	41	6	33	20		
Midwest	48	4	35	12		
South	53	5	31	11		
Deep South	60	*	26	10		
Rest of South	50	6	32	12		
West	36	7	44	13		
Community Size:						
One mill. and over	52	7	28	13		
500,000 to 999,999	42	5	40	13		
50,000 to 499,999	49	8	37	15		
2,500 to 49,999	47	3	33	17		
Under 2,500	46	4	38	12		
18-24 years old	29	8	50	13		
30-49 years	51	7	31	11		

50 and older 53 2 28 17

Church members 49 5 33 13

Non-members 36 8 40 16

(* Less than 1 percent)

"In determining whether a book, magazine or movie is obscene, do you think there should be a single nationwide standard, or do you think each community should have its own standard?"

	Single, Nationwide	Community	Set Own	None	Set	No	Opinions
NATIONWIDE	45%	38%	9%	7%			
Men	42	40	12	6			
Women	48	38	7	7			
College background	38	44	14	4			
High school	47	38	8	7			
Grade school	50	32	5	13			
East	44	36	12	8			
Midwest	50	35	8	7			
South	45	41	6	8			
Deep South	53	38	3	6			
Rest of South	43	42	6	9			
West	37	47	13	3			

14

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