

Show prompts boy to report sex abuse

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Allegations of sexual abuse involving three West Bloomfield youngsters surfaced after a boy, one of the alleged victims, saw a television show on child molestation, according to the Oakland County assistant prosecutor handling the case.

"The boy saw a television show about it (child molestation) and told his mother what had happened to him," said assistant prosecutor Pamela Maas. "That's how we found out about it."

What subsequently came to light were allegations against Howard Jay Kaplan, 36, of Oak Park. Kaplan is charged with 45 counts of criminal sexual conduct involving four youngsters, one from Oak Park and three who are students at Pleasant Lake Elementary School in West Bloomfield.

The victims know each other, the assistant prosecutor said, and the alleged incidents of molestation occurred when they were visiting Kaplan's home in Oak Park.

Maas said Kaplan faces multiple counts of criminal sexual conduct I, involving penetration, and numerous counts of criminal sexual conduct II which includes fondling. The maximum penalty for CSC I is life in prison, for

CSC II it's 15 years in prison. Kaplan underwent preliminary examination for nine counts of CSC Thursday in Oak Park District Court and was bound over to Oakland Circuit Court. The next day, Maas said Kaplan was arraigned on 36 other counts of criminal sexual conduct.

He pleaded not guilty at his arraignment. His preliminary examination is scheduled for 1 p.m. Dec. 17.

The alleged incidents of molestation occurred between Sept. 11 and Nov. 6, according to Maas.

At Thursday's preliminary examination an alleged victim from West Bloomfield testified that Kaplan fondled him and performed oral sex on him, according to Maas.

Maas said the boy testified that Kaplan told the youngsters not to tell anybody about what he had done, or he would go to jail. After seeing the television show, however, the boy told his mother.

Kaplan's attorney, Patrick Cleary of Bloomfield Township, was unavailable for comment and did not return phone calls.

Kaplan, who is divorced and unemployed, remains in the Oakland County jail where he is remanded without bail.

POLICE/FIRE CALLS

Listed below are some of the Farmington area police incidents, fire calls and court cases reported during the past week.

ARRESTS

A 26-year-old Highland Park man was arrested Dec. 4 after Farmington Hills police stopped him for speeding on Interstate 696 and Orchard Lake Road. A check showed a warrant for his arrest for failure to comply with judgment sentencing. Police also arrested the 26-year-old Detroit man who was a passenger in the car on a misdemeanor warrant out of Detroit.

DRUGS IN HIGH SCHOOL

A 16-year-old student at Harrison High School was caught Dec. 4 with marijuana on school grounds, according to a Farmington Hills police report. The school's custodian reportedly saw the student in the second floor men's room rolling a cigarette. The custodian seized the marijuana and roll papers, and took the

student to the principal's office.

BURGLARY ARRESTS

Three people — a 35-year-old Bloomfield Township man, an 18-year-old Roseville woman and an 18-year-old St. Clair Shores woman — were arrested Dec. 4 in connection with a burglary at the Knight's Inn on Grand River.

Police responded to a burglary-in-progress call and found the man in a 1985 Honda Accord and the two women in a 1981 Chevy Citation in the parking lot of the motel. A search of the vehicles found beepers, cash and receipts for escort services.

Police confiscated the property. The three were arrested, but were later released without bond.

BURGLARIES

After responding to a burglar alarm Dec. 6 at the Wine Tasters Party Store on 9 Mile, Farmington Hills police found the front door of the store smashed and Marlboro cigarette cartons stolen.

Police believe the door was smashed by a truck. Livonia police reported a similar incident at a party store on 8 Mile and Middlebelt earlier that night.

In an unrelated incident, Joan's Hardware on 12 Mile reported Dec. 7 that a Detroit man rented a \$2,000 carpet cleaner but failed to return the property within the 24-hour time period allowed. The cleaner was rented Nov. 6, and the store has not heard from the man.

LARCENY IN BUILDING

The owner of Maudo's Pizza on Orchard Lake Road in Farmington reported a missing dough mixer, valued at between \$2,000 and \$3,000 and weighing 500-300 pounds, Dec. 4. There was no forced entry. The business is for sale.

ACCIDENT

A 1986 Chrysler Scorpion boat slipped from the trailer of a 1990 Chevy pickup truck, blocking traffic on Farmington and Oak Point roads Dec. 7. The Farming-

ton Hills owner was able to put the boat back on the trailer, without severe traffic delay.

FIRE

A fire started by a space heater caused about \$7,600 damage to a house on Old Franklin Drive Dec. 4. Farmington Hills firefighters said the space heater was too close to a bed and that bedding had been draped over the heater. The resident fell asleep. The fire was confined to the bedroom and was extinguished by the time firefighters arrived.

Farmington firefighters also responded to a fire at the First Church of the Nazarene on Haggerty Road Dec. 4 after a trash can caught fire in a bathroom. The fire department said the church did not have a smoke detector or an automatic sprinkler system.

People at the church were able to extinguish the fire and no damage was reported.

Council adopts Bill of Rights for Children

BY MARY LOU SONG
STAFF WRITER

It was a first step for Farmington Hills children — the Bill of Rights for Children.

The Hills City Council voted 6-0 Monday night to adopt a Bill of Rights for Children. Councilmember Ben Marks was not able to attend the meeting.

After several weeks of urging by Hills residents Vernon Kielbinski, the council adopted

the children's bill that urged all adults to set good examples for children and to "let children be children."

"It's a recognition that there is a problem out there," said councilmember Aldo Vagnozzi. "It's asking parents to be kind to their children."

Vagnozzi said he thinks the bill will not carry any enforcement weight, because child laws already on the books are enforced by

Hills police.

"Children are highly valued in our community," said Mayor-elect Nancy Bates. She also said that even with all the programs and groups that try to make life pleasant for children, "You can never do enough."

Mayor Jon Grant said the children's bill may be used as a stepping stone to more substantive bills later.

Motel fire called arson

The Farmington Hills police and fire departments have determined that a Nov. 1 motel fire was a case of arson.

said gasoline was used to start a fire on the carpet in a room at the Travel Lodge Motel on Eight Mile and Haggerty roads last month.

Hills police Sgt. Charles Nebus

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