

Best News Feature Story

Second place, Alabama Press Association (2009)

What's going on?

■ Psychologist, counselor weigh in on middle school students' sexual behavior

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Editor's Note: The Bulletin does not publish the names of children involved with sex crimes or other sexual behavior.

Daphne police a week ago reported two investigations involving the cell phone exchange of nude photos between Daphne Middle School students. Since then, the issue has received widespread attention. The Associated

Press and the Web-based Drudge Retort — an alternative to the Drudge Report — are two behemoths that have reported on the issue, along with several blogs and local media outlets like the Bulletin.

Three DMS sixth-graders and a seventh-grader — two boys, two girls — have been suspended for five days in connection with the photo trade and cell phone use, according to Baldwin County schools spokesperson Terry Wilhite.

"Police and school officials continue to investigate this incident," he said. "From our perspective, at this point it appears that this ... is limited to four students."

Teenagers using multimedia messaging to exchange nude photos of themselves is nothing new — a group of 13- and 14-year-old boys and girls at Farmington Junior High School in Utah traded headless nude self-portraits on cell phones in January, spurring the state's attorney general to determine how to handle such

cases according to Fox News — but until now, it had never been reported in the Jubilee City, police said.

It's also a first for Baldwin County public schools, Wilhite said.

"It appears to be a first (nude photo exchange), however, it is not the first disruption that we've had by cell phones, and this is the very reason that administrators support a cell phone ban," Wilhite said.

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Judges said:

"Heavy story — fitting headline. Questions don't always work as headlines. This one does."