

Case study June 16, 2003 (Two face sex charges after online exchange)

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SOUTH BEND – Both times the men logged onto computer chat rooms, they believed they were exchanging messages of an explicit nature with 13-year-old girls. But in fact, they were chatting with law enforcement officials who were patrolling the Internet posing as teenage girls. As a result, a Granger man and a Mishawaka man have been charged recently with felony offenses. Timothy Sherman, 28, of Mishawaka, was charged Friday with child solicitation. Sherman is in custody and is awaiting an initial court appearance, according to court documents. Mauro Agnelneri, 52, of Granger, was charged May 30 with child exploitation. Agnelneri was released from jail Monday after posting a \$1,000 cash bond, court records show. Investigator Mitch Kajzer of the St. Joseph County prosecutor's office was involved in both Internet policing efforts.

In Sherman's case, Kajzer logged onto Yahoo Messenger in April using an undercover screen name, an affidavit filed by Chief Deputy Prosecutor Michael Gotsch states. As part of his profile, Kajzer posted a photograph he borrowed from a female police officer when she was 13 years old. Kajzer received an instant message from an individual who identified himself as an 18-year-old man from South Bend, according to the affidavit. The man brought up sexual topics during an 85-minute discussion and then exposed himself on his webcam and performed a sexual act. Kajzer obtained a subpoena to identify the user of the screen name from Yahoo.

In Agnelneri's case, Kajzer got involved after a police detective in Piedmont, Calif., traced the sender of a photographic image of a nude young male sent to the detective when he was posing as a girl. The detective had logged onto an AOL chat room where pornographic images of young boys are frequently exchanged, according to an affidavit filed by Deputy Prosecutor Marielena Lindke.

A search warrant was served at Agnelneri's home in February and a desktop computer was taken as evidence by police. A forensic examination of the computer by Kajzer revealed four more pornographic images of children, Lindke stated.

***Questions:***

- a) What are some of the conclusion that you draw from the above case? How is this; a serious concern in case of children's using internet? Discuss in terms of social implication of internet
- b) Do you think internet has more negative implication than positive ones? Comment on the statement with necessary arguments taking concern of the case mentioned above

c) How could such felony offences be prevented? Suggest from the internet Control perspective.