# Sex case from page A1

Through AOL member profile screens, subscribers of the online service can fill out a "bio" hat tells other subscribers about themselves. Potter's member profile also shows he's single and his hobbies are fishing, hunting, camping and auto racing. Solice said they found nine Polaroid pictures when they arrested Potter at his parents? West Bloomfield home on FriTay. All nine showed the boy's paked body, and one picture showed Potter performing oral con on the boy, said Lt. Mike Badijan of the West Bloomfield Police.

Madigan of the West Bioomicid Police.

"There was only one picture that showed the boy's face,"
Madigan said.
What police don't know is whether any of the pictures of abild pornography found in files on Potter's computer are of his

police are concerned he might have had improper contact with members of the Farmington Hills-based Boy Scout troop led by Pottor. On Saturday, West Bloomfield police officer Tom Stimmel called the parents of 30 to 40 boys in the troop and asked them to talk with their children about Potter. As of Tuesday, police had not heard back from any of the families, according to Madigan.

It is unclear just how far Potter's interest in child pornography extends — whether he is a consumer of pornographic pictures downloaded from the Internet and other on-line services, or whether he also is a supplier, uploading computer images of pictures it lie the ones police found in Potter's bedroom.

When police searched Potter's contract the contract of the con

room during the arrest, Madigan said they did not find a digital

camera or an image scanner, both commonly used to create computer image files. But the U.S. Customs Service

But the U.S. Customs Service has been investigating Potter since early this summer regard-ing possible involvement in child pornography over the Internet, Kelly confirmed.

#### Electronic footprints

Electronic footprints
Special agent Kelly is the technological equivalent of Quincy, Jack Klugman's television character who solved crimes as a forensic pathologist. Kelly follows the electronic trail of child pornographers. But the process of revealing the contents of a suspect's computer takes much longer than Quincy's 60-minute investigations.

investigations.

"It takes weeks. It is a slow and methodical process," Kelly said. "There is not an A-B-C

method."
Monday night at the West Bloomfield Police Department, it took Kelly almost 30 minutes to copy all the files from Potter's computer to a portable hard drive.

drive.

Kelly will restore these files onto a computer at his Detroit office. There he'll begin to unravel the facts that reside in the

computer.
"I'll take a look at all the files
on the computer and in the

cache," he said. "But every case dictates what direction we go

dictates what direction we go into.

"It's really looking at a person's total involvement."

That involvement can include everything from making pictures available on the Internet or other on-line services to advertising and selling the pictures via chat rooms and news-grouss.

advertising and solling the pictures via chat rooms and nowsgroups.

For instance, a person looking for child pornography may visit a chat room on the Internet where people can talk to each other by typing in messages that appear on the computer screen instantaneously. If a buyer or seller determines that another person also has an interest in child pornography, the two can move to a private chat room to conduct business there. Many Web sites also offer child pornography for sale by credit cards.

Tochnology offers the child pornographer many avenues—bulletin beards, the internet ...," Kelly said. "He will sack out child pornography wherever he can find it."

The answers to if and where

can find it.

The answers to if and where
Potter found or distributed such
pictures electronically are on his
Packard Bell.

Computer image files, also
known as GIF's or JPEG's, will

## Bond hiked to \$150,000

BY GREG KOWALSKI

BOND ROWALSH
Bond for a 32-year-old West
Bloomfield man accused of soxually molesting a 4-year-old
boy, was increased Wednesday
to \$150,000 with no surety by
48th District Court Judge Kimberly Small.
Steven Bidney Potter is
charged with two counts of
first-degree criminal asxual
conduct and faces up to life in
prison if convicted.
Small said she increased the
bond because of the sariousness
of the charges and because she
viewed Polaroid pictures of Potter and the boy engaging in a
sex act. Those pictures made
conviction "likely," she said.

And she stressed that while no other charges have been filed she worried that others may come forward claiming to be victimized by Potter.

Potter's attorney, S. Allen Early, said Potter could not post bond and he was taken into custody. A preliminary exam was see for 9:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 21.

Allen asked that the original bond of \$10,000 not be increased. The mother of the victim called me yesterday. Early said. The mother of poses the increase of the bond. She feels this should not be made a circus.

circus."

Early said Potter poses no threat to the community and is not likely to flee.

show Kelly what type of pictures, if any, Potter is interested in. Bookmarks in Potter's Interest Potter's Interest Potter's Interest Potter's Potter's password on the AOL Cocount, but once he does, saved E-mail messages and newsgroup postings will reveal who Potter has been talking to on-line. Kelly would not say what led U.S. Customs to investigate Potter earlier this summer. We had information, he said.

As part of its Child Pornography Enforcement Program, U.S. Customs a hotline, 1800-BE ALERT, and an e-mail address, iepicc@customs.sprint.com.

which anyone can use to report information about child pornog-raphy. Under cover customs agents spend time surfing the Internet, looking at Web sites and sitting in chat rooms.

"You go into any of the chat rooms for kids and they are filled with pedophiles," Kelly said. But Kelly said he tries to focus on finding objective evidence— like computer images and elec-tronic trails.

"I've learned to just separate, as you do where there's a victim in the case," he said. "But maybe it's easier for me. I only see the pictures. I don't meet the people or hear the kids scream."



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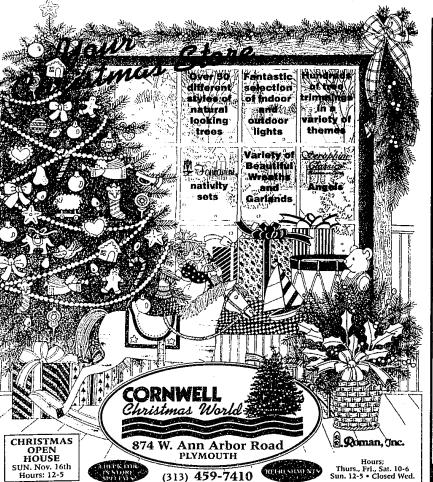
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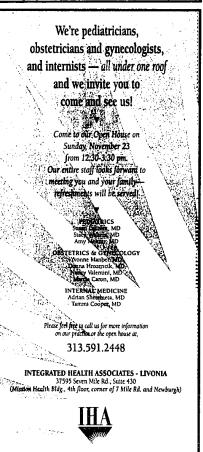
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