

Vampires of Charity

By Sandy Frost

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What Others Say

I investigate human trafficking crimes. I have read Sandy's work on the Jesters and the child sex tourism. She did her homework and dug deep. Nothing was falsified and everything she did was verified. I really appreciate her investigative skills. I am disappointed that the main stream media did not run with what she had uncovered. Sandy keep digging and keep up the great work. You truly care for people and are genuine. Unfortunately if people like you don't expose this corruption, nobody will. God bless.

Jon Daggy, Detective Sergeant with the Indianapolis Metro Police Department, Vice Unit Human Trafficking Investigator

In my long life I have met very few journalists whom I would give my endorsement to. Sandy Frost is at the top of the very short list. Sandy has absolute integrity in anything she writes. Her expose of the Royal Order of Jesters is a much needed expose. The men involved in this horrible cover-up need to be brought out into the sunlight, rather than letting them continue to scurry around in the dark, like the cockroaches they are. Sandy, I applaud you. Most respectfully, Tuklo Nashoba, CEO/Producer, Ghost Shield Entertainment Group

Sandy Frost is a perfect example of a true investigative journalist and caring human being. Concerned for those who cannot help themselves, Frost has been investigating the Royal Order of Jesters for years, exposing the dark side of the "charity" and their penchant for human trafficking and prostitution. "The Vampires of Charity" is a compilation of this research, which also brought to light Richard Schair's child sex tourism business in Brazil, of which the Jesters partook. Frost is a hero to those children, and to those seeking justice for children and women who are being abused at the hands of "good people" everywhere. "The Vampires of Charity" is sure to open many eyes to the seedy underworld of the Shriners' elite group, which masquerades as a non-profit, while taking disgusting advantage of unsuspecting women and children. The world owes Sandy Frost a debt of gratitude for bringing their nefarious practices to light. Debbie Lewis Host, Securing Liberty Radio Writer, Blood of Patriots

"Sandy Frost is a great citizen journalist and is, in fact, quietly doing some of the best journalism I've seen on the Web. Rather than taking on easier or more popular topics, like the entertainment world or politics, she writes about a topic so specific and non-mainstream – the Shriners – that I didn't even know she existed or was doing such standout work at first. But like a criminal lawyer defending an unpopular client, she keeps plugging away with her articles and opinion pieces pointing out the problems she's learned about the Shriners since she got an email from a whistleblower. It hasn't been easy - she has got much blowback from Shriners harassing her, many of them missing the point that she wasn't condemning all Shriners just those of them who are doing wrong. But still she perseveres. In short, she's an inspiration." Scott Butki, plank owner and columnist, Newsvine.com.

Sandy Frost is not very good at keeping secrets. It's not a personal fault; it's her strength. In "The Vampires of Charity" she is at her best in investigating and exposing so-called secret societies and making them uncomfortable. And that's no secret. Dan Raley, Seattle multi-media journalist

Sandy Frost is a fierce bulldog of a reporter. Her reporting has raised some very serious questions about the Jesters organization and how our government defines "charities." Dan Herbeck, co-author of the NY Times bestseller "American Terrorist," the Timothy McVeigh biography.

Introduction

This book is a collection of articles that investigates the biggest nonprofit fraud of our time—human trafficking and prostitution at taxpayer expense.

They play.

We pay.

Except these guys are members of secret societies. And they're dirty cops, judges, attorneys, sheriffs, bankers, presidents, etc. They somehow think that they are above the law because they are the law. They think that their secret oaths to each other supersede those of public servants sworn to uphold the law while protecting and serving us.

Instead, they protect and serve each other.

Some of these guys are highly placed geriatric pimps who think it's cool to get girls from all over the country for their weekend sex parties.

Let me apologize, here and now, for how I write. I am a one-woman newsroom who has done this all myself. Interviews, document analysis, translations, editing and writing headlines that are now chapter titles. In doing so, I have spent over four years doing what no one has done before, and that is to expose, document, and call these guys out for being the worst of the worst.

No one likes dirty cops or dirty judges who traffick sex slaves for their prostitution parties.

Or guys who think it's OK to have sex with 13-year-old girls.

That's what this book is about.

These four years of articles were written to stand alone, as I am an online investigative journalist. There are links to my work from websites around the world, because as others learn about this, they just can't believe it either.

I've gone from the days of handset type to pushing a button to publish my findings for the world to read. Therefore, I have tried my best to edit out anything that is repetitive. For example, nearly all articles about the Royal Order of Jesters included the

explanation that, to be a Jester, one must be a secretly invited Shriner who must first be a Master Mason.

Who wants to read that 40 times?

I also explain over and over that this all began after I was contacted by a Shriner whistleblower in April of 2006. He and a former IRS agent had found irregular tax returns filed by Shriner temples that just didn't add up.

We're way beyond that now, with the human trafficking, child sex tourism and such.

The truth of the matter can be found in the Jesters' tax returns, court documents, and other official records and filings. Again, this is what I apologize for. It's not easy to describe numbers line by line on a nonprofit tax return, or 990, but I do it because all of it is true. One 990 reports that the Jesters spent nearly \$600,000 on one of their parties.

That's nearly \$12K an hour.

I have also tried my best to steer away from any conspiracy theories, just because these are Masonic subgroups. It's time for the mainstream media to embrace these facts, because there are no "conspiracies."

Just crimes.

Organized crimes that are begging for headlines to broadcast further indictments and prosecutions, because it is our job as journalists to give voice to the voiceless.

These include five Brazilian Indigenous women, who allege while age 12–16, they were illegally lured from their reservations to cook and clean on a fishing boat of North American tourists. When they got there, they found that they were expected to drink, take drugs, and have sex as part of fishing packages offered by former fishing tour operator, Richard Schair.

One told the Brazilian Federal Police she was left pregnant after one such trip, at age 13.

Today, Schair is under criminal investigation by a grand jury in Miami for child sex tourism. He is being prosecuted in Brazil for the same, and he is being sued by four Brazilian women who claim he coerced them into prostitution while underage.

The connection is that, just after I published the first story about the Jesters in February 2008, I then learned about and published an article about a lawsuit between two fishing tour operators because it included a witness list for the defense that named 19 Jesters. They were expected to testify about their firsthand knowledge of sex with minors while

fishing in Brazil. They are named, as are many other Jesters, so you can see if you know any of them.

Thirty-three days later, The Buffalo News reported that three Jesters were caught in an FBI human trafficking sting. These included a former Erie County prosecutor, a retired police captain, and a former New York State Supreme Court Judge.

This is how the Jesters work.

This is how they roll.

Friends in high places who are sworn to protect each other as they do each other favors.

And about the “Adult Content Warning” on the front of the cover?

It’s for real.

This book has sex, but is not sexy. Certain content may be extremely disturbing to some readers. It graphically describes what fishing guides saw, and human trafficking in ways that will move you to action.

Finally, one must first be a secretly invited Shriner to join the Royal Order of Jesters. Before that, one must first be a Master Mason.

This is not about those faithful Shriners who get up at zero dawn thirty to put on their clown makeup and drive to the hospital to put a smile on the face of a burned or crippled child. This is not about those hardworking Shriners who spend their Saturdays building porches or putting on a fish fry or marching proudly in parades. The focus of this investigation has been on nonprofit transparency, disclosure, accountability and those who abuse their positions of public trust for private gain.

Best-case scenario?

You call the Senate Finance Committee and urge them to investigate the Royal Order of Jesters for tax fraud, because the State of Indiana Tax Review board decided earlier this year that the Jesters did not qualify for property tax exemption as a fraternal nor charitable nonprofit group. In other words, legal precedent has been set.

This is a no-brainer. Some eager-beaver U.S. Attorney has a golden opportunity to launch a RICO investigation into the Jesters for human trafficking and prostitution, because the evidence is there.

Help me light a fire, because the Jesters have bled us dry and screwed us taxpayers long enough.

Thank you,

Sandy Frost

Friday, October 05, 2012

Chapter 1: Jesters Exposed

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Update: As of today, February 18, 2008, the tax returns of approximately 200 clubs can be found by searching for "Royal Order of Jesters" at Guidestar.org. Additionally, a list of Jester contacts is available at the end of this article.

Update: As of today, February 17, 2008, the International Royal Order of Jesters has failed to comply with a December 20, 2007 request for their exemption application, a.k.a. Form 1023. Additionally, IRS documents indicate that the International Royal Order of Jesters may not be a legitimate charity because their advance ruling period expired December 31, 2007.

The Royal Order of Jesters is made up of 24,000 secretly invited Shrine leaders, including current Imperial Potentate, Dr. Bernard Lemieux. Other members of the current Imperial Divan claiming Jesters membership include Alan Madsen, Gene Bracewell, Jack Jones and Jerry Gantt. The Shriners "have fun while helping kids," while the Jesters just have a good time "spreading the gospel of mirth."

Good times usually mean orgies, and the Shriners and Jesters are no strangers to such sex scandals.

Back in January 2001, Canadian media reported how a Shriner "gentlemen's dinner" turned lewd when a naked woman began performing lap dances. Another laid nude on a table as a man slid a beer bottle in her and then performed oral sex on her. After police investigated, the Shriner unit was disbanded.

The International Royal Order of Jesters oversees nearly 200 clubs or "courts." Their members include United States Presidents including Truman and Ford, congressmen, governors, state representatives, federal judges, U.S. District Attorneys and Secretaries of State. Their ranks are swollen with doctors, lawyers, sheriffs, Masonic Grand Masters and Shrine leaders.

So far, the Jesters have managed to fly under the radar without anyone asking too many questions.

Until now.

The first question is: “Have the Jesters hustled the feds by convincing them that raising millions for partying is a legitimate exempt purpose because the IRS has had no problem classifying them as both a nonprofit fraternity and charity?”

Their 2005 tax return, a.k.a. the 990, shows that the Jesters’ 501(c) (10) fraternal governing body brought in over \$1.3 million dollars, with assets totaling over \$1.8 million dollars. That same year, the Jesters’ 501(c)(3) charitable group brought in over \$420,000 with assets totaling \$835,000, for a combined worth of about \$2.65 million dollars. In that same year, charitable contributions went toward building their new \$1.2-million, 5,000-square-foot HQ/museum in Indianapolis, Indiana.

This also means that the members can deduct their dues and other contributions on their tax returns.

In 2006, Jesters executive director Alex Rogers, who is also an attorney and past Shriner potentate, submitted an application for property tax exemption to the Marion County Assessor based on the group’s claim of being a charity, claiming their new office building included a museum.

The Jesters’ current website also claims their new headquarters is a 5,000-square-foot museum. The site also states, for the first time, that the museum now includes “memorabilia dedicated to the works of William Shakespeare.” This Shakespeare connection is new, as it has not been previously mentioned anywhere in the groups’ historical or nonprofit documentation, including tax returns. If this is truly the case, it should be reported to the IRS as a change in charitable purpose.

The application for property exemption was denied because tax authorities were not convinced that the Jesters qualified as a charity, based on the museum claims, under Indiana law.

Rogers appealed the decision and convinced the Indiana Tax Assessment Board of Appeals that the Jesters are an appendant body of Masonry. Both parties entered into a Settlement Agreement in January 2007, which stipulated a 100% fraternal tax exemption for the year 2005. Otherwise, the Jesters would have had to cough up about \$12,000 in property taxes.

When questioned about Jesters activities, Rogers deferred inquiries to “Royal Director,” Gene Best and Texas attorney, Ron Pruitt, both of whom have not returned phone calls or responded to questions.

Pruitt incorporated the International Royal Order of Jesters in Texas in 2003, and obtained the International Royal Order of Jesters’ 501(c) (3) charitable classification

from the IRS in 2004. Pruitt listed the Jesters' address as the same he has reported to the Texas Bar Association.

It appears that both Rogers and Pruitt are practicing law out of Jester headquarters. Nonprofit groups are prohibited from providing personal benefit to anyone.

Pruitt was asked via fax why he, as Chairman of the Jesters' Jurisprudence and Laws Committee, was included on a letter sent by "Royal Stage Manager" Dennis Schueler to Jester Frank Baillie, informing him that the Jesters had "directed the abolition of all Jester-related bulletin boards and internet sites. The primary reason behind such action was the desire of the Board to minimize the extent possible, our public exposure or its access to Jesters information." Pruitt has failed to respond and explain why a nonprofit group would want all bulletin boards and internet sites taken offline?

When questioned about the letter, Scheuler denied all knowledge and abruptly hung up. When given another opportunity to answer the questions via email, Schueler replied:

"I do not believe I have any information that would be of help to you. Please stop harassing me!"

Since Jester functions have always been listed on the Shriners Imperial Council's annual session agenda, questions about the group were sent to Shriners corporate communications director, Alicia Aargiz-Lyons, who, like the others, failed to respond. Oddly, the 2008 Imperial Council tentative schedule does not list Jesters functions.

The second question is: "Why would a nonprofit group refuse to answer questions and demand such secrecy?"

Is the answer in a 2005 complaint that was sent to and investigated by the Grand Lodge of Texas?

It was written by longtime Shriner/Jester who claimed the anonymous moniker "Sam Houston" because "What I am about to portray to you could endanger my life and the life of my family." It alleged that, "during the initiation of new Jesters, I was offered the opportunity by another fellow brother to sleep with a whore, even though I had a wife and kids waiting for me to come home."

The complaint also alleged the following:

- Prostitutes were available for Jesters to have their way with.
- Brothers had sex in front of other brothers.
- Brothers held oral sex competitions.

- Potentates, Chaplains, Attorneys, Judges and Past Masters were Jesters.
- Sex, illegal gambling and alcohol were the preferred order of business.

Not that messing around, holding oral sex competitions, getting snot-slinging drunk and gambling your ass off are bad things, but to do so as a nonprofit group means we taxpayers subsidize these activities.

The complaint continued that, “the Jesters pride themselves in having control of all leadership positions at all of the Shrine Temples in the U.S. and Canada as well as the Imperial Shrine leadership. Also, they have risen through the ranks in every body of Masonry including the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Rosicrucians, Red Cross of Constantine, Eastern Star and the DeMolay Organizations.”

The complaint asked the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas to investigate the Jesters for misconduct:

- Actions which disgrace Masonry.
- Indulging in the intemperate use of intoxicating liquor.
- Gambling.
- Profane swearing.
- Willfully abandoning their families.
- Cohabiting with lewd women.

The investigation yielded no prosecutions.

No wonder the Shriners kept quiet, as members who have been accused of violating Shrine law have been “tried,” kicked out or sued.

Or, maybe they were scared of losing their eyeballs, having their feet sliced open and getting the plague?

The Shriners’ Oath makes candidates “promise, swear and vow that they will never reveal any secret part or portion whatsoever of the ceremonies” and, if they do, they will “incur the fearful penalty of having my eyeballs pierced to the center with a three-edged blade, my feet flayed and I be forced to walk the hot sands upon the sterile shores of the Red Sea until the flaming sun shall strike me with livid plague.”

Ouch.

No wonder their membership has dropped by 60% over the past 25 years.

Kind of like thinking you had \$100 in your wallet and finding only \$40.

So, is any of the complaint true?

“Oh, yeah, it’s all true,” said John Doe, a former Jester who also fears for his life, though he and Sam Houston would be protected as whistleblowers under the post-Enron Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

“The Jesters’ sole purpose is to party and spend lots of money,” Doe explained. “Some of these clubs are sitting on hundreds of thousands of dollars. Why should an organization like this be granted tax-exempt status?”

“Many state Grand Masters’ of Masonry are Jesters,” he continued. “So when the Jesters are investigated for lewd, explicit sexual behavior, they are investigated by one of their own. There are lavish parties where the wives can attend with some very nice gift given to each Jester’s wife or Lady attending. The ‘Stag’ parties are the ‘Dark’ side of Jesters. Most wives know no detail with respect to the ‘Stag’ parties.”

So, is any of this against the law?

Could the Jesters be committing state and federal tax fraud if International and individual clubs continue to file inaccurate and incomplete tax returns? The IRS might also want to investigate if Rogers and Pruitt are practicing law out of Jesters’ HQ? The agency might want to also investigate the Jesters’ charitable status after Indiana tax authorities initially denied their property tax exemption application. If the IRS suspended the Jesters’ charitable status, those who took potentially fraudulent deductions could also be investigated for tax fraud.

Have the Jesters filed incomplete or inaccurate tax returns? Is the IRS serious about the disclosure of nonprofit executive compensation?

The 990 gives nonprofit groups ample opportunity to disclose such compensation in a “fill-in-the-blanks” kind of way. At issue are the Jesters’ fraternal 2005, 2004 and 2003 tax returns that report “Directors Expense” as \$31,865, \$24,778 and \$31,116, respectively. Whether this was paid to the executive director Alex Rogers, or another director, the Jesters failed to report this compensation in at least three other “fill-in-the-blanks” sections. The Jesters also failed to report that both the fraternity and charity share the same building, services, board members and employees.

The clubs’ tax returns aren’t much better. The Royal Order of Jesters, Court 113 in Summerville, SC, inaccurately told the IRS that their exempt purpose is “Helping Crippled Children.” Other courts fail to disclose their organization type and as well as things like program accomplishments and program service expenses, so no one really knows how they justify their tax-exempt status, nor how much it costs to do so.

Jesters International and all clubs, as well as the Masons and Shriners, have also hidden their affiliations by failing to tell the feds that they are “related through common membership, governing bodies, etc., to any other exempt or nonexempt organizations.”

In other words, the IRS wants a complete picture of how a nonprofit group operates and who they operate with. The Masons, Shriners and Jesters are keeping their affiliations secret from the IRS.

The Masons use the symbolism of masonry to teach moral and ethical lessons of the principles of “Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth.” Maybe the Jesters are seen as the way for Masons, a.k.a. Shriners to get true relief through brotherly love as they get drunk and mess around on their wives?

So, if you read that some Shriner is bragging about being a member of the Royal Order of Jesters, maybe it’s because he just wants to put the “potent” back into Potentate.

This list of Jesters contacts is based on nonprofit/tax-exempt information that is public from taxemptworld.com:

WILLIAM DEMLADE 109 STENNIS AVE Ocean Springs, MS 39564-5115

GARY D MEYERS 11255 HOLLY RDG Smithfield, VA 23430-5729

TOM W HUNTINGTON 1126 E 3RD ST Berwick, PA 18603-4002

JOHN W SWAINSON 1127 W SUNNY CR CIR Spokane, WA 99224-0000

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GEORGE A HALL 114 LAURETTA DR Billings, MT 59101-6638

MARK T RUFFIN III 11422 WOODCOCK RD Glen Allen, VA 23059-0000

GALE F BENNINGTON 12073 LAKE PLACID DR Saint Louis, MO 63146-5110

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JACK WINFRED PARKER 1216 OLD RD Chapin, SC 29036-8510

JOHN K HALVORSON 1230 MALLARD DR Bradley, IL 60915-1324

GREG COOK 124 S MAIN ST Arab, AL 35016-1351

RONALD F HURST 12655 FALCON DR Brookfield, WI 53005-6593

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HARVEY M LEVIN 133 VALLEY RUN DR Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-3046

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GEORGE H KARNES 143 YELLOW BREECHES DR Camp Hill, PA 17011-8342

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S MICHAEL BRAIN 1540 MIDLAND CT NE Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-1922

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JAMES R FULLER 1914 HOWARD DR Monroe, LA 71201-4548

OW FINLEY 1915 CANYON DR Coeur D Alene, ID 83815-9007

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DENNIS D FEYH 1967 BIG RUN RD E Grove City, OH 43123-3706

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N ROY ANDERSON 3123 BRIARWOOD BLVD Grand Island, NE 68801-7224

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JONATHAN W HIGGINS 4524 N MANILA AVE Fresno, CA 93727-7253

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JIM KONDRASUK 4930 ARROWHEAD DR Madison, WI 53716-2901
CHRISTOPHER S MASON 4951 CARVER AVE Feasterville Trevose, PA 19053-6251
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DON H ROACH 5002 MOCKINGBIRD LN Saint Joseph, MO 64506-3329
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ALEX ROGERS 5725 LIBERTY CROSSING DR Indianapolis, IN 46254-1114
LOUIS H JUERS IMPRESARIO 58 SCHOFIELD ST Bronx, NY 10464-1530
RONALD M ELLIOTT 5833 KILMER LN Indianapolis, IN 46250-1822
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Indianapolis, IN 46254-1114

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Chapter 2: Jesters to Testify about Illegal Drugs, Child Prostitution?

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Federal court documents filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, related to case number 07-21228, includes a list that names 19 witnesses who are members of the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ), a.k.a. Shriners, a.k.a.

Masons. They are expected to testify about fishing trips to Brazil and “their firsthand knowledge of prostitution, minor prostitution, use of illegal drugs and/or entry into Indian reservations by Schair (plaintiff) and/or his customers.”

The complaint was filed on May 11, 2007 by Richard W. Schair and Wet-A-Line Tours, L.L.C., and alleges that they were libeled and slandered by Amazon Tours, Inc., owned by Philip Marsteller. It alleges that Amazon Tours, Inc. “has developed a great deal of animosity towards his business competitors including, in particular, Mr. Schair and Wet-A-Line Tours, L.L.C., and that defendant’s animosity has manifested itself on many occasions, and most recently in the Miami International Airport where he made and/or published defamatory comments and false accusations about Richard W. Schair and Wet-A-Line Tours, L.L.C. to the public, and, upon information and belief, to government agents.”

The causes of action include (1) slander, (2) slander per se, and (3) tortious interference with business relationship, for which Schair is seeking compensatory damages in excess of \$75,000.

The complaint alleges that Amazon Tours, Inc. told a group at the Miami International Airport that Schair was smuggling drugs, and that he was using the yachts that the clients stay on board in Brazil to move illegal drugs, and that they should avoid booking any tours with the Wet-A-Line Tours, L.L.C. because of Schair’s “drug connections.” It also alleges that the defendant “knowingly made a false and defamatory report to the Homeland Security Department for the purpose of injury to Schair by causing him embarrassment in front of his clients.”

In response, Amazon Tours, Inc. answered the complaint. “The business did not make false statements against Schair. Schair is not entitled to any relief due to the doctrine of unclean hands.”

Schair ultimately demanded a jury trial.

Amazon Tours, Inc. submitted a Defendants’ Pre-trial Witness List on December 20, 2007 that includes the name, address and phone number of 57 witnesses, with 19 believed to be members of the Royal Order of Jesters.

The witness list explains that each “was a customer of the Plaintiffs who fished with the Plaintiffs in Brazil during approximately late August/September 2007. Based on the Wet-A-Line Tours, L.L.C. website, he is believed to be a member of the Royal Order of Jesters, as were all other participants on this trip. He is expected to testify that there were 20 Jesters who paid for their trip, and that he was one of the 19 that ultimately participated. He is expected to testify that two boats were supplied by Plaintiffs—one for the Jesters, and one for approximately 20 girls who accompanied the Jesters. He is

expected to testify to the 'activities' of the Jesters that week and the nature and extent of services provided by and/or arranged by Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs representatives. He is also expected to authenticate the many hours of videotape and still photographs taken by Defendants of the Jesters' 'activities' during the 'fishing' trip. He is expected to identify by way of photographs and association the members of the Jesters group, the identity by name or by description of the girls aboard, the ages of the girls aboard and the exact nature of the activities viewable in the video tape."

Those witnesses believed to be Jesters are listed here.

- William Dewane Meeks, address unknown
- Ferrel Harrison Adams, Jr., Albuquerque, NM
- Robert Rex Lee, M.D., Wichita, KS
- Robert Rex Lee, II, Wichita, KS
- Thomas Raymond Lee, address unknown
- Don Anderson, Albuquerque, NM
- Douglas Allan Boynton, Long Beach, CA Court #161, President, 2005
- Norman Lee Broschous, Peoria, Illinois
- Robert George Duncan, El Bekal Shrine, Long Beach CA Court #161
- Phillip Carl Spellens, El Bekal Shrine, Secretary, 2005, 2006, Long Beach, CA, Court #161
- Claude William Grimes, Redondo Beach, CA
- Carl Wayne Mixon, Sr., New Orleans, LA
- Walker Jenkins, Long Beach, CA
- Samuel Emmett Newton, Jr., address unknown, current head Jester
- Roy Edward Pennington, New Orleans, LA
- Roy Edward Pennington Jr., New Orleans, LA
- Edward Beynroth Schwimg, address unknown
- Edward William Sparks, address unknown
- Harry Howlett Waldron, Jacksonville, FL

Tax records for the associated ROJ Courts #76 (Wichita, KS), #24 (Albuquerque, NM), #161 (Long Beach, CA), #36 (New Orleans, LA) and #90 (Jacksonville, FL) show that, in some cases, over \$100,000 was spent on “travel, conventions and meetings.” This means that the Jesters could deduct all costs of holding “annual events which were devoted to fraternalism and spreading the gospel of mirth and good cheer.”

The Wichita Court #76 reported to the IRS that they spent \$122,102 in 2006 for the exempt purpose of “recreation, entertainment and companionship.”

The Albuquerque Court #24 apparently does not file tax returns, as none are available through Guidestar.org.

The Long Beach Court #161 reported in 2006 that they spent \$82,543 on “benefits paid to members.” They reported that the books are in care of Phillip Spellens (named above), Secretary, who also signed the return. They also reported that they spent \$69,840 in 2005 as “benefits paid to members”, and that Doug Boynton (named above) was President.

The New Orleans Court #36 reported that they spent \$101,214 in 2006 on “conferences, conventions and meetings” while failing to list an exempt purpose. They reported that they spent \$106,218 in 2005 for “conferences, conventions and meetings” while, again, failing to list an exempt purpose, but instead writing “Hurricane Katrina” at the top of this incomplete tax return. They reported that they spent \$145,600.39 in 2004 for “conferences, conventions and meetings” while, again, failing to list an exempt purpose. Listed, however, was the expense of \$4,777.50, for hats.

The Jacksonville Court #90 reported that they spent \$80,397 in 2006 on “conferences, conventions and meetings” while failing to list an exempt purpose. They also spent \$79,984 in 2005 and \$83,250 in 2004 while failing, again, to list an exempt purpose.

The witness list includes Jane Does 1–5, who each “has personal knowledge of prostitution, minor prostitution, use of illegal drugs, and/or entry into Indian reservations by Schair and/or his customers.” Jane Doe is described as a minor recruited and/or coerced by Plaintiffs and/or Plaintiff’s representatives for prostitution services for certain Plaintiffs’ customers in Brazil, circa 2000, 2004 and 2005.

They gave statements to Brazilian Federal Police officers in their investigation of “minor Indian and other girls living near the rivers in the region of the Municipality of Autazes/AM, who became victims of sexual exploitation by North American foreign tourists.”

The girls told the Brazilian Ministry of Justice, Federal Police Department that they were, at the time of the alleged minor prostitution, aged 13, 14 and 16. One of the 16-

year-olds stated that her 14-year-old sister was also recruited. All state that they were lured onto the fishing boat by someone named “Richard.”

The 13-year-old reported that she was a victim of sexual abuse perpetuated by a group of foreigners, North Americans, who asked for her services aboard the fishing vessel, the Amazon Santana. She was told that her job would consist of doing “the general services of the vessel, such as sweeping, laundry and assisting in the food preparation.” She accepted because her family needed the money and after boarding the vessel with other girls, learned that “she would have to have sex, and to drink whiskey and beer with the foreigners.” She also told authorities that she spent three days and three nights on the vessel, each day having sex with a different foreigner. She became pregnant during this occasion, unknowing which one of the foreigners was the father. She states that she and her mother were thrown out of their home after the birth of her son.

Girl 2, aged 14, states that in August 2005, “Richard” promised to pay her R\$200 (Two hundred Reais), but was paid only R\$50. This translates to being promised \$119.76, but receiving \$29.94.

Girl 3, aged 16, states that in September 2005, “Richard” promised to pay her R\$200 to R\$300 for 2–3 days’ work, but was instead paid R\$80 the first day and R\$50 the second day. This translates to being promised \$119.81 to \$179.71, but receiving \$47.92 and \$29.95.

Girl 4, aged 16, states that in August 2005, she and her 14-year-old sister were promised by “Richard” to be paid R\$100 per night, but were paid R\$35 instead, for each night. This translates to being promised \$59.88 per night, but receiving \$20.95 per night.

These statements allege the crime otherwise known as “child sex tourism.”

President George W. Bush told the UN General Assembly in September 2003, “There’s a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims of sex trade see little of life before they see the very worst of life—an underground of brutality and lonely fear.”

The U.S. Department of State states “Child sex tourism (CST) involves people who travel from their own country to another and engage in commercial sex acts with children. CST is a shameful assault on the dignity of children and a form of violent child abuse and violence. The commercial sexual exploitation of children has devastating consequences for these minors, which may include long-lasting physical and psychological trauma, disease (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, unwanted pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and possibly death.

Tourists engaging in CST often travel to developing countries looking for anonymity and the availability of children in prostitution. The crime is typically fueled by weak law enforcement, corruption, the Internet, ease of travel, and poverty. These sexual offenders come from all socio-economic backgrounds and may hold positions of trust. Previous cases of child sex tourism involving U.S. citizens have included a pediatrician, a retired Army sergeant, a dentist, and a university professor. Child pornography is frequently involved in these cases; and drugs may also be used to solicit or control the minors.”

The State Department also reports “Over the last five years, there has been an increase in the prosecution of child sex tourism offenses. At least 32 countries have extraterritorial laws that allow the prosecution of their citizens for CST crimes committed abroad. In response to the phenomenon of CST, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the tourism industry, and governments have begun to address the issue. The World Tourism Organization (WTO) established a task force to combat CST. The WTO, the NGO End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT), and Nordic tour operators created a global Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism in 1999. As of June 2005, 200 travel companies from 21 countries had signed the code (see www.thecode.org). Many governments have taken commendable steps to combat child sex tourism. For example, France’s Ministry of Education and travel industry representatives developed guidelines on CST for tourism schools and state-owned Air France allocates a portion of in-flight toy sales to fund CST awareness programs. Brazil implemented a national awareness campaign on sex tourism.”

“In 2003, the United States strengthened its ability to fight child sex tourism by passing the Prosecutorial Remedies and other Tools to end the Exploitation of Children Today (PROTECT) Act and the Trafficking Victim’s Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPA). These laws increase penalties to a maximum of 30 years in prison for engaging in CST. Since the passage of the PROTECT Act, there have been over 20 indictments and over a dozen convictions of child sex tourists. The Department of Homeland Security has also developed the ‘Operation Predator’ initiative to combat child exploitation, child pornography, and child sex tourism. The United States is also funding the NGO World Vision to conduct major public awareness and deterrence campaigns overseas that include public service announcements, internet messaging, brochures, posters, and billboards.”

Child sex tourists are defined as “typically males and come from all income brackets. Perpetrators usually hail from nations in Western European nations and North America. While some tourists are pedophiles that preferentially seek out children for sexual relationships, many child sex tourists are ‘situational abusers.’ These are individuals

who do not consistently seek out children as sexual partners, but who do occasionally engage in sexual acts with children when the opportunity presents itself.”

World Vision, an agency funded by the federal government to fight, among other things, child sex tourism, states, “The United States has risen to take legislative action against the growing evils of child sex tourism. In 1994, Congress established 18 U.S.C. § 2423(b), which is aimed towards prosecution of child sex tourists. Section 2423(b) criminalizes traveling abroad for the purpose of engaging in illegal sexual activity with a minor. Currently, successful prosecution under § 2423(b) requires the government to prove that an alleged child sex tourist from the United States formed the intent to engage in sexual activity with a child prior to meeting the child and initiating sexual contact. In other words, a defendant is only punishable under § 2423(b) if he has the intent, while traveling, to engage in sexual activity with minors. The federal government has successfully utilized § 2423(b) to target several child sex tourists. Current proposals to eliminate the intent requirement may broaden the government’s prosecutorial power by allowing the government to prosecute United States citizens who engage in sexual acts with children while abroad, regardless of when they formed the intent to do so.”

Penalties, upon conviction, include fines and up to 30 years in prison, and, if previously convicted of a sexual crime involving a minor, life in prison, unless the death penalty is imposed.

Chapter 3: Judge Resigns, Police Captain to Plead Guilty as FBI Investigates Royal Order of Jesters for Prostitution

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The Buffalo News (1) has reported that the FBI is investigating retired New York State Supreme Court Justice Ron Tills, retired police captain John Trowbridge and former law clerk Michael Stebick for allegedly transporting a woman, for the purposes of prostitution, to an out-of-state meeting of the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ). As a result, Tills resigned from his position as a hearing officer. Stebick resigned from his position as a part-time law clerk.

Trowbridge will plead guilty to an unspecified charge in federal court tomorrow, Thursday, March 20, 2008.

The Buffalo News has also reported, “Law enforcement officials said the woman was allegedly paid to perform sexual favors and that those involved could face criminal charges for transporting her over state lines for the purposes of prostitution...Members of the human trafficking task force in Buffalo are also investigating other alleged incidents involving prostitutes at Jesters’ events in other cities.”

The Buffalo News quoted Jester executive director Alex Rogers saying, "Since each Jester is already a Shriner, the group (Jesters) supports the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children in the United States, Canada and Mexico" and "Most of our work is charitable in nature."

The Jesters' tax returns, for both the fraternity and charity, fail to list their relationship to the Shriners or the Masons. Question 80a of the nonprofit 990 tax return asks, "Is the organization related through common membership, governing bodies, trustees, officers, etc., to any other exempt or nonexempt organization?" This question is consistently marked N/A, though Rogers told The Buffalo News that the Jesters are related to the Shriners, and told the Marion County Assessor they were part of Masonry.

Additionally, the Jesters' tax returns call into question Rogers' claims that their "work is charitable in nature." The fraternal tax return fails to list any charitable activities or contributions to the Shriners or any other group.

The Royal Order of Jesters' revised constitution and bylaws explain the close relationship between the Jesters' courts and Shrine temples. For example, seven out of twelve Shriners who currently sit on the Shriners Hospitals for Children Board of Trustees are also members of the Royal Order of Jesters. These include current potentate Bernard LeMieux, Chairman Ralph Semb, Charles Claypool, Timothy E. Morris, Raoul L. Frevel, Nicholas Thomas and Gene Bracewell.

One of these members of the hospital Board of Governors is named on a subscription list for the Mirth Missives, which is a Jesters-only email.

The Mirth Missives disclaimer states, "Mirth Missives is not for everyone. Particularly in business settings, some of the material may be problematic, possibly leading to sexual harassment or unlawful discrimination charges. To protect you and me, please do not receive Mirth Missives on a computer at your place of employment, or on a computer owned or installed at any fraternal or civic organization site. If you decide to print a copy of Mirth Missives, treat it as you would any other confidential mail, and do not leave it lying around for prying eyes."

The Mirth Missives author described it as containing "stories of interest to Masons, much of which is taken from Masonic publications such as The Scottish Rite Journal, The Northern Light and The York Rite Magazine."

The author is claiming that the Mirth Missives is copyrighted, but one webpage states, "The material contained herein is solely the responsibility of the author. 'Mirth Missive', 'Mirthster' and 'Jest Phor Phun' are not registered trademarks or service marks and are not copyrighted by the author."

When I asked for a copy of the Mirth Missives, I told the author that I got the information from the above linked webpage and he acknowledged that he'd read it. If he truly had copyrights for the Mirth Missives and associated subscription list, which is not marked as copyrighted, he would have had this webpage corrected but, to date, has not.

I have found the Mirth Missives to be pornographic as well as so sexually, racially and religiously offensive, that I will not link to it. Additionally, in one version, the author is attempting to illegally distribute prescription drugs, and I did not want some narcotics officer knocking on my door, asking why I linked to something that may be prosecutable?

This subscription list includes not only those under FBI investigation, but also 10 of the 19 Jesters called to testify in a federal lawsuit about their firsthand knowledge of illegal drugs and minor prostitution that allegedly took place during a Royal Order of Jesters fishing trip to Brazil.

Tills used his work email address so he could have received and read the Mirth Missives in his judicial chambers on work time. This violates government, educational and corporate email policies because as employees receive prohibited emails, their employers become liable for creating a hostile work environment, especially if the emails constitute sexual harassment or are offensive.

According to "Email, Adult Content, and Employment Law: Reducing Corporate Liability with Filtering and Policy Tools" by Michael R. Overly, Esq., "Material that is harassing, embarrassing, sexually explicit, profane, obscene, intimidating, defamatory, or otherwise unlawful or inappropriate, including any comments that would offend someone on the basis of race, age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or political beliefs, national origin, or disability, must not be sent by other form of electronic communication, viewed on or downloaded from the Internet or other on-line service, or displayed on or stored in our computer systems. Users encountering or receiving such material must immediately report the incident to their Supervisor. Violations of this Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including possible termination, and potential civil and criminal liability."

If Tills is found guilty of this, he could face disbarment for violating the New York State Bar Association's Code of Judicial Conduct.

It states, "The Code of Judicial Conduct is intended to establish standards for ethical conduct of judges..."

Applicable sections include the following:

- A JUDGE SHALL UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY. Public confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary is maintained by the adherence of each judge to this responsibility. Conversely, violation of this Code diminishes public confidence in the judiciary and thereby does injury to the system of government under law.
- A JUDGE SHALL AVOID IMPROPRIETY AND THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY IN ALL OF THE JUDGE'S ACTIVITIES. A judge shall respect and comply with the law and shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. A judge shall not hold membership in any organization that practices invidious discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability or marital status.
- A JUDGE SHALL PERFORM THE DUTIES OF JUDICIAL OFFICE IMPARTIALLY AND DILIGENTLY. A judge must refrain from speech, gestures or other conduct that could reasonably be perceived as harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment.
- A JUDGE SHALL SO CONDUCT THE JUDGE'S EXTRA-JUDICIAL ACTIVITIES AS TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF CONFLICT WITH JUDICIAL OBLIGATIONS. Expressions of bias or prejudice by a judge, even outside the judge's judicial activities, may cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially as a judge. Expressions which may do so include jokes or other remarks demeaning individuals on the basis of their age, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, disability, marital status or socioeconomic status.

This means that Tills' fairness and impartiality could be challenged and his decisions as a Supreme Court judge appealed if it is discovered that he received the Mirth Missives. This could also cast doubt on his capacity to act impartially if he 1) viewed pornography or read something considered as sexual harassment prior to hearing a case involving a woman; 2) read something discriminatory prior to hearing a case involving a protected class; 3) helped transport girls to a Jesters event prior to hearing a case involving prostitution.

Likewise, attorneys who are Jesters, and are found guilty of violating bar association ethics and professional standards, could also face disbarment.

Another Jesters publication, the Billiken Royal Board, is a calendar of Jester functions and lists each event's coordinator with their contact information. It is not marked as copyrighted or confidential. Since the Jesters claim to be a 501(c)(10) fraternal nonprofit organization, they tell the IRS in Part III, Statement of Program Service

Accomplishments, that “their primary exempt purpose is promoting fellowship and fraternalism and extending assistance and good cheer to others.”

One would think that their calendar, or at least each specific Jester court’s party, would be listed on their tax returns in Part III, Statement of Program Service Accomplishments, which also asks for an explanation of “their exempt purpose achievements in a clear and concise manner. State the number of clients served, publications issued, etc. Discuss achievements that are not measurable.”

The Jesters answer that they “held annual events which were devoted to fraternalism and spreading the gospel of mirth and good cheer” with no further explanation of these events.

Additionally, Part VIII, Relationship of Activities to the Accomplishment of Exempt Purpose, asks the Jesters to “Explain how each activity for which income is reported in column (E) of Part VII contributed importantly to the accomplishments of the organization’s exempt purposes.”

None of their parties are listed.

Additionally, statement 9 of their tax return explains that their events support their exempt purpose of “holding annual events which are devoted to fraternalism and spreading the gospel of mirth and good cheer” without listing specific events.

One would think that the IRS would want more details about the Jesters’ events, as the 2005 tax return for the National Court of the Royal Order of Jesters reports that they spent \$38,523 on their annual banquet and spent \$307,345 on their annual party, called “The Book of the Play.” Additionally, this same return lists on one of the back pages a “Director’s expense” of \$31,865, which is not properly listed on page two under item #25, “Compensation of officers, directors, etc.”

The Billiken Royal Board lists the Royal Order of Jesters National Court officers:

- Gene Best, Phoenix Court 17, Royal Director, Editor-in-Chief
- Gary N. Martin, Galveston Court 97, Royal Leading Man
- William Siders, Cincinnati Court 7, Royal Tragedian
- Robert H. Haynes, Los Angeles Court 84, Royal Impresario
- John T. Stafford, Sarasota Court 189, Royal Stage Manager
- S.E. “Scutter” Newton, Las Vegas Court 181, Royal Heavy Man
- Robert R. Armstrong, Rockford Court 69, Royal Property Man

- James M. Lake, P.R.D., Crescent Court 64, Royal Treasurer
- Ray W. Grannis, P.R.D., Lewiston Court 62, Royal Prelate
- Dale Klauss, P.D., Des Moines Court 46, Editor
- Alex Rogers, Indianapolis Court 15, Business Administrator, Assistant Editor, National Court Office
- Richard Koch, Jr., Des Moines Court 46, Publisher

Tills is also listed on the Billiken Bulletin Board as an event coordinator, so Jesters can contact him about the upcoming Buffalo Court #22 trip to San Jose, Costa Rica, scheduled for April 10-14.

Also listed are events sponsored by the Buffalo Court #22, which may have been investigated by the FBI for prostitution. Another Jesters' event involving the Long Beach Court #161 names Phil Spellens as coordinator. He was also one of the witnesses expected to testify about his firsthand knowledge of illegal drugs and minor prostitution alleged to have taken place during a Jester fishing trip to Brazil.

Like Tills, there are those who receive their Mirth Missives at their government, educational and corporate domain addresses. This includes state governments, the military, colleges and universities, Masonic and Scottish Rite groups, major pharmaceutical companies, internationally known financial management and investment companies, insurance companies, grocery corporations, major health and beauty product companies, banks and major computer companies.

So is any of this, besides the allegations of interstate prostitution and abuse of government resources, illegal?

According to the U.S. Code, TITLE 18 > PART I > CHAPTER 71 > § 1462 "Whoever brings into the United States, or any place subject to the jurisdiction thereof, or knowingly uses any express company or other common carrier or interactive computer service (as defined in section 230(e)(2) [1] of the Communications Act of 1934), for carriage in interstate or foreign commerce—

(a) any obscene, lewd, lascivious, or filthy book, pamphlet, picture, motion-picture film, paper, letter, writing, print, or other matter of indecent character; or Whoever knowingly takes or receives, from such express company or other common carrier or interactive computer service (as defined in section 230(e)(2) [1] of the Communications Act of 1934) any matter or thing the carriage or importation of which is herein made unlawful— Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than five years, or both, for the first

such offense and shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both, for each such offense thereafter.”

According to the U.S. Code, TITLE 18 > PART I > CHAPTER 71 > § 1466 (a) “Whoever is engaged in the business of selling or transferring obscene matter, who knowingly receives or possesses with intent to distribute any obscene book, magazine, picture, paper, film, videotape, or phonograph or other audio recording, which has been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than 5 years or by a fine under this title, or both.”

Could the “interactive computer” distribution of the Mirth Missives be considered as “engaging in the business of transferring obscene matter,” which may violate federal statutes as well as government, educational or corporate email policies?

Could the “interactive computer” distribution of the Royal Billiken Board be considered as “engaging in the business of transferring obscene matter,” if it lists Jesters events that have been investigated by the FBI for interstate prostitution? Are those Jesters receiving these emails at the above mentioned domain addresses putting their employers at risk by creating a hostile work environment?

And, finally, if any Jesters are caught deleting these emails, could they be charged with destruction of evidence and obstruction of justice after the investigators found these same emails that are permanently stored on the organization’s server?

Only the investigators can know for sure.

(1) Herbeck, D., Bescker, A. (2008, March 9). “Former Judge Tills resigns amid FBI prostitution investigation.” The Buffalo News, pp.1A.

Herbeck, D. (2008, March 15). “Retired Lockport police captain to plead guilty in ‘Jesters’ prostitution case.” The Buffalo News, pp.1A.

Chapter 4: Feds 1, Jesters 0: Court Papers Revealed

Published Fri Mar 28, 2008 4:24 AM PDT

Talk about getting caught with your pants down.

Not only were three members of the Royal Order of Jesters, a.k.a. Shriners busted in an FBI human trafficking sting, but one of them pleaded guilty to a felony and is in the process of cutting a deal with the Feds in exchange for what he knows.

The FBI had been investigating prostitution in the Buffalo area for 15 months and, according to a March 9, 2008 Buffalo News article, three Jesters were caught in the crossfire. These include a NY Supreme Court Judge Ron Tills and his law clerk Michael

Stebick, who both recently resigned, and a retired police captain, John Trowbridge. He pleaded guilty in federal court last Thursday, March 20, 2008, to felony charges that he helped transport girls across state lines to Jesters functions for the purposes of prostitution.

Buffalo media also reported that Trowbridge, 60, retired from the Lockport Police Department in 2002, after 29 years of service. He admitted to, and pleaded guilty to, a felony charge of unlawfully transporting an undocumented foreign woman, identified as "Jane Doe No. 1," on October 28, 2005, from Buffalo to a Jester party in Kentucky.

In the case of USA v. John Trowbridge, he was charged with one felony count of transporting a female in interstate commerce to engage in prostitution. According to the plea agreement, Trowbridge waived indictment and pleaded guilty to a 1-count felony, for which the maximum possible sentence is imprisonment for up to 10 years, a \$250,000 fine, a mandatory \$100 special assessment and three years' probation.

Trowbridge admitted in the plea agreement and factual basis that he knowingly transported an individual in interstate commerce, that he aided or abetted another to engage in prostitution. He agreed to the following:

- Trowbridge did on or about October 28, 2005, with a now former New York State Supreme Court Judge (Ronald Tills), an attorney (Michael Stebick) and others transported an undocumented foreign woman to Kentucky to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity for which she would be paid a fee.
- It was customary for these men and others, who are also members of a men's organization (The Royal Order of Jesters), to bring women to some of their meetings, intending for the women to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity with the organization's members in exchange for money.
- The parties further agree that, in the fall of 2006, the same men transported a different woman from New York to Pennsylvania, and that prior to the trip, the retired judge had paid this woman to engage in sexual acts with him at the Golden Acupressure massage parlor.

The court document further explains that the government had independent information prior to the time the defendant indicated a desire to cooperate with the government and agreed to give statements regarding the defendant's involvement in criminal activity. It is understood and agreed to by the parties that additional information provided by the defendant cannot be used against or further incriminate him.

If Trowbridge fully complied with all terms and conditions of the plea agreement, the government will move the court at sentencing to impose a sentencing range of 0 to 6 months.

Trowbridge agreed to provide the court with all relevant information concerning his background, his character and involvement in the offense charged. He also may have the right to request DNA testing of evidence in the possession of the government.

He also agreed to cooperate with the government by providing complete and truthful information regarding his knowledge of any and all criminal activity, whether undertaken by himself or others, in any involving or related to the unlawful transportation of individuals for prostitution or other sexual activity which is prohibited by law.

In exchange for Trowbridge's plea of guilty and cooperation, he will not be prosecuted by the Office of the U.S. Attorney for any other federal criminal offenses.

U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny accepted Trowbridge's guilty plea and scheduled sentencing at 9:00 AM on July 31. There is no news yet if Tills or Stebick are planning to cooperate with the U.S. Attorney.

The FBI, the U.S. Border Patrol and members of a human trafficking task force are also investigating other allegations that the Royal Order of Jesters transported prostitutes to their events, normally called "The Book of the Play."

The Royal Order of Jesters is a 501(c)(10) nonprofit fraternity, with 23,500 members organized into 191 chapters. Their members include high-profile public servants like former judge Ronald Tills, as well as Duval County, Florida, Circuit Court Judge, David M. Gooding.

Chapter 5: Judge Central Figure in FBI Probe, the S.O.B.I.B. and the Jesters' Half-Million Dollar Weekend Parties

Published Sat Apr 12, 2008 1:30 PM PDT

The Buffalo News' latest FBI/Jesters/prostitution headline reads: "Judge Tills traveled with woman he jailed on prostitution charge; Former state justice is a central figure in probe of activities of Buffalo Jesters."

The article, by Dan Herbeck, begins, "A woman who faced drug and prostitution charges in State Supreme Court Justice Ronald H. Tills' courtroom later accompanied him on an out-of-state trip for a fraternal organization called the Jesters. Investigators are trying to determine whether the woman offered her services as a prostitute at the convention or whether she was just a guest of the judge, who has since retired."

It has also been discovered that Tills is listed as a member of an inside Jesters group called the "S.O.B.I.B." The acronym allegedly stands for something like "Secret Order of Brother/s in Blood."

When asked about the S.O.B.I.B., Alex Rogers, executive director of the Royal Order of Jesters, claimed he didn't know anything about it. After it was pointed out that his picture and contact information was in the S.O.B.I.B. directory, along with Ralph Semb, chairman of the board of trustees for the Shriners Hospitals for Children, and Ron Tills, the Jester/judge who got in trouble with the FBI in Buffalo for prostitution, Rogers said, "Oh, Jesus Christ. I'm not going to talk with you anymore. I have no comment." and abruptly hung up.

Additionally, the International Royal Order of Jesters, Inc. and the National Court of the Royal Order of Jesters fail to list the S.O.B.I.B. on line 80b of their 2003, 2004 and 2005 tax returns.

Line 80a asks "Is the organization related (other than by association with a statewide or nationwide organization) through common membership, governing bodies, trustees, officers, etc., to any other exempt or nonexempt organizations? If 'Yes,' enter the name of the organization."

In addition to the S.O.B.I.B., other affiliated groups not listed include the Shriners and the Masons.

The 990 also asks nonprofit groups "In Part III, Statement of Program Service Accomplishments, What is the organization's primary purpose?"

The ROJ reports their exempt purpose as "Promoting fellowship and fraternalism and extending assistance and good cheer to others."

Part III continues: "All organizations must describe their exempt purpose achievements in a clear and concise manner. State the number of clients served, publications issued, etc. Discuss achievements that are not measurable."

The Jesters answered: "Held annual events which were devoted to fraternalism and spreading the gospel of mirth and good cheer."

Part VIII, Relationship of Activities to the Accomplishment of Exempt Purposes asks "Explain how each activity for which income is reported in column (E) of Part VII contributed importantly to the accomplishment of the organization's exempt purposes (other than by providing funds for such purposes.)" Jesters' Activities include the annual banquet and their big weekend bash, the Book of the Play (BOP).

The ROJ further answers: “Annual Banquet, Annual events devoted to fraternalism and spreading the gospel of Mirth and good cheer.” Here is the Jesters’ Oath from the Book of the Play: “Candidates will be hoodwinked and will in unison repeat the following pledge as the DIRECTOR pronounces it to them;

‘I _____,—do hereby accept and acknowledge this contract and pledge with the Royal Jesters and members of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

I promise never to select or propose any Noble whom I know to be weak or vacillating, or of unknown, or doubted, loyalty, or integrity, morality, or temper.

Furthermore, I do by this obligation, elect myself an Evangelist of the Gospel of Mirth, accepting from my Fellow Jesters, a mission to lighten the burdens of all whom I know to be of the initiate, and for them will I always hang the latch string without the portals of my true heart.

In witness whereof I do place my right hand upon my heart, and bind the convenient we have made amongst us, pledging my faith and honor as a man, that I will not reveal to any person not a member in good standing of the Royal Jesters, any part, word or action, of the ceremonies which have been enacted here, are now being enacted, or are to be enacted hereafter, during this, or any other session of this or any other Court of Royal Jester.”

It has yet to be determined if such a secret oath is appropriate for a nonprofit group.

Tax returns report that, in 2003, the Jesters’ BOP expenses were \$226,268, with income of \$400,548. In 2004, they spent \$545,806 on the BOP, with income of \$584,661. In 2005, they spent \$307,345 with income of \$454,783.

One of their other events is an annual banquet. In 2003, the ROJ spent \$38,688 to hold their annual banquet with income of \$47,610. In 2004, they spent \$48,846 on the banquet with income of \$42,930. In 2005, they spent \$38,523 with income of \$44,369.

Additionally, Statement three for the same three years reported director’s expense as \$31,116, \$24,778 and \$31,865 respectively, though these expenses are not reported in Part II.

One of the most important things that a nonprofit must account for is Program Services, defined as “mainly those activities that the reporting organization was created to conduct and which, along with any activities commenced subsequently, form the basis of the organization’s exemption from tax.”

These same ROJ tax returns list \$0 for Program Services.

The International Court of the Royal Order of Jesters reported gross receipts for the same years as \$1,208,146, \$1,394,551 and \$1,310,539, respectively.

Thursday, December 20, 2007, a request for the ROJ 2006 990 and Form 1023 remains unanswered. The Form 1023 is a group's application for tax-exempt status. IRS regulations state that the organization must provide the requested document(s) within 30 days from the date it received the request.

Chapter 6: Brazilian Fishing Trip Depositions: "Masons" Pictured Having Sex with Teen Prostitutes?

Published Sun May 25, 2008 3:55 PM PDT

What began as a federal libel/slander lawsuit between two fishing tour operators has led to the possibility that "Masons" participated in child sex tourism by having sex with minors while on a fishing trip to Brazil. The term "Mason" is used here because that is how two Brazilian fishing guides, called as witnesses for the defense, referred to members of the Royal Order of Jesters in their recent depositions.

The fishing guides worked for the plaintiff and were called by the defense to testify how they were deposed by the Brazilian Federal Police to describe what they witnessed. The guides, both brothers, recently spent three days in Miami with attorneys from both sides, interpreters, a videographer and both parties as they described what they saw, documented by pictures of "Masons" having sex with minors.

The first deposition, 61 pages, was provided by Adilson Garcia Da Silva on Sunday, April 13, 2008. He describes how he became a fishing guide, his work history and how marijuana was allegedly obtained for the plaintiffs' clients. He then began describing how girls, from age 13 and up, were lured into prostitution from Brazilian Indian reservations for the fishing trips' clients. The girls, he said, were hired to provide "programs" that consisted of "oral sex, strip and dance contests."

The attorney for the defense is "Question." Adilson is "Answer."

Question: Did any of the girls tell you that they engaged in sex with Wet-A-Line clients?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Did they describe to you, specifically, what type of sex that they had with the Wet-A-Line customers?

Answer: All types.

Question: Did the girls tell you that they were involved in different types of sex acts with Wet-A-Line customers?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Did you ever witness any Wet-A-Line customer having sex, whether it was traditional sex or oral sex, from one of these prostitutes?

Answer: Yes.

Question: If you could describe for us some of the types of things that you were told by, either saw or told by, these prostitutes as to what specifically was occurring on these Wet-A-Line boats?

Answer: I would see it on the boat that they were practicing oral sex. We would be fishing and sometimes we'd go by and they were practicing oral sex.

Question: Did the girls—did you ever see or hear anything from the girls, these prostitutes, that they came to you or did they come to you and say that they did anything unusual with any of the customers?

Answer: Well, a sex that I had never seen was, to shove a ball in the behind and I, you know, they would say that and I heard it.

Question: Was there a certain set or group of people customer-wise that participated in these sex acts with the customer, excuse me, with the prostitutes? Or was it just general customers that came aboard the boat?

Answer: No, they were groups who came exclusively to do that type of thing.

Question: And were those groups of mainly American men?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Can you describe for us—I mean, I know you indicated earlier that, at some point in time—the Amazon Santana, I believe you referred to it as the Santana, joined together for the women and the men to get together. What would a typical night be when the boats would join together?

Answer: You know...party, drinking, strip, sex, drugs, everything.

Question: Do you know the ages of some of the girls that were on the boats with these customers, Wet-A-Line customers, at the time that you worked for Wet-A-Line?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What were some of the ages of the women?

Answer: They would always say they were of age, but they were never of age.

Question: Did you know for a fact that they were not of age?

Answer: Some, yes. Some were not of age.

Question: When you say of age, are you referring to 18 or a different age?

Answer: Yes, from 18 up, it is of age.

Question: And is it your understanding that there were girls that were under 18 that were hired to be on these boats as prostitutes?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What is the youngest age that you're aware of girls being prostitutes on the Wet-A-Line boats?

Answer: They said they were 18, but some of them were 16, 17.

Question: What is the youngest age that you're aware of a girl being on the boat as a prostitute?

Answer: My brother would pick up a group of girls in Autazes and would take by boat to an American. One was 13, one was 14, and there was one who was even 9 years old.

Question: Were the girls that were brought on the boats given alcohol?

Answer: They would drink.

Question: Okay. Sir, I have provided to you what has been marked as Composite Exhibit B, Defendants' Composite Exhibit B. If you can, take a look at the photographs, please.

Answer: I have already looked at them.

Question: Okay. Are these photographs true and correct copies of pictures that you have taken in the past?

Answer: Yes.

Question: The first picture, which is Bates labeled, on the top, 00655 for identification purposes. Do you recognize the girl in this photo?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Who is she?

Answer: This is Malu, or so-called M-A-L-U.

Question: When were these pictures that are in Composite Exhibit B, when were all of these pictures taken?

Answer: This one was last year.

Question: When last year?

Answer: I don't know the month. I don't know exactly the month, but I think it was September.

Question: Of 2007?

Answer: Yes.

Question: And was anyone else around you when you took these pictures, other than the two people that were identified in the picture?

Answer: There were.

Question: Who else was around you when you took this picture?

Answer: Two American fishermen and two girls, prostitutes.

Question: Was Malu hired as a prostitute at the time that you took this picture?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Was—what looks to be a gentleman next to Malu, do you know who that person is?

Answer: Yes I know.

Question: Was a he a customer of Wet-A-Line?

Answer: He was. He was a fisherman, a Wet-A-Line's fisherman.

Question: How old was Malu at the time you took this picture?

Answer: She was 17.

Question: And were these girls hired to be on board this boat, on this day that you took this picture, to be prostitutes?

Answer: Yes.

Question: The next picture, 00663. Can you identify any of the individuals in this picture?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Where did you take this picture?

Answer: It was on the upper part of the boat, at the beginning of dinner.

Question: A Wet-A-Line—

Answer: In the beginning of the party.

Question: Was it on a Wet-A-Line boat?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do you know who the males are that are identified in the picture?

Answer: These are the ones that they all called him Bob.

Question: Did they call both of these males Bob?

Answer: Yes. One would call this one Bob, and the other one also called the other one Bob, and I didn't know who Bob was.

Question: Were they Wet-A-Line customers?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Who were the females in the pictures, in this picture, excuse me.

Answer: These are the same ones that were in the other pictures, Malu and Kelly.

Question: And were these girls hired to be on board this boat, on this day that you took this picture, to be prostitutes?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How often did you see these two Bobs on the Wet-A-Line boats?

Answer: They came every year. Every year they would come. The last time was now, last year.

Question: When last year?

Answer: It was September, the month of September.

Question: Is that when you took this picture?

Answer: It was.

Question: Turning to the next picture, 00664, can you identify any of the individuals in the picture?

Answer: I don't know their names, but they were the boat's clients.

Question: Do you know if they came with a certain organization?

Answer: The manager said that they were Masons. I didn't know what Masons were. To me, it was like a religion, like a belief.

Question: Was it your understanding that there were certain Masons that came on these tours?

Answer: Right.

Question: Do you know what a Mason is?

Answer: I didn't know what it was, but now I know that it's an organization of people that are all over the world.

Question: Do you know if all these individuals in this picture were identified to you as being Masons?

Answer: Yes, it was a group.

Question: Were the two people in the prior picture a part of the Mason group?

Answer: It was the same group. For sure, it was the same group.

Question: The next picture, 00668. Did you take this picture?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do you know any of the individuals in this picture?

Answer: This one here, I know only by name, and he's an American. I forgot his name. I forgot, but I know him by name.

Question: Is this Don Anderson?

Answer: That's right. That's the name. Don Anderson. He was the leader of the group, the chief of the group.

Question: Do you know the two females in this picture?

Answer: They were the ones who would be accompanying them from the same group.

Question: Why did you say that the gentleman listed in this picture was the leader? What made you think that he was the leader of the group?

Answer: Because the manager would tell us that he was, you know, the chief, the leader.

Question: Did these girls at the end of this night indicate to you that they were with this gentleman?

Answer: Yes.

Deposition of Admilson Garcia Da Silva, Tuesday April 15, 2008.

The attorney for the defense is "Question." Admilson is "Answer."

Question: Did you ever witness any of the Wet-A-Line customers engaging in sex acts with these women that were on the Wet-A-Line boats?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What did you see?

Answer: I saw five...five of them. Five women and five men, and two of the women were minors.

Question: I'm sorry. You said you saw five men and five women, and two of the women were minors. Is that what you said?

Answer: That's right.

Question: And what did you see the men and women doing with each other?

Answer: There was one woman having sex with a man and the other—the other women only gave them a blow job.

Question: Sir, I had asked you before we took a break what you saw the women engaging in with the men and if you could describe for us what you saw—in this particular instance that you're referring to what you saw at that time on the Wet-A-Line boats.

Answer: Exactly. So there were five men with five women, two of them were minors. And they did all types of, you know, sexual acts. And I took pictures, but I—I took pictures, but I don't have them here.

Question: Did you take pictures of what was happening with these men and women at the time you saw them performing sex with each other?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How did you know the ages of the females that were on the boat at the time?

Answer: They told me.

Question: Did the girls appear very young to you?

Answer: Yes, they were girls. They were young girls, because 'girls' for us is very young.

Question: Now you have children that I believe you said are in the age range, or two of them are 14 and 12, correct?

Answer: The boy is 14, and the girl is 12.

Question: The girls that were hired for services on Wet-A-Line tours, did some of the girls look in the age range of your own daughter, who is 12 years old?

Answer: Yes, they were small girls.

Question: Was there ever a certain age group that you were asked to retain the services of meeting, a certain age group of females that you were ever asked to retain the services of while working at Wet-A-Line tours for specific—for a specific group of customers?

Answer: Yes. They always wanted young ones.

Question: Was there ever a specific age group that you were asked to hire for a specific group of customers?

Answer: They would ask from 13 on up.

Question: Was there a specific group of customers, of Wet-A-Line customers, that you were aware of, that wanted a certain age group of women?

Answer: Yes, there was.

Question: Which group was that?

Answer: It was more so the group of Masons that would ask for that.

Question: And was that the group of people that are identified in the pictures that you have provided in this case?

Answer: Yes.

Chapter 7: Child Sex Tourism: Brazilian Teens Testify about Being Lured into Minor Prostitution for American Tourists

Published Mon Jun 2, 2008 5:58 PM EDT

Author's Note: This is the third of three articles related to how 19 members of the Royal Order of Jesters were called to testify for the defense in a federal lawsuit about their alleged firsthand knowledge of prostitution involving minors while on a fishing trip, apparently one of many, to Brazil. Included in the court documents are statements from five Brazilian Indian girls who allege they were "victims of sexual abuse perpetrated by a group of foreign tourists, North Americans." The girls' statements are available to the public through the federal court information system, PACER. There is no direct link between these girls and the Jesters. Let me repeat that. There is no direct link between these girls and the Jesters. However, two Brazilian fishing tour guides testified in their depositions in the same case that they saw "Masons" having sex with teen prostitutes. Additionally, all the girls testified that they were recruited every year by the same man, an American named "Richard," during the same time of year that he took the Jesters on their fishing trips to Brazil. Creative liberties were taken to tell this story through the eyes of the girls.

The Associated Press reported last Friday, May 30, 2008, that "a retired Marine captain was convicted Thursday of having sex with pre-teen girls while working as a teacher in Cambodia. A federal jury found Michael Joseph Pepe guilty of seven counts of engaging in illicit sexual conduct in foreign places. The federal law targets people who go overseas for so-called child sex tourism. During trial, six girls who were between 9 and 12 at the time of the abuse testified that Pepe drugged, bound, beat and raped them. Pepe was arrested in Phnom Penh in 2006 by Cambodian police investigating the sexual abuse allegations. Pepe, 54, of Oxnard, faces up to 210 years in prison when he is sentenced in September."

Unfortunately, child sex tourism is in the news.

Here are details of how it works, from those alleging they have been so victimized.

Imagine that you are a poor 13-year-old Brazilian girl, living with your poor family, on your poor people's land; the Indigenous Area, a.k.a. your reservation. A North American illegally enters the Indigenous Area, asking for your help on his tourist fishing boat, namely sweeping, laundry and cooking. You agree because your family needs the money. Your mother and step-father are scared because they have heard the stories about what has happened to "the others." Against all hope, they wave and watch as you and nine other girls go off with this American stranger.

When you get to the boat, you learn that your real job is to drink whiskey and beer and have sex with the foreigners who are in your country on a fishing trip. After the foreigners have sex with you and go back home, you are left pregnant, not knowing who fathered your baby.

Three years later, you find yourself sitting in the office of the Regional Superintendent of the Federal Police of the State of Amazonas with your mother, a federal police transcriber, an attorney hired to represent you and the Federal Police Chief, who is asking you to tell him what happened. The police want to know, because they are investigating that minor Indian girls, and other girls living near the rivers in the regions of Autazes, became victims of sexual exploitation by foreign North American tourists.

This girl's deposition and the depositions of four others were taken by the Brazilian Federal Police on June 13, 2007. The Police Chief also hears the others tell him how the same stranger went to the same village every year, luring girls to help him with housekeeping and cooking on his boat.

Instead, the American hires the underage girls during the tourists' fishing season. The girls are not paid what was promised for "programs" that consist of oral sex, strip and dance contests on the boat with the American fishermen. The girls allege in their depositions that they were told they would be paid one rate, but were paid much less of what had been promised.

The second girl testified that she is coming forward "spontaneously" to report that she was the victim of sexual abuse perpetuated by a group of foreign North American tourists, who, when she was 14, in August of 2005, came to her village to entice her to provide cleaning services on a boat. She agreed because she needed the money.

When she boarded the vessel with her 16-year-old sister and other girls, she learned that she would have to have sex with the foreigners, besides having to pose nude in pictures. She said she spent a week on the boat, had sex with two foreign tourists, who also paid her for sex. She said that, every year, the same American brought the same tourists during fishing season. She continued that, in August and September, the boat entered the indigenous Area and that the American hired the girls, always promising that it was for domestic labor.

The third girl is 18. She also sat in the office of the Regional Superintendent of the Federal Police of the State of Amazonas with her attorney, the Federal Police Chief and transcriber. She has an incomplete elementary education, is of indigenous culture and is a member of an ethnic tribe. She also reported that she was the victim of sexual abuse perpetuated by a group of foreigners, North Americans, who, when she was 16, in September 2005, enticed her to participate in sexual programs.

At the time she was spending her week in school, she was asked to provide domestic services on a boat of tourists. After she gets there, the foreigners take pictures of her and the other girls and invited them to work on the boat, promising to pay R\$200 or R\$300 (Reais) for two to three days of work. This translates to about \$120 or \$180 USD, respectively. She accepted the offer, because her mother was very ill and needed the money for health treatment in the city of Manaus.

Like the others, when she boarded the vessel, she learned she would have sex and to drink whiskey and beer with the foreigners. The first time she spent two days and two nights on the boat, she had to have sex with three foreigners. On the second time, she spent two days and one night with one foreigner.

She tells the police chief how there were about 15 to 18 other girls taken on board for the sexual programs. She also describes how the same American and his boat comes every year during August and September (the tourists' fishing season), to the Indigenous Area, and that the Americans hire the girls, always promising that it is for domestic labor. She supposes that some of the girls know that the program is about sex and some other girls do not. Last year, in 2006, she was called by the same American but refused to work those programs.

The fourth girl is in the same office with the same people on the same day to answer questions asked by the same Federal Police. She says she is appearing spontaneously to report that she was also a victim of sexual abuse perpetuated by a group of foreign tourists. At the time, she was 16 and was accompanied by her sister, who was 14 years old. Like the others, she testifies that she was hired to perform domestic labor but after boarding the boat, learned, in reality, she would have to have sex with the foreigners.

On that occasion, she spent two days on the boat. She had to have sex with one foreign tourist who went by the nickname "CARECA" (bald). She was promised to be paid \$100 Reais, but received only \$35 Reais. Translated, she was promised about \$60 USD, but was paid only \$20. She says that approximately ten girls were taken on board for sexual programs and that, every year, the same American takes the same tourists to those prostitution programs, because she knows that many other girls have also been taken to such programs. As far as she knows, the same boat enters the Indigenous Area and that the Americans hire the girls, always promising that it is for domestic activities during the months of August and September, during tourism fishing season.

The fifth girl testifies that she was first contacted, in 2000, by the same American who organizes tourist excursions inside the indigenous areas of Autazes. From that year on, she began to participate in the sexual programs with foreign tourists, always on the same American's boat. She said that the same American appeared every year in the region to conduct his excursions and, consequently, the prostitution programs.

This girl then explained how the same American used her to contact other girls of the villages as well as from the city of Autazes. She said he promised to pay her one amount, not only for having sex with the foreigners, but pay her based on the number of girls she recruited—but he never paid what he promised. She stated that, in 2006, she again participated in “Richard’s” programs but that she only spent one night on board because she had a problem with him because “he was drunk and could not perform sexually” with her.

When she demanded that she be paid, he locked her in his cabin. After much crying, “Richard” paid her half of the \$100 Reais he promised. This translates to being promised \$60 USD, but only being paid about \$30 USD. She also stated that sometimes “Richard” rents the bar and fast-food venue “Dois Irmaos,” which means “Two Brothers,” in the city of Autazes, where she works, to take the girls there to perform striptease.

A group fighting the commercial sexual exploitation of children, ECPAT, provides information on the third World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, to be held November 25, 28, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

According to the conference organizers, “The sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is a global reality, and the problem is growing. Eliminating this horrific practice, and protecting children and adolescents from it, is a challenge all countries in the world must meet together. Following Stockholm 1996 and Yokohama 2001, Brazil will host the World Congress III Against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, in Rio de Janeiro. Over the last decades, ECPAT International has been a lead partner in mobilizing and supporting the processes and follow-up action of the previous two World Congresses, ensuring that these events served as a mechanism to secure commitment and strengthen global action against the violation of children’s rights.”

Chapter 8: Trowbridge Sentencing Delayed as Jester Prostitution Investigation Links to Sex Trafficking

Published Tue Jul 29, 2008 7:38 PM PDT

Author’s Note: Twenty years ago, the Orlando Sentinel reported that whistleblowers had alerted them to how a Shriner circus ticket scam was reported to police who failed to investigate allegedly because they were also Shriners. One of the main themes of this investigation is how some Shriners, those who are also sworn to uphold the law, turn a blind eye to crime though they learn of it or participate in it. It seems that this conduct may be the result of Shriner bylaws that state “Shrine law does not include the law of the land.” Here is an update as to how the law of the land is being applied to a member of the Royal Order of Jesters, which is a secret subgroup made up of invited Shriner

leaders. This Jester, retired police captain John Trowbridge, got caught by the FBI and pleaded guilty to one felony count of violating the Mann Act. The following is, in part, about his sentencing date. The rest of the article describes how an FBI application for a search warrant reveals how those Jesters caught by the FBI were involved with more than prostitution.

Sandy Frost

July 29, 2008

Starbucks, WA

Federal court documents reveal that there will be a delay in the sentencing of John Trowbridge. It had been scheduled for this Thursday, July 31, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. Item 33 of Trowbridge's plea agreement states, "At the time of sentencing, the government will make the nature and extent of the defendant's compliance with this agreement known to the court. The government and its defendant will request that sentencing be adjourned until full satisfaction by the defendant of the terms of this agreement."

The "Government's Affidavit In Support of Motion to Adjourn Sentencing" states, "While the defendant has assisted the Government fully and completely to date, he has not completed all of the terms of his contemplated cooperation at this time. At this point, Mr. Trowbridge's testimony in related proceedings is still possible and would be required by the Government. Accordingly, the Government respectfully requests the defendant's sentencing date be adjourned sine die with the Government."

"Sine die" means at an unspecified future date.

So, as long as Trowbridge cooperates with investigators about what he may or may not know about Jester involvement with these or any other crimes, nothing he says can be used against him. There is no word yet about the other Jesters caught by the FBI, former Judge Ron Tills and his law clerk, Michael Stebick.

According to a Department of Justice announcement, the task force was created in November 2006 and "is a collaboration of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and non-government service organizations working together to identify, rescue and assist victims of human trafficking, human smuggling and other civil and human rights offenses in the 17 counties of the district, through aggressive investigation, prosecution, training, education and outreach to law enforcement, non-government organizations, vulnerable and affected persons and the general public."

The following information is from an FBI complaint and application for a search warrant. It will explain how the former judge and the retired police captain were not only caught

visiting the prostitutes, but also helping Len Wah Chong run her four brothels comprised of undocumented foreigners.

The information in the complaint/application was gathered by the FBI, "in cooperation with the U.S. Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, and the Niagara County Sheriff's Department. It was gathered through interviews, physical surveillance, background investigations, consensually monitored meetings, wire intercepts and while examining financial records, pen registers and trap/trace data, and telephone subscriber/toll records pertaining to the investigation of the offenses described above."

This application was also filed to obtain arrest warrants for the following:

- a. Keeping, maintaining, controlling, supporting or harboring an individual in any home or place;
- b. For the purposes of prostitution conspired to keep and control female foreigners for the purposes of prostitution, or any other immoral purpose;
- c. Knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that said individual is a foreigner;
- d. Failing to file the required statement concerning the individual within five business days of commencing such activity with the relevant immigration authorities.

This 15-month investigation was initiated in September 2006, by the FBI and U.S. Border Patrol on a tip that one of the acupuncture businesses was a front for prostitution. Per the document, "full sets" refers to sexual intercourse and "half-sets" can be used to refer to either oral sex or hand-jobs (that is, anything less than intercourse). Other terms used are "mouth" and "oral," both meaning oral sex.

Court-ordered wire intercepts on three telephones revealed the following, to include references to other law enforcement officers as well as the judge and police captain. The following has been edited to include specific references to the "Judge," the "police captain," as well as other law enforcement officers. A Department of Justice official confirmed that these are, in fact, Tills and Trowbridge.

On August 23, 2007, CHONG placed a telephone call to Premises 1. CHONG told an unknown Asian female (UAF) that the "police captain" is on his way to Premises 1. She instructed the UAF to give him a 45-minute service and wanted to know whose turn it was in the rotation. The UAF told CHONG it was an Asian female whom CHONG referred to as "Lala." CHONG told the UAF the "police captain" does not count in the rotation. It should be noted that the "police captain" was coming from Premises 5.

On August 24, 2007, CHONG received a telephone call from Premises 1. An Asian female whom CHONG referred to as "Jenny" told her the propane tank is out of gas, and they are unable to cook their food. It should be noted that, in human trafficking cases, victims are required to cook in the locations where they conduct the prostitution to limit their movement and thus maintain greater control over them.

On September 4, 2007, CHONG made a telephone call to Premises 6. CHONG spoke to an unidentified prostitute she called Coco, and asked if Coco did the judge's friend who is short, and is claiming he did not get good service from Coco after he paid the \$60 house fee plus a tip. Coco told CHONG the guy wanted a full set (sexual intercourse) for \$40.

On September 5, 2007, CHONG placed a telephone call to Premises 1. CHONG told an Asian female she referred to as "Jenny" that the "police captain" was on his way to Premises 1. CHONG told "Jenny" the "police captain" just visited her husband, and his service will not be counted on the normal rotation.

On September 5, 2007, CHONG made a telephone call to Premises 3. CHONG spoke to a prostitute named Amy and told her that customers who are friends of the judge called her to complain about Mary. CHONG told Amy she was at Golden and that "Judge" told her Lockport is a high-class spot, and that girls should not solicit for tips and if they do, he (the "Judge") will not help her out. CHONG added that the "Judge" informed her Mary offended every customer. CHONG said she told the judge she fired Mary and that the "Judge" agreed with CHONG's actions and commented that if she had not fired Mary, she would have made trouble.

On September 5, 2007, CHONG received a call to Premises 4. Feng Xian LI told CHONG she was considering bringing her son to the United States from China. Feng Xian LI said her divorce papers were filed, but she is unsure if she can bring her son over. CHONG told Feng Xian LI to ask her regular customer, who is an INS officer, to help her bring her son to the U.S. Feng Xian LI said she should provide the INS officer a "full set" if she is going to ask him for assistance. CHONG stated she has a friend that knows this officer, and he is scared about being caught since one of his friends was caught and fired.

On September 6, 2007, CHONG placed a telephone call to Premises 1. CHONG told an Asian female CHONG referred to as "Jenny" that the "Judge" was on his way to Premises 1. CHONG told "Jenny" to charge him (the "Judge") for one hour, even though he wanted a 90-minute service.

On September 30, 2007, CHONG made a telephone call to Premises 6. CHONG spoke to an Asian prostitute named Lily and told her that the police left. CHONG told Lily that the "police officer" said he would like to try massage sometime. CHONG said the

“Judge” and his friends he brought over wanted it for free, and that they were bad tippers.

On October 1, 2007, CHONG made a telephone call to Premises 1. CHONG spoke to XU and told her to listen carefully. CHONG said they are on action (or alert). The government won't give girls tips intentionally. CHONG told XU she just got back from seeing the sheriff because he was looking for her. CHONG told XU that law enforcement is intentionally not giving tips to the girls to see their reactions.

On October 16, 2007, CHONG placed a telephone call to Premises 1. CHONG told a UAF the “Judge” called and could not make it to Premises 1 that day. CHONG told the UAF that Xiu LIN aka “Coco” went to New York City and told everyone if you get arrested in Buffalo, NY, you can get legal immigration status. CHONG told the UAF the “Judge” was also upset with LIN due to her conversations in New York City about obtaining legal immigration status after being arrested in Buffalo, NY. CHONG stated the “Judge” advised her to have people from a church provide the girls with a letter in order to help their immigration status.

On October 18, 2007, CHONG placed a call from Premises 5 to Premises 1. CHONG told an Asian female she referred to as “Jenny” that the “Judge” and his friends will be going to Premises 1. CHONG told “Jenny” that some of them wanted sex, and they were to be treated as good customers no matter what.

On October 21, 2007, CHONG placed a call to Premises 4. CHONG told Feng Xian LI the “Judge” is mad at Feng Xian LIN because she was talking too much lately concerning her situation. Xiu LIN is a victim/material witness in an ICE investigation which was taken down in March 2007, in Buffalo, New York. CHONG stated that Xiu LIN told a lot of people that if you come to Buffalo, NY, you can get arrested and obtain legal immigration status. CHONG also stated another government agency is contacting the “Judge” now.

On November 3, 2007, CHONG made a telephone call to Premises 1. CHONG told XU that “Da Quan” called her and informed her that a shop in Buffalo got raided and one girl without legal status was detained. Two people were released, who were friends of “Da Quan.” CHONG told XU when the Sheriff arrived later he reminded the girls to be cautious and not to ask for tips. CHONG told a lot of her customers are police officers and public officials.

This application led to the arrest of CHONG, and three others, on December 10, 2007.

On April 17, 2008, she pleaded guilty to Sex Trafficking of Persons by Force, Fraud and Coercion. She faces penalties including a minimum of 15 years in prison and a maximum of life in prison.

Chapter 9: Felony Conspiracy Plea Confirms Investigation into Masonic Subgroup, Royal Order of Jesters

Published Thu Aug 14, 2008 10:23 AM PDT

An attorney and member of two Masonic subgroups has pleaded guilty to one felony count of conspiring to violate the Mann Act after admitting he drove a prostitute across state lines so she could be sold for sex to members of the Royal Order of Jesters at one of their weekend stag parties.

Michael R. Stebick, a former prosecutor for the Erie County District Attorney's Office, a former New York State Supreme Court law clerk and former impresario, or leader, of the Jesters' Buffalo Court #18, was caught with a retired police captain and a former New York State Supreme Court Judge, both Jesters, during a 15-month federal investigation into human trafficking.

Human trafficking is defined as "the recruitment, transportation, harboring, or receipt of people for the purposes of slavery, forced labor and servitude."

Stebick has agreed to cooperate with the Human Trafficking Task Force/FBI investigation into the scandal-plagued Jesters. Stebick is the second Jester to enter into a plea agreement with federal prosecutors for Mann Act violations. Last March 20, retired police captain John Trowbridge pleaded guilty to one felony count of violating the Mann Act by transporting prostitutes to Jester parties in Kentucky and Pennsylvania. Trowbridge was originally scheduled for sentencing on July 31, but will now be sentenced on November 4, due to assisting with other cases.

Ronald Tills, the former New York Supreme Court Judge, has yet to go public with any cooperative agreements, though federal court documents reveal that he was recently added as a defendant in an unrelated RICO complaint.

"Cooperation" for both Stebick and Trowbridge is spelled out in both their plea agreements:

- Providing complete and truthful information regarding the defendant's knowledge of any and all criminal activity, whether undertaken by the defendant or others, in any way involving or related to the unlawful transportation of individuals for prostitution or other sexual activity which is prohibited by law.
- Submitting to interviews by government attorneys and agents.
- Testifying truthfully and completely before grand juries and at such pre-trial and trial proceedings.

- Testifying truthfully and completely in local, state, and federal courts in jurisdictions which have agreed to abide by the plea agreement.
- Providing proactive cooperation to the government regarding individuals involved in criminal activity involving unlawful transportation of individuals for prostitution or other sexual activity which is prohibited by law.
- Providing cooperation to any local, state, or federal authorities designated by the government.

In exchange, Stebick could be imprisoned from four to ten months, be fined from \$3,000–\$30,000 and be on supervised probation for two to three years.

The plea agreement's factual basis is based on facts that both Stebick and U.S. Attorneys' Office agreed to. It states that in October 2005, the defendant, Michael R. Stebick, together with John Trowbridge, Len Wah Chong, a former New York State Supreme Court Judge, a.k.a. "Judge" and others whose identities are known to the parties, agreed to knowingly transport a woman, who was an undocumented foreigner, from New York to Kentucky.

Chong owned four "massage" and "acupressure" businesses that were fronts for prostitution and kept as many as 11 undocumented foreigners as sex slaves. She pleaded guilty to a Felony Information early last April, charging her with "Sex Trafficking of Persons by Force, Fraud and Coercion."

Stebick's plea states that Trowbridge picked up the prostitute from Chong's Golden Acupressure business and then "drove her to a parking lot of Leisure Land in Hamburg, New York, to board a motor home driven by Stebick to transport her, the co-conspirators and others known and unknown to the U.S. Attorneys' Office, to Ashland, Kentucky," so she could "engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity in exchange for money with members of a men's organization of which the defendant, John Trowbridge and the 'Judge' were members, and which organization was holding a gathering in Kentucky the weekend of October 28, 29 and 30 of 2005. This organization maintained chapters throughout the United States, including in Western New York, and it was the custom of these chapters to host periodic meetings, usually on weekends, for their members. At most of these meetings, some members of the organization would be tasked to arrange for the presence of women at the meetings, for the specific purpose of utilizing the women to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity with the organization's members in exchange for money. The facts set forth above are those about which the government had independent information prior to the time the defendant indicated a desire to cooperate with the government and agreed to give statements regarding the defendant's involvement in criminal activity. It is understood

and agreed to by the parties that additional information provided by the defendant cannot be used against the defendant.”

Part of Stebick’s plea agreement was to “immediately criminally forfeit” his 2000 Challenger 335 MHA motor home to be sold, with the proceeds also forfeited.

This is the second sex scandal to hit the Royal Order of Jesters, after it was reported last March that 19 members were also called as witnesses in a separate federal lawsuit to testify about their firsthand knowledge of sex with minors while on a sanctioned Jesters fishing trip in Brazil.

Additionally, these three will most likely face disciplinary actions overseen by the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York, which could result in expulsion from the worldwide order. The Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York, Gilbert Savitzky, referred questions about the disciplinary process and the Grand Master’s reactions to the Lodge’s public relations firm, with no answers yet.

Stebick and Tills, both attorneys and members of the New York Bar Association, also face automatic disbarment upon pleading guilty to federal felonies.

A call placed to the Royal Order of Jesters headquarters to get reaction from executive director Alex Rogers was unsuccessful because their phone number has been disconnected.

This investigation is being conducted by New York Western District’s Human Trafficking Task Force and Alliance.

According to a Department of Justice announcement, the task force was created in November 2006, and “is a collaboration of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and non-government service organizations working together to identify, rescue and assist victims of human trafficking, human smuggling and other civil and human rights offenses in the 17 counties of the district, through aggressive investigation, prosecution, training, education and outreach to law enforcement, non-government organizations, vulnerable and affected persons and the general public.”

These groups include the FBI, Erie County Sheriff’s Office, Custom and Border Protection, United States Border Patrol with the assistance of the Niagara County Sherriff’s Office, and the Tonawanda Police Department. The case is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert C. Moscati, who is also in charge of the task force.

In closing, Moscati said, “We will go wherever the evidence leads us.”

Chapter 10: Jester Confesses to Wife He Organized Prostitutes

Published Mon Aug 25, 2008 4:10 PM EDT

Author's Note: This is the third of three stories that link the Royal Order of Jesters to prostitution. The first one reported how 19 Jesters were called as defense witnesses in a federal lawsuit to testify about their firsthand knowledge of illegal drugs and sex with underage prostitutes while on a fishing trip in Brazil. The second one was published three days later by The Buffalo News after three members of the Royal Order of Jesters were caught in an FBI prostitution sting. The Jester wife will be referred to as JW. The Jester husband will be referred to as John. The prostitutes will be referred to as Jane and Red.

Imagine that you are a wife whose husband joined a social club and was happy with all the networking and activities it offered...like golf, poker and recreational weekends. But, after a while, he begins acting way different as he starts travelling more and more. It's as if you're just left home while he lives it up. Prior to him joining this club, you did everything together. Then, when he's at one of his club's weekends, you get a call from a girl on your home phone who is asking about who is going to drive her from the airport to the hotel.

Then the confrontation hits.

Then the discovery that yes, indeed, your husband is the guy who lines up the girls for the parties.

You know.

Gets the prostitutes to the hotels where the club members are staying.

The club is the Royal Order of Jesters.

Here is an interview with this wife.

Sandy: You are married to a member of the Royal Order of Jesters?

JW: Yes.

Sandy: How long?

JW: Married 35 years.

Sandy: Was there a pattern of behavior changes as your husband got more and more involved with the Jesters?

JW: When he first got involved with the Jesters, I thought it was the best thing for him. He met many, many men who became close friends. They have a saying, "There are no strangers in the Realm, just friends you haven't met." He also started to collect Jester

and Billiken memorabilia, some dating back to the early 1900's. He now has a very extensive collection of which he is very proud.

He didn't "travel" much at first. That is going to 3-4 day weekend "Books" in other cities. He maybe attended two a year for the first two years, but by his seventh year, he had 14 trips planned. Finally, I said "Enough. Where do I fit in anymore?" In all of our married years, John never stopped at a bar after work with the guys. He took, maybe, one golf trip a year without me. We were a team and did everything together.

Everything he did now, or anywhere we went, was associated with the Jesters.

He was completely obsessed, though he couldn't see it. I noticed how he bragged about being a member. Jesters are not supposed to advertise themselves as being Jesters, as it is kind of a secret organization. But John would wear purple, carry purple emblem golf bags, license plates, and boast about it being a strictly stag, luxury organization for no purpose other than to spread mirth. The more I heard that, the more disgusted I became. I also noticed that he was not taking cell phone calls in front of me, or he would go outside to talk. He used to let me answer his phone.

Wives are allowed at only two events a year. One is the Christmas Party run by each local court and the other is the National Meeting. That is where I got to meet some of the friends. I would even meet the local Jesters after a golf day and sit at the bar with them. A lot of them knew me very well. I could tell that John was rising in the local ranks.

Sandy: Did you discover this information after lingering suspicions, or after one specific incident?

JW: I had no lingering suspicions. I had heard about the girls by accident, about the second year that John was in. He certainly played it down. He told me he had nothing to do with them. They were kept separate, no contact at all. I believed him. I didn't ask any more questions. The Jesters' oath is, "What you hear here, what you see here, stays here when you leave here." Every new member must take that oath. He was a bit open with me about some of the things that went on, I guess telling me just enough not to arouse any suspicions. So I definitely discovered our problem after a specific incident.

Sandy: Would you please describe that incident? In other words, what prompted you to search for information?

JW: It happened at the same time I realized how many trips he was taking. As a matter of fact, he was at his court's book when I received a phone message:

"Hi John, this is Jane from St. Louis. I'm at the airport and wonder if you're sending a Jester to pick me up, or if I should get the shuttle."

I called him on his cell phone and told him he should train his Jester girls better so they don't call the wife. He, of course, didn't know what to say. This was on a Thursday. I thought he would come home right away, as the hotel was just a half hour away. He didn't come home until Saturday night, although he did call me later to try to explain.

Sandy: Did you confront your husband?

JW: Yes.

Sandy: What happened after you confronted him?

JW: When I confronted him, he explained to me how it works. The Jesters have a "pool" of girls. Certain men have their favorites and make requests to have them at the books. It is up to each court's Director to assign the job of inviting the girls, a number based on the number of attendees. In this case, eight girls were invited for between 180-200 men. He says that only about 20% of the men use the girls, but a friend said it's more like 70%. I really don't know. They get \$100 an hour. In my calculations, to make it worthwhile, it would have to be more than 20%!

He was asked to do the job because he traveled so much and knew who the girls were and who the favorites were. I believe with all of my heart that he never had sexual relations with any of them. He emailed them, called them or asked them in person to come to this book. He also confessed that he had helped with the scheduling the previous year. They also have a doctor who checks the girls' "papers." John's Jester court does not pay for plane or rooms. Some courts do pay for rooms. I didn't know all of this went into it. I just thought the guys who used the girls called them and they came on their own.

Sandy: Did he or anyone else threaten you?

JW: I have never been threatened and don't expect to be.

Sandy: Did you report this to law enforcement?

JW: I saw no need to report this, as it was, as I considered, a personal problem. Off-duty cops act as guards for the secure floors, so they already know about it. I did, however, lose all respect for any of the Jesters I have met in the past.

Sandy: What was the most startling thing you found? What was the most startling thing you realized?

JW: What I found and realized is that the Jesters have something that I can't put my finger on. I'm almost thinking in our case that it was because it is a "luxury" organization. It's like at Halloween, when you dress up as something you would never be any other day. That is the closest I can analyze how he felt with the Jesters. They drink only top

shelf. Money is no object. They stay at the best places, dress in tuxedos and get away with whatever.

My husband was a fun-loving, good husband before this. He didn't need the Jesters to create "mirth" in his life, yet it happened when he was 60 years old. It was like something was always missing from his life. I am not looking to myself, as I gave and did everything to him possible.

Sandy: What impact has this had on you, personally?

JW: I did have three appointments with a psychologist. After blood tests, doctor's appointments, and some sleeping medication, he released me and said I am a strong woman. He wanted to prescribe antidepressants, but I refused. After these appointments, the doctor said that he thought that I could make the right decisions. I was so close to divorcing. If we had any money, I would have walked out. I am glad now that it did not get to that.

Sandy: What would you like to tell other Jester wives?

JW: I don't want to talk to other Jester wives. I talked to one, and she was as appalled as I was and also confronted her husband who has been a Jester for 25 years, telling her there are no women at any events. I want to put all of this behind me and move on from here. John and I are doing just that.

Sandy: From what you found, please describe what goes on at these Jester functions?

JW: Other than girls, there is a lot of high-stakes poker, low-stakes gin, and 24-hour hospitality rooms. The initiation involves "stunts" which I know include nudity, but I don't know much about it. John says they don't involve the girls...anymore! They also provide sightseeing, golf, etc. There is a lot of good stuff going on. They end with a black-tie Royal Feast on Saturday night.

Sandy: From what you found, is this widespread? In other words, are there others who facilitate prostitution for other Jester functions?

JW: Every court lines up the girls to come to their books once a year. I never knew about any other functions that include them. There is not any other function that John's court has. They have a monthly business meeting and a yearly book. That is it.

Sandy: Did your husband tell the Jesters that you had found this proof? Was your husband punished, isolated or ostracized from the group?

JW: Here is the crowning blow. John promised me that he would turn his "files" on the girls over to someone else. I found the girls' business cards. After four months, I found that he still had it. I was furious. I went on the blog for Red and it stated that she was 16

years old. I about threw up. I emailed her and pretended to be someone else. Naive as I am, I didn't realize that my name automatically goes at the bottom. Later that same day, one of John's Jester friends in D.C. called and said what is your wife doing emailing Red? Now he confronted me. Red not only sent the email to this one person, but to the Jesters' Royal Line.

This is what precipitated the edict now that no girls may be at any of the books. The guys were sweating it out not, that not only the wives would find out, but also the authorities. This also is what caused John to lose all of his prestige with the group. He did not uphold the oath; he let his wife find out things she wasn't supposed to know. He lost three very prestigious positions and is not allowed to ever get them back.

Sandy: What would you like to see happen? Why?

JW: I am not sure what I want to happen. I think these men need to know that they are not special, even though they think they are. This group is not alone in doing things like this.

Sandy: Why do you want to go public with this information? In other words, why should the public know about what you found?

JW: I just thought, before anymore relationships are ruined, it needs to stop. I did my part in stopping the girls coming to books...don't know how long that will last. I also did my part in getting my husband out of the grips of the organization. He harbors no ill feelings for anything I did and never felt embarrassed in front of the fellow Jesters because of it. We have worked together to get our relationship mended.

Sandy: Do you know how the money worked?

JW: I know nothing about the finances or handling of the money. I have told you now everything I know.

Chapter 11: Judge Tills Pleads Guilty, Admits Coordinating Prostitutes with Jester National Representatives

Published Thu Sep 11, 2008 10:14 PM EDT

A September 4, 2008 Department of Justice press release reports that "Terrance P. Flynn, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced today that RONALD H. TILLS, 73, a former State Supreme Court Judge from Hamburg, New York, pleaded guilty to information charging him with knowingly transporting a female in interstate commerce with the intent that the female engage in prostitution (Mann Act). The charge carries a maximum penalty of ten (10) years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both."

The Mann Act was born of the United States White-Slave Traffic Act of 1910. It prohibited white slavery, banned the interstate transport of females for “immoral purposes” and addressed prostitution, immorality, and human trafficking.

On March 9, 2008, The Buffalo News first reported that Judge Tills had resigned after it was learned that the FBI was investigating him, retired police captain John Trowbridge and Tills’ former law clerk, Michael Stebick, for taking prostitutes across state lines to parties held by a nationwide men’s group called the Royal Order of Jesters.

On March 20, 2008, Trowbridge pleaded guilty to one felony count of violating the Mann Act.

On August 7, 2008, Stebick pleaded guilty to one felony count of conspiring to violate the Mann Act.

On September 4, 2008, Tills also pleaded guilty. His plea agreement says that, the parties agree that, in or about September 2001, Tills was the Director of the Buffalo chapter of the Royal Order of Jesters Court #22 and was responsible for arranging for the presence of a number of prostitutes from outside New York to attend the Jesters’ meeting in Dunkirk, New York, in order to have sex with the members for money. Tills made several calls to women for this purpose and also gave a list of names and telephone numbers of additional women to Michael Stebick to do the same. Although some of these women were unable to attend due to flight cancellations following the national tragedies on September 11, 2001, other women drove to the Dunkirk meeting by car at Tills’ and Stebick’s invitation, including one from Toronto and one from Minnesota. They did engage in various sex acts, including sexual intercourse, with the Jesters in exchange for money.

In other words, after nearly 3,000 died in the horrific suicide attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, these officers of the court didn’t think to cancel their weekend bash. Tills and Stebick were instead more concerned about getting the prostitutes to their meeting because the 9/11 tragedy messed up their transportation plans.

The parties also agree that, in or about spring 2006, Tills arranged for the transportation of prostitutes from the Buffalo airport to the Jesters’ national meeting then being held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. The women came from various parts of the United States to the Jesters’ meeting to have sex with the members for money. Tills told representatives of the Jesters’ National Court that members of the Buffalo Court #22 would get the women from the Buffalo airport to the hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, where the Jesters were meeting. Jesters then took the prostitutes from the Buffalo airport to their national meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, where the women engaged in various sex acts, including sexual intercourse, with the Jesters for money.

According to the Jesters 2006 tax return, the national court spent nearly \$600,000 on their annual Book of the Play weekend, which may or may not have been this same national meeting. Their 2005 tax return coincides with this same meeting and lists those Officers of the National Court of the Royal Order of Jesters who may have worked with Tills:

- William Siders, Royal Stage Manager
- Robert H. Haynes, Royal Leading Lady
- Paul A. Stradman, Royal Heavy Man
- John T. Stradtman, Royal Property Man
- James M. Lake, P.R.D., Royal Treasurer
- Robert C. Davis, Royal Director
- Dennis R. Schueler, Royal Leading Man
- Taylor E. Best, Royal Tragedian
- Gary N. Martin, Royal Impresario
- Raymond Grannis, Royal Prelate
- Alex Rogers, Executive Director

Rogers has been quoted as saying the Jesters try to take the “highest caliber Shriners we can get,” who distinguish themselves in the community and that they try to keep the “cream of the crop.” Rogers has also said that he had no information about Tills, or whether he still holds a leadership post in the Buffalo Jesters group.

Tills admitted to, and the parties agreed to, the following:

- On or about October 28, 2005, Tills, along with John Trowbridge and Michael Stebick, knowingly transported an undocumented foreigner from New York to Kentucky to engage in prostitution.
- Tills paid this same woman sums of money to engage in sexual acts with him at a massage parlor named Golden Acupressure, located in North Tonawanda, New York.
- During the weekend of October 28–30, 2005, Tills knowingly transported, along with Trowbridge and Stebick, a woman from New York to a Jester meeting in Kentucky to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity, and be paid for it.

- In or about fall 2006, Tills and Trowbridge knowingly transported a different undocumented foreigner from New York to a Jester meeting in Pennsylvania to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity, and be paid for it.
- Tills and Trowbridge had engaged in various sexual acts with the same undocumented foreigner at the Golden Acupressure massage parlor and paid her for it.
- In or about fall 2006, Tills arranged for a woman from Buffalo to attend a Jester party in Florida to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity, and be paid for it.
- Tills and other Jesters flew with the same woman from Buffalo, New York, to the Florida Jester meeting.
- In or about October 2007, Tills arranged for several women from New York, Ohio and Texas to attend a Jester meeting in Brantford, Ontario, Canada, to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity, and be paid for it.
- Tills arranged for the women to be transported from the Buffalo airport by other Jesters who then transported them to the meeting in Canada to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity, and be paid for it.

On Thursday, December 8, 2005, New York Congressman Thomas Reynolds (R-NY) cited Tills' accomplishments to Congress in honor of his retirement including being:

- A veteran of the United States Army Reserve.
- An assistant town attorney and town justice.
- A New York State assemblyman.
- Chairman of the Assembly's Select Committee of the Assembly's Select Committee for Revision of Corporation Law.
- Nominated by Governor George E. Pataki and confirmed by the NY Senate to the State Court of Claims, July 1995.
- An acting Supreme Court Justice.
- A member of the Lions, Chamber of Commerce, Hamburg Volunteer Fire Company.
- Potentate of the Ismailia Shrine Temple.
- Director and President of the Shrine Oasis.

- Director of the Buffalo Court #22 of the Jesters.
- Proctor of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

In 2005, Tills was appointed to the Commissioners of Appeals for the same Grand Lodge. According to the Grand Lodge's 2008 "Be It Known" pronouncement, Tills resigned from this position midterm. Questions to the New York Grand Lodge about Tills' Masonic status and possible disciplinary actions remain stonewalled.

According to the current potentate of the Ismailia Temple, he signed Tills' demit from the Shrine in March 2008. This means Tills was not expelled. Instead, he was given the option to rejoin at any time in the future, as long as he catches up on past dues.

Tills is scheduled to be sentenced on January 12, 2009.

So, how closely related are the Royal Order of Jesters to the Shriners?

Like brothers.

The Royal Order of Jesters' bylaws state:

- The Annual Meeting of the National Court of the Royal Order of Jesters shall be held on the day preceding the annual meeting of the Imperial Council, A.A.O.N.M.S., at the city chosen for such meeting, or at such time or place chosen and voted by the National Court.
- A Subordinate Court may be established by the National Court in a jurisdiction where a temple of A.A.O.N.M.S. is located and where a Subordinate Court does not exist upon petition there for by not less than (13) Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, all of whom shall be actual residents of, and who maintain their domiciles in, the jurisdiction of said temple of A.A.O.N.M.S.
- Upon action of the Imperial Council A.A.O.N.M.S. issuing a dispensation for a new temple A.A.O.N.M.S., the National Court may, upon application of the required number of Nobles of the A.A.O.N.M.S. for a new Subordinate Court and the recommendation of the Charters and Dispensations Committee, and the approval of the Royal Director and Royal Impresario, issue a dispensation for a Subordinate Court of Royal Order of Jesters.
- After one year under dispensation and upon recommendation of the Charters and Dispensations Committee, the Royal Director and Royal Impresario shall issue a charter to said Court, under dispensation, after a Charter for a Shrine Temple has been granted.

- The territorial jurisdiction of a Subordinate Court shall be the same as that provided by the By Laws of the Imperial Council A.A.O.N.M.S. for the Temple of that Order located at or nearest to the City in which the Subordinate Court was granted a charter to hold such Court, as of July 1, 1999.
- The jurisdiction of the Subordinate Court shall be exclusive in the Oasis of the Temple A.A.O.N.M.S., where the Subordinate Court is located and in the city in which such Subordinate Court was granted a Charter to hold such Subordinate Court, as of July 1, 1999.
- A Member of the Royal Order of Jesters must be in good standing in a Temple of the A.A.O.N.M.S. Termination of membership in his Temple likewise terminates his membership in the Royal Order of Jesters.
- If a Noble is, and for at least six (6) months has been, an actual resident and has maintained his domicile in the jurisdiction of a Subordinate Court of the Royal Order of Jesters, as defined by Article VII, Section 10, he shall be eligible for election to membership in that Subordinate Court, providing he is in good standing in his own Temple A.A.O.N.M.S.

So, are other Jesters in positions of Shriner leadership?

Yes.

And they also appear to be in trouble.

Ralph Semb, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Shriners Hospitals for Children, is not only a Jester; he's a member of the secret Jester group, the SOBIB, which stands for "Society of Brothers in Blood." There are no copyright marks or any other indications that this "Confidential Membership Directory" is, in any way, proprietary.

Last year, Semb and fellow Jester and Imperial treasurer Gene Bracewell, were investigated by a committee of Shriner leaders for the following allegations:

- Semb and Bracewell violated the Shriners Code of Ethics.
- Semb retaliated against the hospitals' Director of Development, Edgar McGonigal, by firing him over a fundraising contract dispute.
- Semb and Bracewell both used subterfuge to negatively influence McGonigal's employee evaluations so he could be fired again.
- Semb knowingly executed a fraudulent tax return.
- Bracewell got a free trip from the fundraiser he was lobbying for.

- Controller Willard Fawcett resigned because “improper reimbursement of expenses that did not further the exempt purposes of SHC and contracts that were not in the best interests of SHC and may have involved self-interest on the part of members of the Joint Boards.”
- Executive vice president James Full violated employment confidentiality to “in part, avoid a confrontation with Mr. Semb.”

The Interim Report revealed how both Semb and Bracewell pushed hard to reinstate contracts with one specific fundraising company, Vantage Direct Marketing Services. Vantage raised over \$46 million between 1999 and 2003 on behalf of SHC and kept \$43 million, with only \$2.5 million going to the hospitals. In other words, if someone donated \$100 during these campaigns, Vantage kept \$95 and the hospitals got only \$5.

The committee members also described how headquarters personnel worked under the threat of being fired in a culture of fear if they did not bend to the wills of leaders like Semb and Bracewell.

The committee’s presentation was booed down last July during a business meeting at the last Shriner convention, and Semb was ceremoniously “re-elected” by those members who failed to review report’s findings.

Additionally, seven of twelve on the Shriners Hospitals for Children Board of Trustees are also Jesters. In addition to Semb and Bracewell, they include W. Brandt Bede, M.D.; Charles A. Claypool, Raul L. Frevel Sr., past Imperial Potentate Bernard J. Lemieux, M.D.; and Gary Dunwoody.

Gene Bracewell also sits on the Imperial Divan and is the current Imperial Treasurer.

In addition to Bracewell, others on the Imperial Divan are also Jesters:

Alan W. Madsen, current Imperial High Priest and Prophet and Director of the Royal Order of Jesters Court #109 in Charlotte, N.C.

Jack Jones, current Imperial Recorder and member of the Royal Order of Jesters.

Jerry Gantt, current Imperial Second Ceremonial Master, chairman emeritus of the Houston Shriners Hospital Board of Governors, and past Director of Houston Court #136 Royal Order of Jesters.

Other influential Jesters include the head of a law enforcement organization in Louisiana, the vice president of a commercial bank in Maryland, and a judge and regional planner in Florida.

One Jester who arranged for prostitutes confessed all after he was caught by his wife.

The long arm of this international human trafficking investigation may also be reaching out to those 19 Jesters called as witnesses to testify about their firsthand knowledge of sex with minors while on a fishing trip to Brazil.

So, what about this investigation?

It is being conducted by New York Western District's Human Trafficking Task Force and Alliance.

According to a Department of Justice announcement, the task force was created in November 2006 and "is a collaboration of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies and non-government service organizations working together to identify, rescue and assist victims of human trafficking, human smuggling and other civil and human rights offenses in the 17 counties of the district, through aggressive investigation, prosecution, training, education and outreach to law enforcement, non-government organizations, vulnerable and affected persons and the general public."

These groups include the FBI, Erie County Sheriff's Office, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Custom and Border Protection, United States Border Patrol with the assistance of the Niagara County Sherriff's Office and the Tonawanda Police Department. The investigation is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert C. Moscati, who is also in charge of the task force. When asked about the investigation, Moscati said, "We will go wherever the evidence leads us."

At the end of the day, these guilty pleas beg the following questions:

- Did Officers of the Royal Order of Jesters hustle the IRS and manipulate the nonprofit system so they could party with prostitutes at taxpayer expense?
- Did the Royal Order of Jesters rely on their influential members to operate and protect an international prostitution syndicate that specializes in human trafficking?
- Do these Shriners, a.k.a. Jesters act as if they are above the law because "Shrine law does not include the law of the land" and they are, above all else, sworn to protect the brotherhood?
- Are the Shriners ongoing problems with theft, embezzlement and mismanagement because they are run by a bunch of Jesters?

Only the FBI, the Human Trafficking Task Force and IRS can know for sure.

Chapter 12: Ex-Jesters confirm "Sam Houston" Email

Published Fri Dec 5, 2008 11:54 PM PST

Update: A second Jester has come forward. His answers are now included.

Sandy Frost

December 9, 2008

Starbucks, WA

Author's Note: Not that gambling wildly, getting snot-slinging drunk and doing prostitutes are bad things...I mean, what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas. But to do so as a nonprofit group is, well, nothing more than a hardcore hustle. Last spring, three Jesters were caught in an FBI human trafficking sting and pleaded guilty to violating the Mann Act. Their plea agreements describe how other Jesters organize prostitutes for their weekend binges. In another case, 19 others are linked to child sex tourism. Here is an interview with two former Jesters that confirms the original email that started it all. FYI, questions about the Royal Order of Jesters sent to the Grand Lodge of New York and the Shriners the past year remain stonewalled.

Thank you,

Sandy Frost

Starbucks, WA

In December 2002, Jester National Officer Dennis R. Schueler, wrote to Jester webmaster Frank Bailie: "The purpose of this letter is to inform you that at a recent Board of Directors meeting of the Royal Order of Jesters, a resolution was passed which directed the abolition of all Jester-related bulletin boards and internet sites. The primary reason behind such action was the desire of the Board to minimize to the extent possible our public exposure or its access to Jester information. Royal Director Bill Ross appointed me to investigate all such sites and to request the webmaster to terminate them forthwith."

Then, in April 2005, it became apparent why they wanted to be invisible.

The "Sam Houston" email was published online and instantly became the sole source of information about the Shriners' dirty little secret, the Royal Order of Jesters.

It had been sent to Texas Masons as well as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, begging him to investigate the Royal Order of Jesters for prostitution and other "un-Masonic" activities. The investigation found nothing, as none of those questioned would incriminate themselves or betray their Shriner/Jester brothers.

Fortunately, two former Jesters have come forward to verify what "Sam Houston" wrote.

Some say that the Jesters wield undue influence over the Shriners.

Of the twelve Shriners on the Board of Trustees for the Shriners Hospital, seven are also Jesters. Chairman Ralph Semb, Gene Bracewell, W. Brandt Bede, M.D.; Charles A. Claypool, Raul L. Frevel Sr., Bernard J. Lemieux, M.D.; and Gary Dunwoody.

Jesters on the Shriner Imperial Divan include Gene Bracewell, Imperial Treasurer; Alan W. Madsen, current Imperial High Priest, Prophet, and Director of the Royal Order of Jesters Court #109 in Charlotte, N.C.; Jack Jones, current Imperial Recorder; and Jerry Gantt, current Imperial Second Ceremonial Master, chairman emeritus of the Houston Shriners Hospital Board of Governors, and past director of Houston Court #136 Royal Order of Jesters.

Next are questions and answers with Jester A and Jester B.

Then, the "Sam Houston" email.

Jester A: I do not know where to even begin. I have found it difficult putting this into words.

What did you see at the parties?

Jester A: Drinking, gambling, pigeon shoots, prostitution, sexual hazing; I could write pages on these subjects.

Jester B: The girls walking around in nothing but their G-strings, advertising so they can take a Jester to their own room. Oral-sex contests, high-stakes poker, lots and lots of drinking, porn movies running 24/7 in the hospitality room.

Who did you see at the parties, or know of, in terms of being "pillars of the community?"

Jester A: Country music stars, politicians, lawyers, doctors, sheriffs, elected officials.

Jester B: Federal judges, a governor, Masonic Grand Masters, state representatives, community leaders, an Imperial Potentate sucking on a prostitute.

What do you think of the recent news coverage about those Jesters who pleaded guilty in Buffalo to taking prostitutes across state lines to their weekend parties?

Jester A: What do you want me to say? This was common practice for the books or parties.

Jester B: If these guys don't change, they will end up like Judge Tills and the others caught by the FBI. The busts in Buffalo are just the tip of the iceberg.

What do you think should happen to the Royal Order of Jesters? Nonprofit status suspended? Have the group disbanded?

Jester A: Officials and leaders need to be prosecuted and the Royal Order of Jesters disbanded.

Jester B: Both. The group needs to be disbanded because taxpayers should not be forced to bear the tax burden as these Jester groups take advantage of their tax-exempt status.

How extensive is the Jesters' network?

Jester A: Every state and every major city.

Jester B: It's very active on the East Coast.

Why in the world would the Shriners support such an organization?

Jester A: Shrine pleases ignorance, most fraternal and hospital leaders in the Shrine are Jesters.

Jester B: It's this sense that they're special and can do whatever they want. Those who are sworn to uphold the law turn their heads if they learn of it or even participate. The Jesters control the Shrine, so no one wants to blow the whistle on himself. It's kind of like teenage boys in a "circle jerk." You all do it because it's supposed to be exciting and no one is supposed to tell.

Have you reported these activities to law enforcement? If so, what happened?

Jester A: Yes. Nothing happened because the police/sheriffs were paid to be security at the events.

Jester B: No.

Have you reported these activities to any Masonic officials? If so, what happened?

Jester A: Yes. I was prosecuted, and not one Jester was prosecuted.

Jester B: No.

What would you tell the FBI and the Human Trafficking Task Force if you could?

Jester A: Hard to know where to begin; this has been going on for years.

Jester B: Keep investigating, especially those who might be involved with child sex tourism. Now that is so sick, to think any of these guys might be, well, you know.

What would you tell the IRS about charitable donations being spent on prostitution, if you could?

Jester A: Follow the money for research studies within the Shrine. See where these lead to. Imperial Officers only do business with Jesters.

Jester B: The IRS needs to see if the Courts used their money to pay for the girls, their rooms, or their transportation. This could be a nationwide abuse of the nonprofit tax system used to support interstate prostitution. And see if the members took tax deductions for their "donations."

What would you tell the other Jesters if you could?

Jester A: Enough is enough; end this. We can have legal meetings without all of this.

Jester B: Quit lying to your wives, and uphold your Masonic vows. A Mason is pledged to be a "better man," not a drunk, gambling womanizer who's fooling the IRS.

What would you tell the Jesters wives if you could?

Jester A: You don't even want to know what is really going on at these meetings or parties.

Jester B: Marriage counseling. And it's not your fault that your husband is doing these things.

Feel free to tell the world about this organization and your thoughts about what should happen next.

Jester A: Jesters are deeply rooted into the Shrine and Masons. You have to go after all of them for this to end. Masons and Shriners are Jesters, so they allow this to happen. Those who speak out are vanished from the groups.

Jester B: It's not the organization I thought it was when I joined. I thought it was for the leaders in the Shrine. I never visualized that things like this were going on, because our Masonic oath says we're not to have intercourse with anyone but our wives, and that is what it boils down to. I thought it was an up-and-up organization, but I found out that it was not. The government needs to get a hold of this organization and straighten it out.

Editor's Note: Aside from keeping the email sender anonymous, this message has not been changed or edited, in an effort to preserve its initial posting.

From: "Texas Mason"

To: mason_stoppers@yahoo.com

Subject: Shriners: Royal Order of Jesters

Date: Tue, 19 Apr 2005

Please post this anonymously! Please do not include my email address in your posting of this message. Masons and Shriners are pissed off about this email in Texas.

This was an email sent out about 3 weeks ago to all Texas Masons by a Mason going by the name of Sam Houston. He charges that a secret group within the Shriners called the Royal Order of Jesters is involved in an illegal prostitution and illegal gambling ring. He chose a very fitting name since Sam Houston was the first Grandmaster of the Grand Lodge of Texas. Here is the email that was sent:

“OH LORD MY GOD IS THERE NO HELP FOR THE WIDOW’S SON!”

“OH LORD MY GOD IS THERE NO HELP FOR THE WIDOW’S SON!”

“OH LORD MY GOD IS THERE NO HELP FOR THE WIDOW’S SON!”

Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, Right Worshipful Grand Officers, and Brethren:

I’m a Shriner in Texas. I have been a Shriner for many, many years.

I am also a Jester in the Royal Order of Jesters within the Shrine. I have not attended Blue Lodge in ages. I am going to leave my name anonymous for various reasons. I am married to a wonderful woman (the 2nd one in my life thanks to the Shriners) and I have children who have moved on to lives of their own. However, what I am about to portray to you could endanger my life and the life of my family.

I have told a few select brethren the story I am about to relay to you. I am not sure who they told, if they told anyone. More than likely, when you are done reading this email, you will surely be in disbelief of what has transpired in the past, what is transpiring today, and what is planned for the future within the Shriners organization to the disgrace of Ancient Free and Accepted Freemasonry.

When I started Masonry prior to the mid 70’s, it was the best experience of my life. The brotherhood that I found was beyond belief. The Blue Lodge was truly the pinnacle of my Masonic experience. I became a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason that same year, although I never really participated in the organization. I became a Shriner somewhere in that time period. This is where my story really begins...

While in the Shrine I was very active. Taking my family with me on the weekends to events was a very exciting time in my life, and the life of my family. I was approached in the Shrine and was told that I was a good Shriner and that I was invited to join a secret

society within the Shrine—The Royal Order of Jesters. This “secret society” was started back in the late teens of the 20th century. The motto was “Mirth is King” and was devoted to not brooding over sorrows, but to forget them as far as possible. This meant home life as well.

My brothers, I am a sinner. I have sinned against my family. I have sinned against myself. I have sinned against God.

The Holy Bible, Master Mason Edition, 1 Corinthians 5:11:

“But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortionist; with such an one no not to eat.”

During the initiation of new Jesters I was offered the opportunity by another fellow brother to sleep with a whore, even though I had a wife and kids waiting for me to come home. I was not strong at the time and I violated every oath I had ever taken with my wife. This did not stop at initiation. These were a constant occurrence at our Jester functions and they are a common occurrence today. The initiation practices have not changed as well. Prostitutes were offered/made available at our functions and often brothers would have sex in front of other brothers.

Oral sex competitions between brothers were considered “fun” activities to build a strong brotherhood bond between members of the Royal Order of Jesters. Potentates and Chaplains, Attorneys and Judges, Past Masters and brothers all participating or watching with open eyes, but closed minds. I often felt ashamed of what I was doing, but the pleasure outweighed the guilt. I had fallen within a deep hole and my cable-tow had been severed.

Sex, illegal gambling and alcohol were and are the preferred order of business to ease the “pain” of brother Masons. Prostitutes are available at Jester functions for the brothers to have their way with.

There is also illegal gambling at our functions where Masonic brethren are playing high-stakes games with hard-earned cash. I have seen it all, brothers, and it is going on today, right under your noses, within your communities, and these men are calling themselves your Masonic brothers.

I am currently active in the Shriners and the Jesters. I am ashamed of what I have become and what the Shriners have become. I have seen threat after threat made against Masonic brothers who have not agreed or have spoken against the activities of our club. These activities are in every Royal Order of Jesters club in the USA, and beyond our borders. You would be surprised if you knew who was Jester from your local

Blue Lodges—outstanding, moral men—at least by their outwardly appearance. Our Most Worshipful Grand Chaplain of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas is a member of the Royal Order of Jesters, along with the Deputy Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas!!! I'm calling you out brothers. It is time for us to raise the bar of Masonry in Texas, even at the expense of our fraternity. Our Most Worshipful Grand Master Elmer Murphy of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas always talks about the character of a Master Mason and now he has the opportunity to present his true Masonic character when dealing with this issue given how close he is in relation to current active members in the Royal Order of Jesters.

The Jesters pride themselves in having control of all leadership positions at all of the Shrine Temples in the U.S. and Canada as well as the Imperial Shrine leadership. Also, they have risen through the ranks in every body of Masonry including the Scottish Rite, York Rite, Rosicrucian's, Red Cross of Constantine, Eastern Star and the DeMolay organizations. There have been numerous past masters of the Grand Lodge of Texas who have been Jesters, including our most recent Grand Master Boyd Patterson, Reese Harrison Jr., and Michael Nanny. Find out who these other Masons are brothers within your local lodges and hold them accountable for their actions. I have invoked the cry of a Masonic brother in need of help!

I lost my first wife due to her finding out what went on at one of my outings. Don't let this happen to your Masonic brothers or your friends. I am not sure if anyone in the Blue Lodge really knows this is going on, but to those of you receiving this email, you are now armed with the knowledge and it is the truth. I challenge you to prove me wrong.

I ask the Most Worshipful Grand Master Elmer Murphey of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas to conduct a full Masonic investigation into these allegations. I ask you, my brothers, to do the same within your local Blue Lodges. I am guilty. Hold me accountable, hold your Masonic brothers accountable, and hold our Most Worshipful Grand Master accountable!!!

I charge myself and every member of the Royal Order of Jesters in the State of Texas under the Laws of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Article XIII, Section VI, Paragraph 5, "Behavior at Home and In Your Neighborhood":

"You are to act as becomes a moral and wise man; ...and by avoiding gluttonness or drunkenness, that your families be not neglected or injured, nor you disabled from working."

I also invoke the request to the Most Worshipful Grand Master under Title V, Discipline, Chapter 1, Article 498 (531) "Accused's Lodges to Be Notified—notification to lodges of members who are members of the Royal Order of Jesters."

Article 499 (532) "Neglect by Lodge of Duty to Discipline-District Deputy Grand Masters should obtain list of Jesters in their jurisdictions."

Article 499a "Powers of the Grand Master- Set this investigation in motion and work to re-establish our Masonic beliefs of 'Making Good Men Better'."

Charges I believe should be filed against every member of the Royal Order of Jesters:

Article 506 "Certain Other Offenses":

2. "Actions which disgrace Masonry."

5. "To indulge in the intemperate use of intoxicating liquor, gambling or profane swearing."

8. "To willfully abandon his family."

13. "To cohabit with lewd women."

I encourage blue lodges in other states to conduct investigations of their own into these allegations as well.

I ask the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas to suspend all Master Masons in the State of Texas who are members of the Royal Order of Jesters, which would cease their activities within the various Shrines across the state until a full investigation may be conducted.

This email is going out to every lodge in Texas that has a website, the Grand Lodge officers of every state, the York and Scottish Rites.

Please ask questions, talk about this in your Blue Lodge, and contact the Most Worshipful Grand Master Elmer Murphey and demand this be investigated by the Grand Lodge of Texas. This information will eventually go before the public eyes if it is not handled within our Masonic fraternity. Let every Master Mason who is in a position of leadership or anyone thinking of ascending to a position of authority be on notice that their activities in the Royal Order of Jesters and their adherence to the Masonic oaths and morality will be brought into the light.

Again I am pleading for an immediate statewide investigation and a purging of the Grand Lodge line, Scottish Rite, York Rite and the Shrine. I have collected 18 local chapter rosters as well as the national Kochina group roster. I urge every Mason to forward this e-mail to as many brother Masons and Shriners as possible. I also challenge my fellow Jesters to come out in the light and explain their actions as well as their failure to comply with their oaths to their brother Masons and families.

I know this is hard for many of you to believe. Doubt me. Prove me wrong! This is my plea! Brothers, over the years I have traveled to numerous states and the same activities occur in NY, Florida, California, Wyoming, Texas, etc.

These are your Masonic brothers, just as I am, but we are not doing what is right nor are we following Masonic principles. Help me expose this atrocity within our fraternity brothers. I am helpless without your help and support.

Fraternally,

Your Brother

Sam Houston

Texas Mason

Chapter 13: Jester Prostitution Updates, Stebick Sentenced

Published Sun Dec 7, 2008 7:11 PM EST

Update: The Buffalo News is reporting that “a former State Supreme Court official who used his motor home to transport a [foreign, undocumented] prostitute from Hamburg to Kentucky was sentenced to four months of home confinement today by a federal judge. Michael R. Stebick, 61, of Orchard Park, was put on probation for two years, ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and directed to provide 250 hours of community service by U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny. Stebick was sentenced in connection with a federal investigation into human trafficking activities by a nationwide men’s organization known as the Royal Order of Jesters.

Under a felony plea deal he took in August, Stebick also agreed to forfeit to the federal government his 2000 Challenger motor home, which he used to transport the prostitute and some club members to a Jesters conference in Ashland, Ky., in October 2005.

At the time of the crime, federal prosecutors said, Stebick was the law clerk to State Supreme Court Judge Ronald H. Tills, who took a plea deal in the same case and is awaiting sentencing.

According to Skretny, the victim in the case was put up in a hotel by the Jesters, with a sign stating ‘\$70-an-hour’ posted outside her room.

‘In my judgment, what you did was irresponsible [and] it was illegal,’ Skretny said.

The judge said he is aware that Stebick is known in the legal community as a caring, compassionate man, but said his illegal actions showed no concern for the ‘pain and dehumanizing shame of the victims of human trafficking.’“

Thanks to reporter Dan Herbeck for his ongoing coverage.

Sandy Frost

December 9, 2008

Starbucks, WA

This investigation has grown from dryly describing numbers on nonprofit tax returns to exposing the Shriners' dirty-little-secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, and their prostitution scandals.

It's been kind of shocking to discover that this American icon has been "misleading the public for years" (1), and then come to find out that some of these Shriner/Jesters have committed sex crimes under the guise of being a nonprofit group.

You know—prostitution at taxpayer expense.

Tax returns show that Jesters spent over \$570,000 on one weekend bash.

That's about \$12,000 an hour.

For those of you asking where you can sign up, read the following before doing so.

Here are some federal court updates:

- The second rescheduling of one Jester's sentencing date.
- The sentencing of Len Wah Chong, the owner of the massage parlors who pleaded guilty to "Sex Trafficking of Persons by Force, Fraud and Coercion."
- The settlement of the defamation lawsuit between fishing tour operators that included a witness list that named 19 Jesters.

Last May, three members of the Royal Order of Jesters were caught in a federal human trafficking/prostitution sting.

FBI agents used court ordered wire intercepts to listen the owner of the four "massage parlors," Len Wah Chong, as she ran her prostitution businesses over the phone. Agents heard her talking shop with a former New York State Supreme Court Judge and former director of the Buffalo chapter of the Royal Order of Jesters Court #22, Ronald Tills. He not only frequented the "massage parlors," but also supported Len Wah Chong by taking some of her undocumented, foreign prostitutes to weekend Jester parties in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. In his plea agreement, Tills also admitted to coordinating prostitutes with top Jester leaders for a national meeting in Canada.

According to the FBI, Chong told one of her workers that “Lin went to New York City and told everyone that if you get arrested in Buffalo, NY, you can get legal immigration status.” Chong told the Unidentified Asian Female, or UAF, the ‘Judge’ was also upset with Lin due to her conversations in New York City about obtaining legal immigration status after being arrested in Buffalo, NY. Chong stated that “the ‘Judge’ advised her to have people from a church provide the girls with a letter in order to help them with their immigration status.”

The U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons has a very good web page and on it, you can read their “2008 Trafficking in Persons Report.”

In it, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice writes:

Dear Reader:

This year, millions of men, women, and children around the globe will have their lives ruined by human traffickers.

This form of modern-day slavery shocks the conscience of every civilized nation, and the United States is committed to rallying the world to defeat human trafficking... The goal of this Report is to shine a light on recent accomplishments and encourage governments in their resolve to confront those who prey on the weakest and most vulnerable members of society. Together, we are confident that this modern, growing abolitionist movement will continue to rescue, rehabilitate, and restore the lives of those from who so much has been taken.

Sincerely,

Condoleezza Rice

Next, Ambassador-at-Large and Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State, Dr. Mark P. Lagon, writes:

Dear Reader:

This year, America commemorates the bicentennial of its outlawing the transatlantic slave trade. In the decades following, this nation was ripped apart by a bloody civil war which sought to reconcile the words and ideas which birthed the United States and the brutal reality of a society fueled by the blood and sweat of human bondage.

The same lie which underpinned the transatlantic slave trade of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, namely that some people are less than human, is the very lie that fuels modern-day slavery.

Those culpable in this crime—traffickers, recruiters, factory owners, child sex tourists, and corrupt government officials—must be held to account. Those they grossly exploit and control—men, women, children, migrants, and refugees—must be accorded rights as human beings in full. Their dignity must be respected and restored. One of the central aims of U.S. foreign policy—promoting democracy and just governance—depends on meeting these imperatives... We remain committed to acting as a voice for the voiceless—an advocate for the prostituted woman or child, the exploited domestic worker, the trapped agricultural laborer. Their bondage demands our attention and is worthy of our efforts.

You are a welcome partner in the growing, truly global coalition, and heeding the call for abolition!

Sincerely,

Ambassador Mark P. Lagon

The FBI's human trafficking sting caught two other Jesters besides Judge Tills. They are former police captain John Trowbridge and former prosecutor for the Erie County District Attorney's Office, former New York State Supreme Court law clerk and former Impresario of the Jesters Buffalo Court #22, Michael Stebick.

All three entered into plea agreements for violating or conspiring to violate the Mann Act, which was born of the United States White-Slave Traffic Act of 1910. It prohibited white slavery, banned the interstate transport of females for "immoral purposes" and addressed prostitution, immorality, and human trafficking.

The most recent news is that John Trowbridge was initially scheduled for sentencing on July 31, 2008. That was rescheduled to November 4, 2008. Apparently he's so busy assisting with other cases, and possibly Grand Juries, that his sentencing has been again rescheduled for May 6, 2009.

Stebick is scheduled for sentencing on December 9, 2008.

Tills is scheduled for sentencing on January 12, 2009.

The owner of the "massage parlors," Len Wah Chong, was sentenced on November 19 to six years in federal prison for enslaving as many as 11 undocumented, foreign prostitutes. She pleaded guilty early last April to "Sex Trafficking of Persons by Force, Fraud and Coercion." She forfeited two properties, \$70K in cash and jewelry seized, and now must pay \$350,000 in restitution to those she kept as sex slaves.

Finally, the Richard W. Schair and Wet-A-Line Tours, LLC v. Phillip Marsteller and Amazon Tours, Inc. defamation lawsuit was settled out of court on December 9, 2008.

These fishing tour competitors started brawling in federal court last May after Schair sued Marsteller for supposedly saying that Wet-A-Line tours included drugs and prostitution.

Included in the court documents were statements from five “Jane Does” given to the Brazilian Federal Police and depositions from two Brazilian fishing guides.

One of the girls said she had after she’d been lured off her Indian reservation by a man named “Richard” who said he’d pay her to clean his fishing boat. Once on the boat, she found that she was supposed to drink whiskey and have sex with North American tourists.

Another said she was left pregnant at 13 after such a trip.

One fishing guide testified that these Jesters preferred to be called “Masons.” He also reported seeing them have sex with underage girls. He took pictures and provided them to the Brazilian Federal Police.

On a more positive note, Marsteller was honored on Monday, September 15, 2008, at a ceremony held at the Church Center of the UN. He, on behalf of his Peacock Bass fishing business Amazon Tours, Inc., took a public stand against child sex tourism by signing “The Code,” a.k.a. Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism. The event was sponsored by ECPAT, which stands for “End Child Prostitution Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes.”

The signing ceremony honored Marsteller and Amazon Tours for becoming only the sixth American business to take such a public stand against child sex tourism.

On Wednesday, December 3, 2008, Imperial Potentate Douglas Maxwell, Chairman of the SHC Board of Trustees Ralph Semb, and Corporate Director of Public Relations Alicia Aargiz-Lyons were asked “What is your reaction to the latest news articles about those members of the Royal Order of Jesters pleading guilty in Buffalo to violating the Mann Act? Those Jesters allegedly involved with child sex tourism?”

To date, all three have failed to respond.

(1) In 1987, the Washington Monthly published “Faith, hope and chicanery; want to do some good? Ask your favorite charity where it spends its money” and wrote “The Shrine fraternity, which operates the nation’s largest charity, has been misleading the public for years...In 1984, the circuses reaped an estimated profit of \$17.5 million. The charity’s own records show the hospitals received only 1 percent of that, a total of \$182,000.”

Chapter 14: Tills' Sentencing Rescheduled in Jester Prostitution Case

Published Mon Jan 12, 2009 4:17 PM PST

Former New York State Supreme Court Judge Ronald Tills was scheduled to be sentenced today, January 12, at 9:00 AM, for pleading guilty to one felony count of "transporting an individual in interstate commerce with intent that the individual engage in prostitution," for which the maximum possible sentence is a term of imprisonment of 10 years, a fine of \$250,000 and a term of supervised release (probation) of at least 5 years and up to life.

Due to his continuing cooperation with the ongoing FBI investigation into the Royal Order of Jesters for prostitution, Tills' sentencing has been rescheduled to May 7, 2009.

Tills, his law clerk and former Erie County prosecutor, Michael Stebick and retired police captain John Trowbridge were caught in an FBI human trafficking sting aimed at four massage parlors that kept as many as 11 foreign, undocumented Asian women as sex slaves. All three men pleaded guilty to taking prostitutes to Jester functions, including one national meeting held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

Stebick was sentenced on December 9 to four months of home confinement for conspiring to violate the Mann Act. He was also put on probation for two years, ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and provide 250 hours of community service. He also forfeited the 2000 Challenger 335 MHA motor home he used to drive Tills, Trowbridge and the prostitute to Kentucky.

Trowbridge's sentencing has been rescheduled twice and is now set for May 6, 2009.

The owner of the "massage parlors," Len Wah Chong, was sentenced on November 19 to six years in federal prison after pleading guilty last April to "Sex Trafficking of Persons by Force, Fraud and Coercion."

Tills' plea agreement spells out the 2001–2007 Jester events for which he admitted recruiting and/or transporting prostitutes, including the following:

- In September 2001, he and Michael Stebick recruited prostitutes for a Jester meeting in Dunkirk, New York, after the 9/11 terrorist attack adversely impacted air travel.
- In late October 2005, he, Trowbridge and Stebick drove a prostitute from Buffalo, New York, to work a Jester meeting in Ashland, Kentucky.

- In spring 2006, he coordinated with Jester officers to transport prostitutes from the Buffalo airport to a hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, to work a Royal Order of Jesters national meeting.
- In fall 2006, he flew with a prostitute to work a Jester meeting in Florida.
- In fall 2006, he and Trowbridge took a prostitute to work a Jester meeting in Pennsylvania. This was the same woman that both Tills and Trowbridge paid to have sex with at a Buffalo massage parlor.
- In October 2007, he recruited prostitutes from New York, Ohio and Texas to work a Jester meeting in Brantford, Ontario, Canada.

“Cooperation” is spelled out in Tills’ plea agreement:

- Providing complete and truthful information regarding his knowledge of any and all criminal activity, whether undertaken by the defendant or others, in any way involving or related to the unlawful transportation of individuals for prostitution or other sexual activity which is prohibited by law.
- Submitting to interviews by government attorneys and agents.
- Testifying truthfully and completely before grand juries and at such pre-trial and trial proceedings.
- Testifying truthfully and completely in local, state, and federal courts in jurisdictions which have agreed to abide by the plea agreement.
- Providing proactive cooperation to the government regarding individuals involved in criminal activity involving unlawful transportation of individuals for prostitution or other sexual activity which is prohibited by law.

- Providing cooperation to any local, state, or federal authorities designated by the government.

The U.S. Attorney has described the Jesters as an organization with chapters throughout the United States, and that it was customary for most of these chapters to use members to get prostitutes for their weekend meetings.

Questions about these matters repeatedly phoned and emailed to the Masonic Grand Lodge of New York remain unanswered.

Chapter 15: The Shriners and “Management by Mirth”

Published Sat Mar 14, 2009 5:31 PM PDT

You know the Shriners.

Those grandfatherly types with the secret handshake who proudly wear their red fezzes while parading around in those goofy little cars.

Their Saturdays are spent repairing their clubs so they can raise money for their Shriners Hospitals for Children (SHC) by serving up pancake breakfasts and family fish fries.

Some will get up at zero dawn thirty and start applying their clown makeup so they can drive in their colorful costumes to a nearby hospital, where they will dance and sing while twisting up balloon animals to put a smile on the bandaged face of a badly burned baby.

Others drive hundreds of miles transporting patients.

These 375,000 (or so) men meet in 191 North American temples to support their \$8 billion network of 22 hospitals that provides free medical care to burned and crippled children.

They are retired business men, military vets, lawyers, doctors, politicians, bankers, sheriffs, judges and others who want to share the secrets of their success and best business practices to support their hospitals and beloved fraternity. Their fraternal bonds are first established through Freemasonry as one must first be a Master Mason before joining appendant groups like the Scottish Rite, the Knights Templar, the Shriners and their secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters.

The hospitals are staffed with thousands of dedicated professionals, who may have spent the day studying for their latest certification, only to return to a kitchen destroyed by the piranha clan's latest feeding frenzy. These professionals make sure that everything is ready so they can save an incoming child's life while calming the terrified

parents. They also see if the patient qualifies for clinical study, because some of these hospitals conduct world-class research to develop commercial burn treatments.

This is the good stuff.

Then there are those Shriners who've been kicked out, sued into silence and otherwise retaliated against for asking questions like "Why are your tax returns so messed up?" or "Where does all the money go?"

These are not those who've been investigated by the Office of Human Research Protection, the FDA, the EEOC or the first internal committee organized to investigate allegations that two top Shriner leaders behaved unethically. The FBI and Western New York Human Trafficking Task Force and Alliance are currently investigating the Royal Order of Jesters for sex crimes.

These investigations don't quite match the squeaky-clean image carefully crafted by Shriner spin doctors, because after the curtain is pulled back, we find a dark side, hidden even from their own, until now.

A list of findings includes how:

- An internal Shriner committee was organized to investigate allegations that Ralph Semb, Chairman of the SHC Board of Trustees, and Imperial Treasurer Gene Bracewell, behaved unethically and with conflicts of interest.
- Semb fired the hospitals' Director of Development in retaliation for not supporting his efforts to rehire Vantage Direct Marketing after the fundraiser pocketed \$43 million out of \$47 million raised for the hospitals.
- Semb and Bracewell contacted confidential employment reviewers to get the same guy fired for poor job performance.
- Bracewell admitted he got a free trip from Vantage in 2007.
- Semb executed an allegedly fraudulent tax return.
- Headquarters personnel lived in a culture of fear, scared they'd be fired if they didn't bend to the wills of leaders like Semb and Bracewell.
- The Director of Temple Accounting told the Shriners' Treasurers Association to disclose the minimum to the IRS.
- 15 out of 18 temple crimes go unprosecuted to keep their names out of the newspaper. Compared to the \$43 million kept by Vantage, losses ranging from 91% to 84% are apparently acceptable.

- A former CFO is currently visiting Club Fed after embezzling over \$820,000 from the St. Louis SHC.
- The Shriners' East West game lost nearly \$2 million over four years.
- The Cincinnati SHC was named in warning letters from both the Office of Human Research Protection and the FDA for violating clinical study rules and regulations.
- The EEOC investigated the Chicago SHC and found in favor of two Latina employees who are now suing the hospital for civil rights violations.
- The FBI is investigating the Royal Order of Jesters for interstate prostitution.

By the way, both Semb and Bracewell are also Jesters.

So, why are things so screwed up?

Maybe it's because eleven out of twelve of SHC trustees are Jesters.

Fourteen out of twenty one of those listed on the SHC 2006 tax returns are Jesters.

Nine out of fourteen of those listed on the 2006 fraternal tax return are Jesters. (1)

By the end of 2008, four key executives "resigned" because they opposed the Vantage deal as not being in the hospital's best interests and may have personally benefitted some board members. With the hospital's executive vice president, director of corporate development, controller and senior attorney gone, those Jesters in charge were free to run things without much, if any, corporate oversight.

So, why should anyone care if the Shriners are run by members of a secret subgroup with guys who coordinate prostitutes for their weekend parties?

According to one U.S. Attorney, "This organization maintained chapters throughout the United States, including in Western New York, and it was the custom of these chapters to host periodic meetings, usually on weekends, for their members. At most of these meetings, some members of the organization would be tasked to arrange for the presence of women at the meeting, for the specific purpose of utilizing the women to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity with the organization's members in exchange for money."

So, again, why should anyone care?

Because the IRS does.

Nonprofit groups exist for any lawful purpose that provides public benefit in exchange for billions in tax considerations.

The Shriners describe their exempt purpose as “an international network of pediatric hospitals dedicated to providing excellent patient care, research, and education for orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate. Our specialized medical care, backed by the skills and knowledge of the staff in 22 hospitals, delivers expert, family-focused care at no charge.”

The Royal Order of Jesters describes their exempt purpose as “held annual events which were devoted to fraternalism and spreading the gospel of mirth and good cheer.” The Jesters’ National 2007 tax return reports that they spent nearly \$600,000 on one of their weekend parties, page 11, “Other Expenses.”

That’s over \$12,000 an hour.

That’s how much an average family of four spends a year on health insurance.

So, how much do nonprofit tax considerations amount to?

According to Steven T. Miller, Commissioner of the IRS Tax Exempt section, “The annual tax expenditure for these entities (that is, the cost to the government to forego tax) is estimated at \$283 billion per year. In a word, our job at TE/GE is to insure that those who are getting this enormous benefit are the kinds of entities, engaged in the kinds of activities that Congress intended when it granted the exemption.”

Miller explained one abusive situation: “The first category concerns charities that abuse their tax-advantaged status. One example consists of charities that are established in order to benefit their donors. Typically, these involve a donor who receives a charitable contribution deduction while maintaining control over the contributed assets, often using them for personal gain.” (2)

A lawsuit between fishing tour operators included a witness list of 19 Jesters, called by the defense to testify about their firsthand knowledge of sex with minors while on a Brazilian fishing trip. What if these guys donated to their Jester court, deducted these donations on their personal tax returns, and then had the Jesters pay for their fishing trip?

Back to the Jester-controlled joint boards.

The corporate model of “Management by Mirth” could prove fatal for both, because it’s based on undisclosed conflicts of interest. It’s based on deception because the Shriners have hidden this affiliation with the Royal Order of Jesters from the IRS by not listing them as an affiliated group on their tax returns.

Considering both groups’ scandals, could there be a common mindset here, common to these Shriner and Jester ethical lapses? Maybe it is how certain leaders act, as if they

are above the law? Shriner by-laws state that “Shrine law does not include the law of the land.”

These investigations are calibrating the tipping point between the public benefit provided and the public burden of us paying for these expensive, extensive investigations.

Though “Management by Mirth” may have seriously sidetracked the Shriners from their exempt purpose, oversight by law enforcement is no way to run a nonprofit group.

(1) These numbers may be off by one or two, but either way, the Jester majority still exists.

(2) Steven T. Miller, Commissioner TE/GE, SPEECH TO IRS Tax FORUMS, Houston, Texas, July 12, 2005

Chapter 16: Shriner/Jester Court Updates, Brazilian Indictment & My Statement to The Buffalo News

Published Tue May 5, 2009 5:07 PM PDT

Here are updates in two Shriner and Jester court cases. The owner of the fishing tour business who took members of the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ) fishing on the Amazon has closed shop and has been indicted by Brazilian authorities. Also, my reaction to an ROJ spokesman disavowing knowledge of activities for which two Jesters are to be sentenced after both pleaded guilty to violating the Mann Act.

These seemingly random events could point to the possible convergence of independent investigations involving the Shriners’ secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, and prostitution.

The Jester statement of denial was part of “Probe of Jesters’ carousing goes national, Case against 3 men from area wraps up,” published yesterday by The Buffalo News. Reporter Dan Herbeck reminded us that retired police captain John Trowbridge is scheduled to be sentenced tomorrow after he was caught with former New York State Supreme Court Justice Ronald Tills and his law clerk Michael Stebick in an FBI human trafficking sting out of Buffalo, New York. The three admitted that they conspired to and/or get prostitutes to weekend Jester parties in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Florida and Ontario, Canada. Stebick was sentenced late last year.

The Buffalo News also reported that the ROJ court in Big Sandy, Kentucky, was “put on probation because of incidents uncovered in the same federal probe.”

Tills was scheduled to be sentenced on Thursday, May 7, but instead a status hearing will be held to reschedule sentencing.

The other court case involves the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) v. the Shriners Hospitals for Children. The UTMB is requesting an injunction to prevent the Shriners from closing their Galveston burn hospital because they allegedly failed to give the UTMB adequate notice to relocate all the research projects. The April 29 hearing was rescheduled to June 17.

Next, an announcement on the Peacock Bass Fishing website forum reports that Richard Schair will be closing his fishing tour company, Wet-A-Line Tours, which is the same fishing company that took members of the Royal Order of Jesters on fishing trips to the Amazon.

Schair and others were recently indicted by Brazilian authorities who have been investigating “that minor Indian and other girls living near the rivers in the regions of Autazes became victims of sexual exploitation by North American foreign tourists.” Schair had sued a rival fishing tour operator for defamation in May 2007, after it was alleged that he illegally entered Brazilian Indian reservations to recruit girls, some underage, into prostitution for his clients.

A witness list for the defense named 19 Jesters and explained that each “was a customer of the plaintiffs who fished with the plaintiffs in Brazil during approximately late August/September 2007. Based on the Wet-A-Line Tours, L.L.C. website, he is believed to be a member of the Royal Order of Jesters as were all other participants on this trip. He is expected to testify that there were twenty Jesters who paid for their trip and that he was one of the nineteen that ultimately participated. He is expected to testify that two boats were supplied by Plaintiffs, one for the Jesters and one for twenty or so girls who accompanied the Jesters. He is expected to testify that the ‘activities’ of the Jesters that week and the nature and extent of services provided by and/or arranged by Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs representatives. He is also expected to authenticate the many hours of videotape and still photographs taken by Defendants of the Jesters’ ‘activities’ during the ‘fishing’ trip. He is expected to identify by way of photographs and association the members of the Jesters group, the identity by name or by description of the girls aboard, the ages of the girls aboard and the exact nature of the activities viewable in the video tape.”

It is not clear yet if there are any connections between Tills’ sentencing being rescheduled and Schair’s indictment, however the transcript of Tills’ courtroom plea appearance reports that he was providing “proactive cooperation with respect to the unlawful transportation of individuals for prostitution or other sexual activity prohibited by law, and that includes sex trafficking, sexual exploitation of minors or any international travel for that purpose.”

Finally, here is my reaction to a statement by Rob Leonard, a spokesman for the national Jesters organization who said that the illegal activities involving the Buffalo chapter and prostitutes are highly unusual incidents, involving conduct that would never be condoned by Jesters leaders. He also said the national leaders of the organization have made it very clear to members throughout the country that this kind of conduct is unacceptable.

Editor's Note: The following portion has not been changed or edited, in an effort to preserve its initial posting.

Here is my reaction:

I've investigated nonprofit corruption for over six years, three of which have been spent looking into the Shriners and am also the first author to expose their dark side. I've been investigating the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ) for two, so that's five years. After I was named as a secondary party of interest in a defamation lawsuit filed by the Shriners against the two whistleblowers who first alerted me to this, I wondered what it was that the Shriners were so desperate to hide.

I published the first article about the ROJ just over a year ago and the unexpected response was like hand to hand combat.

I say to Rob Leonard and the Royal Order of Jesters 'Prove it' because the paper trail leading through the Michael J. Dillon U. S. Court House in Buffalo indicates otherwise.

So, where is this Jester directive?

Who wrote it?

When was it sent?

What did it say, because a directive sent to the ROJ membership last January indicates they're updating their emailing list so they can continue keeping track of their 'Books around the Realm' and that 'the only reason for this medium to exist is to promote spreading the Gospel of Mirth by encouraging our members to travel.'

It was sent at the direction of Gary N. Martin, a head Jester who is also on the Board of Governors for the Mexico Shriner hospital. (Update: The contact name and phone number on the Jester e-mail have been verified and are that of a California anesthesiology and medical practice consultant.)

This illustrates why those concerned about hospital closures should factor in the possibility of mismanagement as the majority of those on both Shriner boards are also Jesters. This should reinforce the importance of that internal investigation into

allegations of unethical conduct and corruption by two top Shriner leaders who are also Jesters.

Plea agreements include facts agreed upon by both the defendant and the U.S. government. In Judge Tills' case, the transcript of his plea agreement hearing before Judge Skretny reports that he's considering reducing Tills' sentence for pleading guilty to violating the Mann Act from ten years down to possibly a year and a half for providing proactive cooperation in the government's investigation in to sex trafficking and the sexual exploitation of minors and international travel for those purposes.

This tells me that the Feds are also investigating the Jesters for child sex tourism.

Both Tills and the U.S. government further agreed to the fact that he coordinated prostitutes for a national meeting up in Canada with the cooperation of ROJ national officers. Additionally, court documents have basically described the Royal Order of Jesters as a men's organization with nationwide chapters, for which some members get prostitutes for their weekend meetings.

This is contrary to what Rob Leonard said.

I've studied all associated court documents since you first broke this story and let me say that I have compassion for those three Jesters caught in the FBI human trafficking sting because it looks like ROJ national is throwing them under the bus.

Those comments by Jester leaders indicate they're either truth challenged or are ignorant of the facts.

Do I think the Royal Order of Jesters should lose their tax-exempt status?

From all indications, the IRS needs to launch a CSI-type investigation to make that determination. Additionally, the Senate Finance Committee should hold hearings into issues of nonprofit compliance with the Royal Order of Jesters as a test case because, according to sources, they've known about this for over a year now.

The worst thing is that it hurts of all those hardworking Shriners who have dedicated their lives to helping the kids. They should never have been so misled, abused and disrespected.

Chapter 17: Brazilian Judge Rejects Jester Fishing Tour Operator's Request for Habeas Corpus

Published Mon Jun 29, 2009 5:15 PM PDT

Disclaimer: Court documents were legally and lawfully obtained while publicly available on the United States Federal Court PACER system. Linked documents have been

available online since initial publication and remain unchallenged. Content translated from Portuguese to English by Yahoo! Babel Fish.

Sandy Frost

Monday, June 29, 2009

On June 23, 2009, Brazilian Federal Judge, Maria Lucia Gomes de Souza, denied a June 19, 2009 habeas corpus request filed on behalf of former fishing tour operator Richard Wayne Schair of Gainesville, Georgia. If granted, this would have protected Schair from unlawful detention upon entering Brazil after being charged with rape, corruption of minors and operating a house of prostitution.

Brazilian Federal Police, Amazon division inquest #410/2007 led to filing legal proceedings against Schair on August 8, 2007 as they investigated "that since the year 2000, minor Indian and other girls living near the rivers in the region of the Municipality of Autazes/AM became victims of sexual exploitation by North American tourists."

Until recently, Schair operated Wet-A-Line Tours that provided Peacock Bass fishing trips along the Amazon. On May 11, 2007, he filed a defamation lawsuit against competitor Philip Marsteller, owner of Amazon Tours, after he alleged Schair was involved with illegal drugs and prostitution. As evidence seemed to support these allegations, Schair withdrew his complaint and settled out of court on December 9, 2008.

Evidence included depositions from two Brazilian fishing guides who, in February 2008, went to the Brazilian Federal Police and the American Embassy in Brasilia to testify about and provide pictures of Schair's clients having sex with underage Indian girls. Both were encouraged to further testify in the United States in April 2008, provided depositions for the defense.

Editor's Note: The following has been lightly edited for grammar and clarity.

From his Tuesday, April 15, 2008 deposition, current PACER document 83-3, Admilson Garcia Da Silva was asked:

Q: Did you ever witness any of the Wet-A-Line customers engaging in sex acts with these women that were on the Wet-A-Line boats? (pp. 30)

A: Yes.

Q: What did you see?

A: I saw five. Five of them...five and five men, and two of the women were minors.

Q: I'm sorry. You said you saw five men and five women, and two of the women were minors. Is that what you said?

A: That's right.

Q: And what did you see the men and women doing with each other?

A: There was one woman having sex with a man and the other—the other woman only gave them a blow job. (pp. 34)

On Tuesday, April 15, 2008, Adilson Garcia Da Silva was asked in current PACER document 83-2:

Q: Who asked you to purchase drugs for Wet-A-Line's customers? (pp. 56)

A: Mr. Richard would ask, would ask me to buy.

Q: What did he specifically ask you to buy?

A: Every time he would go to Brazil, he would ask me to buy.

Q: What did he specifically ask you to purchase?

A: It was marijuana. As a matter of fact, before I left, he wanted to order marijuana. He wanted more.

Q: What are—did you ever hear anything that occurred on the Wet-A-Line boats that you thought were somewhat unusual with respect to customers having sex with these prostitutes? (pp. 89)

A: Yes.

Q: What were some of the things that you saw from these customers with these prostitutes?

A: Oral sex during the day, especially, and the strip at night; dancing and exaggerated drinking, drugs. (pp. 90)

Q: What is the youngest age that you're aware of girls being prostitutes on Wet-A-Line boats? (pp. 100)

A: They said that there were 18, but some of them were 16, 17.

Q: What is the youngest age that you're aware of a girl being on the boat as a prostitute?

A: My brother would pick up a group of girls in Autazes, and would take by boat to an American. One was 13, one was 14, and there was one who was even 9 years old. (pp. 101)

Q: Was there ever a certain age group that you were asked to retain the services of meeting, a certain age group of females that you were ever asked to retain the services of while working at Wet-A-Line tours for specific—for a specific group of customers? (pp. 23)

A: Yes. They always wanted the young ones.

Q: Was there ever a specific age group that you were asked to hire for a specific group of customers?

A: They would ask from 13 up. (pp. 24)

Q: Was there a specific group of customers, of Wet-A-Line customers, that you were aware of that wanted a certain age group of women?

A: It was more so the group of Masons that would ask for that.

Q: And was that the group of people that are identified in the pictures that you have provided in this case?

A: Yes.

According to the U.S. Department of State, child sex tourism (CST) involves travelling out of country to pay for sex with children. This results in “mental and physical consequences for the exploited children that may include disease (including HIV/AIDS), drug addiction, pregnancy, malnutrition, social ostracism, and possibly death.”

United States citizens or residents who engage in sexual activity abroad with a child under 18 and/or those who organize such trips can face up to 30 years in prison. Repeat offenders can be sentenced to life and there is no statute of limitations.

Specifically, from the Department of Justice, “Those who profit from victimizing children and adults in the sex trade are only one half of the problem. The other half is those who patronize this exploitive industry. Federal statutes hold those who travel to do so, and those who benefit from arranging that travel, accountable. For example, 18 U.S.C. § 2423(b) prohibits traveling across state lines or into the United States for the purpose of engaging in any illicit sexual conduct (which includes any commercial sex act with a person under 18) and carries a 30-year maximum sentence, while 18 U.S.C. § 2423(c) prohibits an American citizen or national engaging in illicit sexual conduct outside the United States and carries a 30-year maximum sentence. 18 U.S.C. § 2423(c) does not require that the citizen have traveled outside the country with the purpose of engaging

in illicit sexual conduct in a foreign country. 18 U.S.C. § 2423(d) prohibits arranging or facilitating, for financial gain, another person's travel to engage in illicit sexual conduct and carries a 30-year maximum sentence."

Chapter 18: Editorial: Schair v. Newsvine Illustrates Importance of Reporter Shield and Child Protection Bills Before Congress

Published Tue Jul 14, 2009 5:12 PM PDT

Leaders from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) spent yesterday and today on Capitol Hill advising our nation's law makers why they should support a federal version of the reporter shield law.

From an SPJ press release, "There are currently two federal shield law bills pending in the Senate, S. 448 and HR 985, both known as the Free Flow of Information Act. HR 985 passed the House earlier this year, and both have been placed on the Senate Judiciary Committee calendar for markup once Judge Sonia Sotomayor's confirmation hearings are complete... A federal shield law would protect reporters and the sources that come forward with sensitive information. Without the guarantees a federal shield law would provide, people may be less likely to share information vital to a well-informed citizenry."

S. 448 provides "a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media."

Another important bill making its way through congressional committees is HR 2737: The Child Protection Compact Act of 2009.

This "provides United States assistance for the purpose of eradicating trafficking in children in eligible countries, through the implementation of Child Protection Compacts, and for other purposes. The Child Protection Compact Act of 2009 authorizes the Secretary of State, through the Ambassador, to provide assistance (grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts) for an eligible country with a significant prevalence of trafficking in children that enters into a Child Protection Compact with the United States to support policies and programs to eradicate the trafficking of children."

Congressional findings call for the immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labor including "the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography, or for pornographic performances."

The findings continue: "The sexual exploitation of minors is a global phenomenon. The International Labour Organization estimates that 1,800,000 children worldwide are exploited each year through prostitution and pornography."

Passage of these two bills would protect sources that provide information to journalists investigating crimes like child sex tourism.

Case in point...

On June 26, 2009, former fishing tour operator Richard Schair sued Newsvine.com in an attempt to intimidate other media from reporting that he was recently denied habeas corpus by a Brazilian judge. Now he'll probably be arrested upon entering Brazil after the federal police charged him on August 8, 2007 with rape, corruption of minors and operating a prostitution network.

For those of you who have followed along the past year, you already know that the FBI is investigating the Shriners' secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, for prostitution, sex trafficking and child sex tourism.

For those of you not familiar, here's the short version.

In March 2003, I began investigating the nonprofit claims of a group made up of retired spies. After three years of what seemed like hand-to-hand combat, they finally posted their compliance documents online.

A month later, in April 2006, a Shriner whistleblower asked me to investigate his group for misusing charitable donations, and tax fraud.

On February 19, 2009, two years into exposing Shriner corruption, I wrote and published the first article about the Royal Order of Jesters. Three weeks after that, I reported that 19 Jesters were named on a witness list for the defense in a defamation lawsuit between two Peacock Bass Fishing Tour operators. These Jesters, Schair's clients, were expected to testify about their firsthand knowledge of prostitution, minor prostitution and illegal drugs while fishing in Brazil.

The plaintiff, Richard Schair of Wet-A-Line Tours, sued Philip Marsteller of Amazon Tours on May 11, 2007 for defamation and libel per se after alleging that Schair provided drugs and prostitutes for his clients as they fished the Amazon.

Three days later, Dan Herbeck of The Buffalo News broke the news that a New York State Supreme Court Judge resigned because he and two other Jesters were caught in an FBI human trafficking sting for taking foreign, undocumented prostitutes across state lines to weekend stag parties in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Florida and Canada.

Court documents in these cases point to investigations by both U.S. and Brazilian authorities into child sex tourism involving members of the Royal Order of Jesters as well as those who allegedly facilitated it.

Back to Richard Schair.

He settled with Marsteller out of court on December 9, 2008, after mounting evidence seemed to render his case unwinnable.

But that didn't stop him because Schair used my articles to again sue for defamation and libel per se, this time targeting my provider, Newsvine.com.

This second lawsuit continues to draw unnecessary attention to, and media scrutiny of, Schair's denials. He claims he's been damaged by articles that describe evidence produced in his first defamation lawsuit and provide links to federal court records that show, on August 8, 2007, the Brazilian Federal Police charged Richard Wayne Schair with rape, corruption of minors, and operating a prostitution network.

His complaint whines, "Rather than generate an unbiased article Frost instead unscrupulously quotes from alleged witness affidavits and witness lists."

My online bio clearly states that I am biased against corruption and those who exploit children, sexually, as lab rats or otherwise.

Schair's attorney, Aaron C. Clark, continues: "The material quoted was created in respect to a pending lawsuit and Frost was fully aware that such information was in no way objective or accurate."

Schair and his attorney imply that Marsteller somehow fabricated depositions provided by five "Jane Does" to the Brazilian Federal Police as well as depositions provided by two fishing tour operators. The girls' depositions share the same case number cited in Schair's charges, first made available to the public on June 23, 2009.

These charges became public after Schair's application for habeas corpus was denied by the judge overseeing his case. This means that Schair can now be arrested upon entering Brazil for the previously described charges.

The complaining continues: "Frost sifts through the deposition material consciously cherry picking material that fits her version of reality."

Here's my version of reality.

I'm an award-winning investigative journalist and author who gives voice to the voiceless, and by doing so, has single-handedly exposed the biggest nonprofit fraud of our time.

As a Native American mother and grandmother, my instinct is to try and help these Brazilian Indian girls from being further victimized by those sworn to uphold the highest standards of brotherly love and virtues common to honest, hardworking family men.

I've written before that, as far as the Jesters go, who gives a rip if anyone wants to mess around, get snot-slinging drunk or gamble your ass off. But to do so as a nonprofit group now under investigation for child sex tourism is not acceptable by anyone's standards.

And, yeah, I hit the wall after reading that one girl was left pregnant after one such trip at age 13.

Depositions from two fishing guides were taken by the defense after they had similarly testified to the Brazilian Federal Police and officials at the American Embassy in Brasilia about witnessing some of these 19 Jesters (who asked to be called "Masons"), having sex with minor prostitutes, since they claimed that these guys asked for girls over 13.

Back to the Buffalo FBI investigation of the Royal Order of Jesters.

In contrast to Schair, one man is cooperating with federal investigators as he, through the Western New York Human Trafficking Task Force, is providing cooperation into the investigation of the Royal Order of Jesters for sex trafficking and child sex tourism.

He is former New York State Supreme Court Judge, Ronald Tills. The other two Jesters who were also caught with him have, like Tills, sucked it up and pleaded guilty to violating or conspiring to violate the Mann Act, and have already been sentenced.

Court documents in Tills' case paint the picture of a once-powerful mover and shaker who joined a group that relied on its members to protect each other, and after he was caught running prostitutes across state lines, he was directed to get treatment for alcohol abuse. He probably did these types of things while drunk with power and whatever else.

God knows this is certainly no excuse, but I'll be sober 27 years this upcoming August (2009), so I understand that we do things we're not proud of while intoxicated.

So, I have compassion for the guy.

One of the most shocking things I've learned about Shriner leaders is the ruthless retaliation with which they come after those who question them or try to expose their corruption.

This is probably the reason that Ralph Semb was ousted as CEO and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Shriners Hospitals for Children at the last Shriner convention, held over the Fourth of July in San Antonio, Texas.

It looks like Tills was thrown under the bus and left to twist in the wind by his "brothers."

I'm surprised he's still alive.

Kinda like testifying against the mob.

Parts of the Masonic vows pledge to protect their brothers to the point of perjury, except in cases of murder and treason.

Many thought that retired police captain John Trowbridge got off light after being put on probation and put on the New York State sex offender list.

Prison time for him would have been a death sentence.

Same for Tills.

Tills' pleading guilty has provided public records in the federal court's document system PACER that paint a picture of a nonprofit organization gone way wrong.

Don't get me wrong here.

Tills admitted to doing bad stuff, but from where I sit, he's risking his life to expose a group of men who are hiding behind burned and crippled children just so they can party with prostitutes at taxpayer expense.

Tills' case also provides unprecedented access to the secret inner workings of the Royal Order of Jesters, including how he coordinated prostitutes with national officers for a national meeting in Canada. He's probably provided enough evidence for the IRS to, at the very least, jerk their nonprofit status.

The Senate Finance Committee, by the way, needs to open hearings into nonprofit corruption with a focus on the Shriners and the Jesters, as they've known about this stuff for over a year.

The big picture here is that Richard Schair is attempting to intimidate other media from covering the breaking news out of Brazil that his request for habeas corpus was denied. Now he could and probably would be arrested by the federal police upon entering Brazil for the charges of rape, corruption of minors and operating a prostitution network.

Since suing in federal court didn't work out so well, Schair filed against Newsvine where he lives, in Hall County, Georgia, hoping for blind justice.

This is why both the Free Flow of Information Act and the Child Protection Compact of 2009 must become law else the press be intimidated from working with whistleblowers who want to rid the world of these ugly crimes against children.

[Chapter 19: Richard W. Schair v. Newsvine Dismissed as Brazilian Judge Accepts Rape and Underage Prostitution Case Against Him](#)

Published Wed Aug 5, 2009 11:04 PM PDT

Richard Schair's motion to dismiss was granted last Friday after defendant Newsvine moved his libel and defamation complaint against the MSNBC online subsidiary to federal court.

And last Monday, August 3, the Brazilian federal judge overseeing that country's own case against him accepted it from the federal prosecutor's office. This is a step closer to Schair being prosecuted after the Brazilian Federal Police charged him with rape, operating a house of prostitution, and the corruption of minors.

On June 26, 2009, Schair sued Newsvine in Hall County, Georgia, for libel and defamation, complaining that my investigation of a similar lawsuit he filed against a competitor had somehow damaged him. Coverage of that lawsuit began in March 2008, after reporting that Schair sued a competitor for alleging Schair provided drugs and prostitutes.

The defense took depositions from two of Schair's former fishing guides who substantiated Marsteller's allegations. They also described photos of Jesters having sex with underage prostitutes.

Prior to this, the same two witnesses had been encouraged by both the Brazilian Federal Police and officials at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia to report these crimes as well as testify about them in the United States.

In December 2008, Schair paid Marsteller \$15,000 to settle out of court.

Precisely two years after the date of being charged, online entries in the Brazilian federal court system indicate that both the prosecutor's office and the judge overseeing this case have been working closely to prosecute Schair for these crimes. The system has also been tracking entries related to Schair's recent request for habeas corpus, including a link to unsealed records of his 2007 charges, making them available to the public for the very first time. The latest entries note the judge's final decision to deny Schair's application because it has no merit, clearing the way for his immediate arrest upon entering Brazil.

It has yet to be determined if Schair's clients, including the Jesters, are being investigated by Brazilian authorities.

A July 29, 2009 pre-sentencing memorandum states that when former Judge Ronald Tills joined the Jesters, "the group's practice of inviting women, called 'Jester girls,' to the meetings for sexual activities was already a long-standing tradition. Every few years, a letter was sent out advising members that women should not be brought to Jester functions, but everyone knew that the letters were window dressing and not to be taken seriously. Indeed, women always were at Jester functions. The behavior was not

isolated to the Buffalo group of Jesters. In fact, it was reported to have occurred at Jester meetings across the country. The motto taught to newcomers 'What you hear here, what you see here, stays here when you leave here' evidences the sort of activity expected at Jester meetings."

According to the memorandum, the judge recognized that what he saw at the time as friendship and camaraderie in a national organization really was morally bankrupt and often criminal. The judge arranged for women to travel to the various Jester meetings not to make money for himself or even for the organization, but only because it was part of his "job description" as the Director of the Buffalo Chapter of the Jesters.

To further clarify things, the following timeline tracks Richard Schair's perfect storm.

May 11, 2007 - Schair sues Philip Marsteller for defamation and libel after alleging his involvement with drugs and prostitution.

July 11, 2007 - Five Indian girls provide depositions to the Brazilian Federal Police alleging that "Richard" illegally lured them off their reservation to work as underage prostitutes for his North American fishing clients.

August 8, 2007 - Brazilian Federal Police, Amazon Division inquest #410/2007 leads to filing legal proceedings against Richard Wayne Schair, charging him with rape, corruption of minors and operating a prostitution network.

February 15, 2008 - "Jesters Exposed" published. This is the first article ever written about the Shriners clandestine subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters

March 6, 2008 - "Jesters To Testify about Illegal Drugs, Child Prostitution?" published three weeks later. This reports that 19 Jesters named on a witness list for the defense were expected to testify about "their firsthand knowledge of prostitution, minor prostitution, use of illegal drugs and/or entry into Indian reservations by Schair (plaintiff) and/or his customers" in the case Schair v. Marsteller.

May 25, 2008 - "Brazilian Fishing Trip Depositions: 'Masons' Pictured Having Sex with Teen Prostitutes?" published. This describes depositions that include how the Jesters asked to be called "Masons" and asked for girls over 13.

June 2, 2008 - "Child Sex Tourism: Brazilian Teens Testify About Being Lured into Minor Prostitution for American Tourists" published. This describes what five "Jane Does" told the Brazilian Federal Police, including one who testified that she was left pregnant at age 13.

December 9, 2008 - Schair pays Marsteller to settle out of court as mounting evidence supports his allegations that Schair is involved with drugs and prostitution.

June 19, 2009 - Schair submits an application for habeas corpus to prevent being arrested upon entering Brazil.

June 23, 2009 - Brazilian Federal Judge Maria Lucia Gomes de Souza denies Schair's application.

June 26, 2009 - Schair files libel/defamation complaint against Newsvine in Hall County Superior Court, Georgia.

June 29, 2009 - "Brazilian Judge Rejects Jester Fishing Tour Operator's Request for Habeas Corpus" published.

July 14, 2009 - "Editorial: Schair v. Newsvine Illustrates Importance of Reporter Shield and Child Protection Bills Before Congress" published. I wrote "The big picture here is that Richard Schair is attempting to intimidate other media from covering the breaking news out of Brazil that his request for habeas corpus was denied. Now he could and probably would be arrested by the federal police upon entering Brazil for the charges of rape, corruption of minors and operating a prostitution network."

July 24, 2009 - Newsvine files to transfer Schair's lawsuit to federal court in Gainesville, Georgia.

July 27, 2009 - Brazilian judge issues final denial of Schair's application for habeas corpus because it lacks merit.

July 28, 2009 - Schair's attorney Aaron Clark files motion in U.S. federal court to dismiss complaint against Newsvine.

July 29, 2009 - Schair v. Newsvine complaint dismissed in federal court.

August 3, 2009 - Brazilian judge approves the case against Richard Wayne Schair as submitted by prosecutors on behalf of the Brazilian Federal Police, paving the way for arrest warrants and possible extradition.

It now appears that Brazilian authorities are serious about prosecuting those charged with child sex crimes but is the United States?

Here are the questions now:

- "Will U.S. authorities work as hard as their Brazilian counterparts to successfully put together and prosecute cases against Richard Schair and the Royal Order of Jesters for prostitution, sex trafficking and child sex tourism without being influenced or pressured to do otherwise?"

- “Will a civil suit be brought against Richard Schair and/or the Royal Order of Jesters to find justice for and compensate those living lives forever lost?”
- “Will the IRS suspend the Royal Order of Jesters’ nonprofit status and call upon other agencies to investigate them for authorizing such trips as well as for being a front for a national prostitution network?”

Chapter 20: Newsitorial: Schair’s Failed Application for Habeas Corpus Confirms Indictment, Implicates Jesters

Published Wed Sep 9, 2009 9:04 AM PDT

Disclaimer and Adult Content Warning: This is called a “newsitorial” because investigative journalism doesn’t need to be dry, dull and boring! Reporting the news with voice makes it easier to understand and follow along as I’ve been tracing out this tangled web of Shriner corruption since April 2006. Plus, I don’t want Newsvine to get sued for defamation/libel.

Again.

Last time, the plaintiff tucked tail and ran after his complaint was moved to federal court. And I can’t tell you how many days I’ve spent translating legal documents from Portuguese to English using Yahoo! Babel Fish.

Thank you,

Sandy Frost

Starbucks, WA

9/9/09

A failed application for habeas corpus has made public a court file that details the evidence for which former fishing tour operator Richard W. Schair was indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police as they investigated the sexual exploitation of minor Indian girls living along the Amazon. The file includes a client manifest that names three members of the Shriners’ secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ).

Schair’s application was an attempt to avoid prosecution as he asked a Brazilian judge to throw out the case against him.

His application included customer lists that named clients who’d submitted affidavits claiming they never witnessed any girls or prostitution while on his Wet-A-Line fishing trips.

One of these lists includes three members of the Royal Order of Jesters, guests of Schair's from August 31–September 9, 2005. They are Donald W. Anderson, R.W. Keers and R.R. Kirby, all members of the ROJ Albuquerque Court #24.

They provided no such affidavits.

These statements were solicited in an attempt to discredit depositions provided by five Indian girls who told the Brazilian Federal Police that a North American named "Richard" illegally lured them off their reservations into prostitution with tourists aboard his fishing boats. One girl testified that she'd been left pregnant at age 13 after such a trip.

The Jesters involvement with Schair was first reported here. Schair had sued a competitor, Philip Marsteller, for alleging he was involved in prostitution. A witness list for the defense named 19 Jesters who were expected to testify about their fishing trips to Brazil and "their firsthand knowledge of prostitution, minor prostitution, use of illegal drugs and/or entry into Indian reservations by Schair (plaintiff) and/or his customers."

Schair's application for habeas corpus, in part, blamed Marsteller for his legal troubles but the judge didn't buy it. Her first decision to deny alludes to Schair's pleas that he not endure further financial and psychological hardship, including the scrutiny of his parents. She continues that, though Schair claimed his application was urgent, she failed to see why because the police report she had asked for spelled out why he'd been indicted. She decided Schair's application lacked urgency, and the evidence proved it lacked merit so she denied it.

The police report explains that they'd been investigating how Schair allegedly used underage prostitutes to attract tourists to his fishing business in Brazil.

The report continues that, the materially criminal information included police files, declarations, audiovisual materials and registered documents that support penalties and sanctions against Schair for the following:

- Having sexual relations with a minor under 14.
- Enticing minors under age 18.
- Attracting the girls to facilitate prostitution.
- Keeping boats as destinations for prostitution.
- Promoting the recruitment, transport of and lodging of girls on the boats to practice prostitution, among other things.

The judge's five-page final denial cites these violations in addition to those of Brazil's Statute of the Indian, using words like sexual violence and Indians.

Indigenous rights were first legislated in 1811; nine years after Brazil became independent of Portugal. According to "Indigenous Rights in Democratic Brazil" by Maria Guadalupe Moog Rodrigues published in Human Rights Quarterly 24, the Portuguese Crown had authorized a "total war" against indigenous peoples to wipe them out and claim their resource rich lands. The new Brazilian law was a step toward protecting Indian's rights but really considered them too stupid to make their own decisions, thus legislating that the Indian's material and personal rights be protected under the "Justice of Orphans" and be administered by the government.

In 1919, the Brazilian Civil Code included "Indians" and considered them "relatively incapable" of exercising their rights as they were lumped together with minors and the mentally ill. The 1973 Indigenous Peoples' Statute exerted more control over their property, income and land, to include mineral rights. This changed in 1988, with a new Brazilian constitution as they abandoned military regime in favor of democracy.

Today, indigenous rights groups continue to fight for citizenship rights that protect all of Brazil's first peoples.

So, in the end, what does this all mean?

Richard W. Schair is in a lot of trouble, especially if the extradition treaty between Brazil and the United States is enforced. His attempt to clear his name in Brazil blew up in his face. His attempt to proclaim his innocence made public evidence that, indeed, he'd been indicted and, if the police report and judge's denials stand up in court, he'd probably be found guilty as charged for luring underage Indian girls into prostitution for his customers in addition to having sex with one under the age of 14.

As this was unfolding in Brazil, Schair attempted to clear his name in the United States by suing Newsvine for defamation and libel. His complaint focused on my articles, especially the one that reported he'd been indicted in Brazil.

This was his second such lawsuit after Schair sued a competitor for alleging that he was involved with prostitution. Mounting evidence substantiated the defendant's claims, so Schair settled out of court by paying him \$15K.

Likewise, Schair withdrew his lawsuit against Newsvine after his complaint was moved to federal court.

None of this bodes well for the Royal Order of Jesters, especially since the last of three who pleaded guilty to violating the Mann Act were sentenced to 18 months in federal prison. The three, a former New York State Supreme Court Judge, his law clerk and a

retired police captain, were caught in an FBI human trafficking sting out of Buffalo, NY, for taking undocumented foreigners to weekend parties in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Florida so their Jester brothers could have sex with them. The judge's plea agreement states that he worked with national court officers to coordinate prostitutes for a national meeting in Ontario, Canada.

The Jesters constitution and bylaws state that members must first obtain a letter of approval from the national court before taking trips overseas. So, logically, somewhere a document exists, sanctioning these fishing trips to Brazil.

Then there are other issues, such as the violation of Indian rights and nonprofit abuse, since the Jesters, the Shriners and their Masonic parent groups, are all classified by the IRS as tax exempt or nonprofit.

Above all else, these guys are Master Masons, sworn to defend and protect each other in the name of charity, love and brotherhood, except in the cases of murder and treason. One of the depositions from Schair's first lawsuit was from a fishing guide who stated that the Jesters asked to be called Masons and asked for girls over 13.

Things could get a little messy once federal investigators identify Jesters who are supposed to enforce the law instead of using their positions of influence to protect those who break it.

I suspect that, in this case, the cover-up will be worse than the crime since these guys think they are above the law.

In fact, Shriner bylaws state that their law does not include the law of the land.

At this point, it's just a waiting game to see if there is a convergence between the investigation, prosecution and conviction of those Jesters busted in Buffalo for the prostitution of undocumented foreigners and those Jesters associated with Schair, especially since the denial of his habeas corpus application makes possible his extradition to Brazil for the prosecution of prostituting underage Indian girls to attract more business.

Chapter 21: Tax Returns Reveal Jesters Controlled by "Secret Order of Brothers in Blood," Jester Officer Links National Court to Fishing Tour Operator Indicted in Brazil Child Sex Case

Sat Sep 19, 2009 7:39 PM PDT

I was puttering around the other night and got the urge to find the Jesters' most recent tax returns.

I found them on GuideStar.org. Armed with a yellow highlighter, sticky notes and legal pad, I began scanning the categories, dollars and answers reported.

My brain started screaming “WTF?” until I got up and started pacing around as I couldn’t believe what I was reading.

You’d fall asleep.

I was nearly running in place.

Over three years ago, I was contacted by a Shriner who’d been working with a former IRS agent. He asked me to investigate his own because expert analysis of Shriner tax returns revealed “discrepancies.”

This all started with allegations of the misuse of charitable donations, retaliation and tax fraud.

We’re WAY beyond that now.

So, the Shriners sued these guys, my sources, for defamation after one claimed the charity was being investigated by the state of Pennsylvania. The Shriners, among other things, named me as a secondary party of interest and used “production of documents” in an attempt to get their paws on otherwise protected communications between me and the whistleblowers to see if they were telling me what to write and/or if they were writing articles for me.

What an insult.

Then, I began wondering “What are the Shriners so desperate to hide?”

The lawsuit was settled out of court. Today, you’re reading about the Shriners’ secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, and prostitution.

I’ve been at this since April 2006, digging into all sorts of documents as well as countless tax returns and have reached a bizarre conclusion that ends, for the first time, at a dead end.

Well, except for an unfounded rumor.

Based on officers named on tax returns as well as in a secret directory, this is my bizarre conclusion.

The Shriners are controlled by their secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters. Jester tax returns reveal that the Royal Order of Jesters is controlled by their secret subgroup, the Secret Order of Brothers in Blood, or S.O.B.I.B.

I have no idea what this means except for the possibility that the Shriners are controlled by a bunch of guys who belong to a nationwide group described by a U.S. Attorney as having members who get prostitutes for their weekend meetings.

Or if the unfounded rumors are true, the Jesters are controlled by a bunch of guys who have a thing for menstrual blood. Or girls. Or maybe both. But really, I have no idea as this is just a wild rumor.

Interestingly, the Jesters report on their latest tax return that they spent over \$13,000 on "Rituals."

What we do know is that three Jesters were convicted after getting caught in an FBI human trafficking sting for taking foreign, undocumented prostitutes to their weekend parties.

One of those caught, a former judge, will soon be heading to federal prison for 18 months. He pleaded guilty to violating the Mann Act and got a reduced sentence for cooperating with an investigation into the Jesters for the sexual exploitation of minors and travel out of the country for those purposes.

He's S.O.B.I.B. too.

We also know that the former fishing tour operator who took 19 Jesters fishing on the Amazon was indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police last April for allegedly providing underage prostitutes for his North American fishing clients.

Per "Newsitorial: Schair's Failed Application for Habeas Corpus Confirms Indictment, Implicates Jesters":

"A failed application for habeas corpus has made public a court file that details the evidence for which former fishing tour operator Richard W. Schair was indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police as they investigated the sexual exploitation of minor Indian girls living along the Amazon. The file includes a client manifest that names three members of the Shriners secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ)."

Schair had sued a competitor for defamation for alleging his involvement with prostitution. A witness list for the defense names 19 Jesters who were expected to testify about their firsthand knowledge of fishing trips to Brazil and sex with underage prostitutes. Eyewitness depositions in the case testify that the Jesters asked to be called "Masons" and asked for girls over 13.

One must first be a Master Mason to join groups like the Scottish Rite, the Knights Templar and the Shriners.

One must be an invited Shriner to join the Royal Order of Jesters.

And at this point, I have no idea about how a Jester joins the S.O.B.I.B. or what they do at their meetings other than meet as “Brothers in Blood.”

As evidence mounted against him, Schair paid the defendant \$15K to settle out of court.

One guy on the witness list, Samuel “Scutter” Newton of Las Vegas, Nevada, links this case to the Jester National Court, as he’s listed on their 2007 tax return as an officer.

A comparison of the Jesters’ national officers to a secret directory reveals that eight out of nine national officers are also members of the S.O.B.I.B., including Newton, who is named on both.

All the officers listed on the Jesters’ 2006 tax return are also in the S.O.B.I.B., and all but two listed on the 2005 tax return are in the S.O.B.I.B.

- William Siders
- Robert M. Haynes
- John T. Stafford
- James M. Lake PRD
- Taylor E. Best
- Gary Martin
- Dennis R. Schueler
- Raymond Grannis
- Paul A. Stradman
- John T. Stradtman
- Robert C. Davis
- Alex Rogers - Business Administrator

Now, back to the tax returns.

Nonprofit groups file tax returns like everyone else because they’re corporations, just nonprofit. That means they don’t make any money and no one is supposed to benefit. These groups get these tax breaks because they’re supposed to benefit society like helping the needy or finding homes for animals.

The Jesters’ exempt purpose is “promoting fellowship and fraternalism and extending assistance and good cheer to others.”

“Management by Mirth” reports the following:

- Eleven out of twelve Shriner Hospitals for Children (SHC) trustees are Jesters.
- Fourteen out of twenty one of those listed on the SHC 2006 tax returns are Jesters.
- Nine out of fourteen of those listed on the 2006 fraternal tax return are Jesters.

This could help explain the hospital’s financial woes that nearly led to closures. Which, for those faithful Shriners who have dedicated their lives to supporting the hospitals, was worst-case scenario. The last Shriner national convention saw a vote to keep the hospitals open as well as throw out former SHC CEO, Ralph Semb.

An internal investigation investigated Semb and Imperial Treasurer Gene Bracewell and, among other things, recommended that they be reprimanded for lobbying on behalf of a fundraiser who kept \$43 million out of \$47 million raised for the hospitals.

Last I knew, both were Jesters, and Semb is pictured in the S.O.B.I.B. directory.

Now, the Shriners are made up of two nonprofit components, a 501(c)(10) fraternity made up of members and a 501(c)(3) charity of 22 hospitals that provide free medical care to burned and crippled children.

Same for the Jesters, who somehow convinced the IRS to grant them a 501(c)(3) charitable classification for operating a “museum” out of their new headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Marion County assessor rejected the Jesters’ application for a property tax exemption because they didn’t buy it. However, on appeal, the exemption was granted because executive director Alex Rogers convinced the tax board that the Royal Order of Jesters was an appendant group of Masonry.

So, what kind of a museum lists its worth as \$1.4 million but has no employees, phone or computers; nor does it pay for utilities?

The museum’s directors all are in the S.O.B.I.B., listed below:

- Hugh Libby
- Ray Thagard
- George Burt
- Ray Grannis

- James White
- Henry Everett

Here's the S.O.B.I.B. Toast:

"A Few Good Men and A Few Good Times"

To the Chap who seeks

Those of his kind

Who treasure the drink

And savor the wine.

An Evangel of Mirth

Time and again

Found in the company

Of a Few Good Men.

A Toast to the One

Who reveres the food.

Cursed by his wife in "surly" mood

For quite often he's mocked

By those who malign

That Fellow who cherishes

A Few Good Times.

So here's to our Order

And those we call Brother.

To the bond that binds us

One to the other.

For there are "Traveling" groups of admirable intent

With glossy mottos and rhymes

But as for us, it's the simple notion

Of a Few Good Men, and a Few Good Times.

Chapter 22: Nevada Assembly Formally Welcomed Shriners and Jesters

Published Tue Oct 6, 2009 11:29 PM PDT

Surprise, surprise, surprise!

Back on March 9, 2001, Nevada Assemblyman Joe E. Dini Jr. (D) formally welcomed both the Shriners and Royal Order of Jesters to Nevada. Speaking on behalf of the Nevada State Assembly, Dini:

“DECLARED, That the members of the Assembly of the State of Nevada hereby express a hearty welcome to the Royal Order of Jesters, Reno Court 33 and Las Vegas Court 181, and the Shrine of North America in their endeavors to provide fun and fellowship for its members and to bring necessary medical treatment to children across the United States. Declared by the Assembly March 9, 2001.”

The most recent Jester tax return lists Samuel “Scutter” Newton of Las Vegas Court #181 as an officer of the national court. A witness list for the defense in the federal defamation case Schair v. Marsteller states:

“Witness has firsthand knowledge of prostitution, minor prostitution, use of illegal drugs and/or entry into Indian reservations by Schair and/or his customers.”

“Mr. Newton was a customer of the Plaintiffs, who fished with Plaintiffs in Brazil during approximately late August/early September 2007. Based on the Wet-A-Line Tours, LLC website, he is believed to be a member of the Royal Order of Jesters as were all other participants on this trip. He is expected to testify that there were twenty Jesters who paid for the trip and that he was one of the nineteen who ultimately participated. He is expected to testify that two boats were supplied by the Plaintiffs, one for the Jesters and one for the twenty or so girls who accompanied the Jesters. He is expected to testify that the ‘activities’ of the Jesters that week and the nature and extent of services provided by and/or arranged by Plaintiffs or Plaintiffs’ representatives. He is also expected to authenticate the many hours of videotape and still photographs taken by Defendants of the Jesters ‘activities’ during the ‘fishing trip.’ He is expected to identify by way of photographs and association with the members of the Jesters group and identify by name or by description of the girls aboard, the ages of the girls aboard and the exact nature of the activities viewable in the videotape.”

Fishing guides testified that the Jesters asked to be called “Masons” and for girls over 13.

Richard W. Schair, a Georgia real estate salesman and former fishing tour operator, sued competitor Philip Marsteller for defamation after he alleged Schair's involvement with prostitution. Schair settled out of court for \$15,000 as mounting evidence supported the allegations.

Schair was indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police on April 29, 2009, as part of their investigation into the sexual exploitation of girls living along the Amazon. The police took depositions from five "Jane Does" who described how a North American named "Richard" lured them onto his fishing boats with promises of work, but once they got there, the girls found that they were expected to drink whiskey and have sex with North American tourists. Schair was charged with using underage prostitutes to lure customers to his Brazilian fishing tour business.

Schair's indictment was made public in the Brazilian court system after Judge Maria Lucia Gomes De Souza denied his application for habeas corpus, in which he asked that all charges against him be dropped, though he'd already been indicted. Police and prosecutors are currently preparing reports for De Souza so she can decide within the next few months whether or not to prosecute Schair's indictment.

The Jesters were in the headlines last year after three were caught in an FBI human trafficking sting, including a retired police captain, a former New York State Supreme Court Judge and his law clerk. All three pleaded guilty to violating or conspiring to violate the Mann Act as they took a foreign, undocumented prostitute from Buffalo, New York, to a Jester "meeting" in Ashland, Kentucky. The judge also admitted to arranging for prostitutes at Jester weekends in Pennsylvania and Florida as well as to working with Jester officers to get girls to a national meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. And for doing so, he's heading to federal prison for 18 months.

The text of Dini's official welcome to the Shriners and Jesters follows with Nevada Assembly records here.

"REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Assemblyman Dini requested that the following remarks be entered in the Journal.

Declaration

WHEREAS, The Shrine of North America was founded in 1872 by a group of 13 men belonging to the Masonic Order in order to provide fun and fellowship for its members, and through the growth of its membership has become a philanthropic organization dedicated to helping others through the establishment of specialized hospitals that have provided expert medical care at no charge to more than 600,000 children; and

WHEREAS, The Shrine of North America is an international fraternal organization with over 525,000 members and 191 Shrine temples located throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Panama, consisting of many special units, including the motor corps, band and clown units, and the Royal Order of Jesters, all dedicated to providing activities to help support the Shrine's philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, The Royal Order of Jesters, a subsidiary of members of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, was founded in 1911 by a group of Shriners on their way to Honolulu for a Shrine visitation; and

WHEREAS, The Royal Order of Jesters is an exclusive group of men who enjoy life and have fun, consisting of over 26,000 members, with nearly 200 courts existing in various cities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Membership into the Royal Order of Jesters is by invitation only and the member must have been a supporter of the community or active in other areas of the Shrine of North America; and

WHEREAS, Travel to various parts of the United States is among the many activities enjoyed by members of the Royal Order of Jesters, and the members of the Jesters share a spirit of camaraderie, deep friendship, and good fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The Royal Order of Jesters have two courts in Nevada, Reno Court number 33 and Las Vegas Court number 181, full of members dedicated to having fun and spreading Mirth and Joy; now therefore be it

DECLARED, by the MEMBERS of the Nevada State Assembly, That the Royal Order of Jesters are encouraged to continue participating in activities that encourage fun, enjoyment, and companionship; and be it further

DECLARED, That the members of the Assembly of the State of Nevada hereby express a hearty welcome to the Royal Order of Jesters, Reno Court 33 and Las Vegas Court 181, and the Shrine of North America in their endeavors to provide fun and fellowship for its members and to bring necessary medical treatment to children across the United States.

Declared by the Assembly March 9, 2001.

Mr. Speaker announced if there were no objections, the Assembly would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Assembly in recess at 11:09 AM"

Former Assemblyman Dini is a member of the Hope Lodge #22 of the Free and Accepted Masons (F & AM) and Kerak Temple Shrine. His son, Jay, is listed as the W.

Grand Bible Bearer of the Nevada Grand Lodge and is included on the Feb. 1, 2008 Jester "Mirth Missives" subscription list.

Chapter 23: Shriners Swarm Vegas, Jester Girl Code of Conduct Revealed

Published Tue Oct 13, 2009 9:15 AM PDT

This next week, the Shriners will be swarming Las Vegas to support the Justin Timberlake Golf Tournament benefitting their hospitals. Hanging out with the rich and famous; living like rock stars on charitable donations; basking in the limelight as reporters buzz about how these old guys in funny red hats help the kids while having fun.

That's their motto.

Helping kids while having fun.

The Shriners operate a \$5 billion network of 22 hospitals that provides free medical care to burned and crippled children.

But before a man can be a Shriner, he must first be a Master Mason.

Turns out that the Shriners are led by members of their own secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters.

Last year, three Jesters were caught in an FBI human trafficking sting out of Buffalo, New York. They all pled guilty to taking a foreign, undocumented prostitute to one of their weekend parties in Ashland, Kentucky. Those caught were a retired police captain, a former New York State Supreme Court Judge and his law clerk.

All pleaded guilty to violating the Mann Act, apparently on official Jester business. This means deducting their expenses because the Jesters are a nonprofit fraternity.

The judge is in federal prison for 18 months because he got hookers for Jester parties in Florida, Pennsylvania and Canada. His sentence was reduced for helping the FBI investigate the Jesters for the sexual exploitation of minors and foreign travel for those purposes.

In another case, the fishing tour operator who took 19 Jesters fishing on the Amazon was indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police for using underage prostitutes to lure North American customers. Former fishing tour operator and real estate salesman Richard Schair had sued a competitor for alleging he was involved with prostitution. A witness list for the defense named 19 Jesters who were expected to testify about their firsthand knowledge of drug use, sex with prostitutes and with minor prostitutes.

Depositions provided by fishing guides testified that the Jesters asked to be called “Masons” and for girls over 13.

On June 19, 2009, Schair submitted an application for habeas corpus to a Brazilian federal judge, asking her to dismiss the case against him, though he’d been indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police six weeks earlier.

She denied his application because it lacked merit.

The witness list named a Las Vegas financial consultant, Samuel “Scutter” Newton, also a member of the Las Vegas Court #181. He’s listed on the latest Jester tax return as a national officer.

Turns out that the Jesters weren’t so secret after former Nevada Assemblyman Joe E. Dini Jr.:

“DECLARED, That the members of the Assembly of the State of Nevada hereby express a hearty welcome to the Royal Order of Jesters, Reno Court 33 and Las Vegas Court 181, and the Shrine of North America in their endeavors to provide fun and fellowship for its members and to bring necessary medical treatment to children across the United States. Declared by the Assembly March 9, 2001.”

So, some attorney convinced the IRS to grant the Jesters tax-exempt status to “spread the gospel of merriment and mirth.”

This translates to throwing weekend parties called “The Book of the Play.”

Tax returns show the Jesters spent \$600,000 on one such party.

That’s over \$12,000 a minute.

This redacted “Jester Girl Code of Conduct” indicates that Jesters secure prostitutes rooms and implies that they submit certificates, presumably proving that they’re free of disease.

All these groups, the Masons, the Shriners and the Jesters, are nonprofit, meaning that they pay no or significantly reduced taxes for providing social benefit. Members are also prohibited from any benefit, be it financial, professional, personal, or otherwise.

The real crime is hiding behind burned and crippled children, and using those clueless Shriners who dedicate their lives to driving goofy little cars in parades or putting on clown makeup at zero dawn thirty to drive a hundred miles so they can twist up animal balloons and put a smile on the bandaged face of a badly burned baby.

The real criminals here are those “pillars of the community” who have hijacked the IRS and taken advantage of us, all of us, so they can party with prostitutes at taxpayer expense.

Chapter 24: Updated: Copyright Infringement Challenge Settled, Jesters Hide Prostitutes' Expenses, Blackmail Themselves into Secrecy

Published Fri Oct 23, 2009 11:24 AM PDT

Update: 11/11/2009: The author of the Royal Order of Jesters “Mirth Missives” newsletter, Mack “Tazmack” Gooding, filed a second copyright infringement notice with Newsvine today, incorrectly claiming that I edited out his copyright notices on the newsletters as well as the subscription lists previously linked to in this article. FYI, here is a copy of the first notice he filed last March. For those of you in possession of past “Mirth Missives” as well as the subscription lists, you know that there are no copyright notices anywhere on these documents. Here’s a question for the rest of you. What kind of a nonprofit group has members who will go to any length to hide their newsletter and subscription list? What kind of a tax-exempt group has members who threaten to drag a journalist to federal court because they are desperate to discover the sources who have provided these materials because that is what this is all about? Therefore, I am removing the links in question to protect my sources.

Thank you,

Sandy Frost

Author’s Note: I’ve been investigating allegations of Shriner tax fraud and misuse of charitable donations for three and a half years. We’re way beyond that now as their secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, is under investigation for operating a nationwide network of prostitution and child sex tourism. That’s going to other countries to have sex with kids. As a matter of clarification, the Shriners, those goofy old guys in the red fezzes who work hard to support their beloved network of 22 hospitals that provide free medical care to burned and crippled children, are first Master Masons. Most have no idea that their charity has been compromised by those Shriners who accepted secret invitations to join the Royal Order of Jesters. This is the biggest nonprofit scandal of our time. Some Shriners hid behind burned and crippled children and conspired to convince the IRS to grant tax-exempt status to their own nonprofit group so they could throw huge parties at taxpayer expense. Like a near \$600,000 weekend party. The IRS grants tax-exempt status in exchange for providing some social or community benefit. The Jesters’ exempt purpose is “promoting fellowship and fraternalism and extending assistance and good cheer to others” though they fail to detail their program accomplishments on their tax returns. So, when the Jesters don’t pay certain taxes, fees and other obligations in exchange for providing program services, they are the only

ones who benefit. This is illegal. When the Jesters don't pay taxes, the rest of us make up for it. That's how nonprofits work. It is my hope that the Shriners can somehow clean up their fraternity, to include denouncing, disassociating from, and severing all ties to, the Royal Order of Jesters, because oversight by law enforcement is no way to help the kids.

Sandy Frost

October 23, 2009

The Shriners' secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, continues partying with prostitutes at taxpayer expense, in spite of being investigated for interstate prostitution and child sex tourism.

It's business as usual for who have sex with hookers like Misty LaSweet because they think that their Jester brothers in law enforcement and the judiciary system will protect them above all else.

Remember, those Jesters caught by the Buffalo FBI in a human trafficking sting included a former New York Supreme Court Judge, his law clerk and a retired police captain. All pleaded guilty and were sentenced for taking an undocumented, foreign prostitute from the Buffalo area to a Jester party in Ashland, Kentucky.

It doesn't look like anyone went to bat for those guys. Instead, national Jester leaders like Gary N. Martin tell reporters that the Buffalo bust was an isolated incident, implying that the Jesters don't participate in prostitution.

This invitation from the Jesters of Texas 2008 announces that the group will honor Royal Director Gary N. Martin at a Stag bash and that "Mirth—it's Bigger and Better in Texas!"

This party was scheduled two weeks after Hurricane Ike closed the Shriners Hospital for Children (SHC) in Galveston. Nowhere on the invitation does it ask these Jesters, invited from the ranks of Shriner leaders, to help their hospital rebuild or raise money to again provide free medical care to burned children.

In addition to being Royal Director of the Jesters, Martin is also on the board of the Mexico Shriners hospital.

In mid-August 2009, Jesters were meeting in Montana for their Book of the Play.

It's their initiation for the 13 new Shriners invited each year. That's after the candidates tell a review board ten self-incriminating secrets that no one else knows about them. For the privilege of joining the Jesters, the prospective members blackmail themselves by

admitting to embezzlement and anything and everything else to keep them from squealing on their brother Jesters.

If they talk, these secrets are then used against them.

Here's a copy of the Jester newsletter, (Link Removed 11/11/2009) "Mirth Missives" from Super Bowl Sunday 2008. It includes a Jester-wide warning about me and an offer from the then-publisher for free pharmaceuticals.

Here's another (Link Removed 11/11/2009) "Mirth Missives" with a picture that advises: "Play Dumb—If she looks TOO young, just assume she is 18."

According to sources, the then-publisher replaced his computer last August because it "crashed," destroying all evidence of Jester records, confidential subscription lists and archived "Mirth Missives" in the process. He later demitted from the Royal Order of Jesters last October "for personal reasons."

"Mirth Missive" subscription lists from April 2006 and February 2008 are available online if you want to scan the lists to see if you can recognize any of the names. You'll find no copyright marks on either the subscription list or the "Mirth Missives."

According to sources, the Jesters also traffic prostitutes around the country for their weekly meetings.

The U.S. Attorneys' Office describes the Royal Order of Jesters:

"This organization maintained chapters throughout the United States, including in Western New York, and it was the custom of these chapters to host periodic meetings, usually on weekends, for their members. At most of these meetings, some members of the organization would be tasked to arrange for the presence of women at the meetings, for the specific purpose of utilizing the women to engage in sexual intercourse and other sexual activity with the organization's members in exchange for money."

Sources claim that these "Books" include hospitality rooms for high-stakes gambling, with as much as \$100,000 in the middle of the tables.

They also allege that the Jesters pay for prostitute expenses, to include one who regularly accompanies a married member of the Royal line from state to state. These expenses are then hidden on the Jesters' tax returns as un-itemized expenses for the "Book of the Play" and payments to hotels on financial statements.

Additionally, sources identified a Jester doctor who certifies that the prostitutes are free of disease.

It's also been alleged that most Masonic Grand Lodges across the country will not throw out Jesters involved with prostitution or any other crimes, except for murder or treason. Sources say that Masonic committee members responsible for prosecuting such crimes instead quash investigations to protect themselves and/or their Jester brothers.

Chapter 25: Jesters in High Places

Published Sat Dec 19, 2009 1:28 PM PST

So many people have asked, "How many members of law enforcement, or the judiciary or elected officials and other high-profile agencies, are also members of the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ)?"

The rumor is that highly placed Jesters use their influence to participate in, promote and/or protect their weekend prostitution parties, though it didn't work out too well for those three caught by the FBI.

Of course, they include a former state Supreme Court judge, his law clerk and a retired police captain.

The judge is spending his holidays at Club Fed.

He's going to hang out at Federal Correctional Institute Jesup, located in southeast Georgia, until January 24, 2011.

He's 74 years old and is paying a heavy price for being part of an enterprise that appears to be operating a nationwide network of prostitution.

So, how can we find out if Jesters are also cops, judges, or other highly placed and influential members who are sworn to protect their brothers above all else?

A Google search of news archives provides clues from beyond the grave.

The following is from Jester obits that, out of respect for their friends and family, will not name names but will, in no particular order, list their job titles, newspaper, and date published.

Former FAA Executive. "In 1949, he joined the Civil Aeronautics Administration, a precursor to the FAA, in Indianapolis. He was a member of the American Bar Association as well as bar associations in Arlington and the District." Washington Post, Nov. 17, 2004.

Retired judge. South Florida Sun, Feb. 2, 1990.

Judge. "He also was a member of the Florida Bar and Seminole County Bar associations, the Scottish Rite F&AM No. 62 in Sanford; and the Royal Order of Jesters No. 166 and Bahia Shrine, both in Orlando." Orlando Sentinel, Nov. 14, 1991.

"Connecticut and Town Official Drops Dead While at Work in Office Vault at New Milford Recently Treated For Heart Ailment. Governor Cross Learns of Death at First Cabinet Meeting Here; Praises His Service Connecticut Official Dead at 48." Hartford Courant, Sept. 30, 1947.

Longtime Chief Knox County Criminal Court Judge Dies, ROJ Court 57. WVLT TV, Dec. 18, 2007.

Retired Lt. Col. served in the Army in World War I and World War II. He was an elected San Antonio city commissioner of taxation and finance. At one time, he served concurrently as mayor pro tem and as a substitute judge of the corporation court. San Antonio Express-News. June 25, 1992.

Superior Court Judge served the people and in the courts of Pierce County for 49 years. He served on the University Place School Board during World War II and as chairman of the American Bar Association Juvenile Delinquency Committee in the late '60s. Tacoma News Tribune, May 7, 2001.

Retired State Supreme Court Justice, member of a prominent political and judicial family, state judge since 1985. The Buffalo News, May 2, 2003.

He was a Navy veteran and was a magistrate judge. Macon Telegraph, Sept. 15, 2000.

"Trial lawyer in the office of the judge advocate general of the Navy, joined the Energy Department's Economic Regulatory Administration and the Office of Fuels Programs as a fuels analyst." Washington Post, Feb. 28, 1999.

"Retired Army colonel, appointed district Judge of the 141st District Court." Fort Worth Star Telegram, Jan. 25, 2006.

"Retired police chief of Glen Carbon, worked in the Madison County Sheriff's." St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Sept. 4, 2003.

Retired Cincinnati Police Capt. Cincinnati Post, Feb. 7, 1997.

"He retired in 2004 as assistant Alleghany County superintendent during a career in which he held every rank, from patrolman to acting superintendent." Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Sept. 21, 2008.

Retired Portland Police Chief, policeman for 33 years. Portland Press Herald, Feb. 24, 1998.

A retired clerk of Norfolk Circuit Court and a former policeman. The Virginian Pilot, June 30, 1991.

Assistant Director of the Cook County Sheriff's Merit Board. Chicago Tribune, May 3, 2003.

Lt. and a 19-year veteran of the Deptford, NJ, Police Department. Philadelphia Daily News, Jan. 4, 1985.

The first chief of the California Highway Patrol having served for 23 years and a leader in the creation of the California State Police. The Sacramento Bee, June 7, 1984.

Commanding officer of the Police K-9 Training Unit, 40-year police veteran. Philadelphia Daily News, July 31, 2000.

Police officer. Kansas City Star, Dec. 30, 2001.

Retired law enforcement officer for the Cocoa Beach Police Department. Orlando Sentinel, Jan. 17, 1987.

Retired from the Cedar Rapids Police Department in 1990 after 33 years. The Gazette, March 8, 1999.

Retired Fairview Boro Police Chief. Erie Times News, May 4, 2007.

FBI inspector. Washington Post, May 10, 1990.

During World War II he served in the FBI, returning to Miami after the war to enter private practice. He was elected Mayor of the City of Miami in 1947. Miami Herald, May 15, 2007.

A lawyer in Maryland and then a special agent for 25 years for the FBI. St. Petersburg Times, Oct. 21, 1999.

He retired from the Suffolk Police Department, previously the Nansemond Police Department, and the Department of Motor Vehicles. Virginian Pilot, Dec. 27, 1998.

A special agent for the FBI, worked for NSA, a retired National Security Agency employee, worked for the NSA at Fort Meade for over 20 years. The Baltimore Sun, Jan. 12, 1993.

FBI special agent and Wichita City Council member. Wichita Eagle, Dec. 8, 2000.

Retired CIA employee. Ocala Banner, Feb. 7, 1997.

Employed 30 years with the IRS. St. Paul Pioneer Press, Sept. 28, 1998.

Former Warwick state senator. The Providence Journal, Jan. 19, 1990.

U.S. Treasury Department internal auditor for the IRS retiring in 1995. Kansas City Star, Sept. 10, 1998.

Former state rep. Boston Herald, April 23, 1994.

Journal Clerk of the N.J. state Senate, and served as Atlantic County prosecutor from 1959 to 1963. AtlanticCity.com, Aug. 8, 1997.

Retired LAPD Detective. LA Times, Dec. 19, 1990.

Vigo County Prosecutor, Congressman, Judge. Tribune Star, March 17, 2007.

Former City Mayor. The Morning Call, Feb. 14, 1986.

Chairman of the section of administrative law for the American Bar Association and a member of the Administrative Conference of the United States, assistant U.S. Attorney. Washington Post, Nov. 20, 1997.

U.S. Official. Washington Post, Nov. 10, 1995.

Retired State Department Foreign Service officer who had served as ambassador to Honduras and Haiti, named an inspector of the Foreign Service for the State Department. Washington Post, Nov. 17, 1991.

Deputy and Chief Deputy Sherriff for Oxford County. Sun Journal, Jan. 20, 1998.

New York State Correctional Services at Auburn and Moravia Correctional Facilities. He was also employed with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department as a member of the Special Deputies Association for over 20 years. The Post Standard, Sept. 6, 2009.

Orange County Deputy Sheriff. Orlando Sentinel, Mar. 22, 1994.

CIA Official, Professor. "A retired deputy director for administration at the Central Intelligence Agency who later taught at the Defense Intelligence College." Washington Post, March 29, 1995.

CIA Agent, "A longtime member of the Central Intelligence Agency's Boston office." Boston Globe, June 18, 2001.

Arizona Acts House Resolution 2007 of the 2nd Regular Session 2000: "He was elected to the Arizona House of Representatives, serving until 1990. He also served as a precinct committeeman and captain and was active on the Republican State Committee." State of Arizona.

Two United States Presidents.

At the end of the day, these guys, these Jesters, are sworn to protect their brothers, above all else.

The question is “Are today’s Jesters, in these same positions, disclosing that they are members of a group being investigated by the FBI for sex crimes on their conflict of interest statements for their security clearances?” because if not, this presents a clear and present danger to us all as our tax dollars pay for protection.

Chapter 26: ABC News Confirms FBI Investigating Jesters for Child Sex Tourism

Published Mon Apr 5 2010 11:06 PM PDT

“ABC World News Tonight with Diane Sawyer” has confirmed that the FBI and ICE are continuing their investigation into fishing tour operators who facilitate “child sex tourism” for their high-paying customers. This report includes a blurred picture of a member of the Royal Order of Jesters partying with a young Brazilian girl on his lap, confirming that the Jesters and the former fishing tour operator who organized their Brazilian fishing trips have been, at the very least, questioned by the FBI.

Over two years ago, “Jesters to Testify about Illegal Drugs, Child Prostitution?” described the unsuccessful defamation lawsuit filed by Richard Schair against competitor Philip Marsteller. Both offered Peacock Bass fishing trips along the Amazon. Marsteller began observing fishing boats with both North American fishermen and young Brazilian girls aboard, and began learning about the prostitution of underage Indian girls and began blowing the whistle on what he describes as “a cancer on this industry.”

ABC News went undercover at a Dallas Safari Club convention and secretly filmed a nervous outfitter as he implied that he could hook the “customer” up with fishing trips and “girls.”

There is a natural news transition here from covering the supply side of how child sex tourism works to further investigating those who go on these trips year after year. The timing is right because the feds are not going to come up empty-handed after spending two years investigating the Jesters for prostitution, sex trafficking and child sex tourism.

Thanks to Dan Herbeck and Aaron Besecker, The Buffalo News first reported three Jesters had been caught in an FBI human trafficking sting, including a former NY State Supreme Court Judge, his law clerk and a retired police captain. Page 21 of this plea agreement describes how the judge got a reduced sentence for providing information about the Jesters’ involvement with prostitution, sex trafficking, the sexual abuse of minors and international travel for those purposes. This page shows that the former

judge was arranging a “Book of the Play” trip to Costa Rica, sponsored by the Buffalo Jester Court #27.

After investigating the Shriners for nearly four years, it’s pretty safe to say that corruption is everywhere and that the Jesters’ lust for prostitutes is just a part of it. Apparently, some leaders think it’s OK to use their unsuspecting Shriner brothers as a front, creating the warm and fuzzy image that they’re just a bunch of grandfatherly do-gooders who work hard to raise money to support their network of 22 hospitals that provide free care to burned and crippled children. The corrupt act as if they are above the law, probably because their bylaws state that “Shrine law does not include the law of the land.”

This is no excuse for treating these Elders, especially the veterans, with such disrespect, especially after they have dedicated their golden years to wearing their red fezzes with pride while working so hard to help the kids.

Instead of sharing their vast and valuable life experiences to build a fabulous fraternity of unparalleled charity, these faithful Shriners, these successful businessmen, government leaders and dedicated family men, are sued into silence for asking questions like “Where does all the money go?” and “Why are your tax returns so messed up?” The members who truly want to embrace the most basic concept of “making good men better” are instead threatened, retaliated against, and punished by their corrupt leaders for trying to do so.

What’s worse is the horrific possibility that little burned kids have been used as guinea pigs in clinical research studies for a burn treatment heading to market while still under an unresolved warning letter issued by the FDA.

But that’s another story.

“Bad Medicine” advances the randomly coincidental possibility of insider trading.

ABC News did a good job of providing interviews, pictures and video that show how fishing tour operators provide prostitutes.

I’ve heard that there are videos of Jesters from national “books,” used to blackmail the newly initiated into silence. It’s an “if you squeal, we’ll show this video of you doing this prostitute to your wife” kind of deal. These videos are probably in the custody of those on the Jesters’ background investigation committee, tasked with obtaining self-incriminating confessions from prospective Jesters as they further seal vows of silence and protection. Not only have Jesters been pictured partying with young Brazilian girls, their activities were further described in federal court depositions.

From his Tuesday, April 15, 2008 deposition, current PACER document 83-3, former fishing guide Admilson Garcia Da Silva was asked:

Q: Did you ever witness any of the Wet-A-Line customers engaging in sex acts with these women that were on the Wet-A-Line boats? (pp. 30)

A: Yes.

Q: What did you see?

A: I saw five. Five of them...five and five men, and two of the women were minors.

Q: I'm sorry. You said you saw five men and five women, and two of the women were minors. Is that what you said?

A: That's right.

Q: And what did you see the men and women doing with each other?

A: There was one woman having sex with a man and the other—the other woman only gave them a blow job. (pp. 34)

What would I give to be a fly on the wall as some genius Jester attorney tries to explain to an IRS agent that their exempt purpose of “spreading the gospel of merriment and mirth” includes writing off blow jobs as tax deductions. Payments for the prostitute’s rooms are hidden in finance statements under lump sum payments to hotels for Jester weekend parties.

Seriously, now, what type of nonprofit group mandates that members embrace blackmail to prevent them from ratting out a bunch of guys who think that operating a nationwide network of prostitution and going on fishing trips to party with underage Brazilian girls are nothing more than write offs?

This is the juxtaposition between nonprofit groups who are supposed to provide a benefit to society while operating in secret. A public group should be just that, hiding nothing while embracing the highest standards of nonprofit transparency, accountability and disclosure. After investigating the Shriners and the Jesters, it's clear that if they just followed the rules, there would be nothing to report.

I've spent the past month trying to get answers from various Louisiana officials about a law enforcement official named Carle Jackson who is also named on Jester lists, but no one will respond. Maybe they're too busy dealing with the corrupt cop Katrina case where two New Orleans police admitted to conspiring a cover up of how they, and others, shot six and killed two civilians, including one with special needs, post Katrina.

Or maybe the PR people are tied up with the case of the Louisiana federal judge impeached by Congress for corruption.

Here's the situation.

Governor Bobby Jindal appointed a top law enforcement official as representative to a think-tank that focuses on sharing all types of information regardless of venue or jurisdiction with an emphasis on Homeland Security. My question has to do with the Governor's appointment process because there is really no way he could have known that this law enforcement official is also part of a group being investigated by the FBI for prostitution, human trafficking and child sex tourism.

The individual in question was not only appointed by Governor Jindal to SEARCH.org, he's the head of the state's sentencing commission and, as such, represents Louisiana on the National Association of Sentencing Commission and is also an advisor to the state's law enforcement commission.

The question is, does the Governor's appointment process provide the prospective appointee the opportunity for self-disclosure to prevent conflict of interest and the appearance of impropriety?

It stands to reason that if this individual disclosed his Jester membership, the governor would never have appointed to him to a position with unlimited access to information that could be used to protect his brothers.

In the meantime, I hope that ABC News can get a hold of these Jester sex tapes so they can next report how members of the Royal Order of Jesters have conspired to hijack our nonprofit tax system so they can party with prostitutes at taxpayer expense.

Chapter 27: Retired Deputy Charged in Jester Sex Trafficking Investigation

Published Wed Jun 9, 2010 8:42 PM PDT

Dan Herbeck of The Buffalo News reported today that a former Erie County Sheriff's deputy has been charged with conspiring to violate the Mann Act after allegedly arranging for the transportation of about a dozen prostitutes to a national meeting of the Royal Order of Jesters in Canada.

He wrote "Michael Lesinski, who retired from police work in November 2008, is the latest person charged in a government probe into human-trafficking activities involving the Royal Order of Jesters. Lesinski made arrangements for a limousine to transport at least a dozen prostitutes from Buffalo Niagara International Airport in Cheektowaga to a hotel in Niagara Falls, Ont., in April 2005, according to charges filed by the U.S. Attorneys' Office."

WGRZ Channel 2 TV reports:

“Michael Lesinski is accused of arranging for limousines to carry at least a dozen prostitutes from the Buffalo Niagara Airport to a hotel in Niagara Falls, Ontario where a Jesters convention was taking place in April of 2005. Lesinski’s attorney, Rodney Personius, says he was somewhat surprised that the Federal Government went through with the criminal complaint given the amount of time that has passed.”

The judge overseeing this case gave both parties until the end of July to come up with an agreement before moving forward to indict Lesinski and taking the case to trial.

The “White Slave Traffic Act” (or, the Mann Act) was approved by the 61st Congress on June 25, 1910 to prohibit the transportation of women and girls for immoral and other purposes.

This latest news is the result of a two-year long federal investigation into the Jesters for prostitution, sex trafficking and child sex tourism after three Jesters pleaded guilty to violating or conspiring to violate the Mann Act for taking an undocumented, foreign prostitute from Buffalo to a Jester weekend party in Kentucky. Former NY State Supreme Court Judge Ronald Tills admitted in his plea agreement to working with national Jester officers to make arrangements to transport the prostitutes from Buffalo to Ontario for a national Jester meeting.

Herbeck also reported today that an FBI agent wrote “Tills delegated that duty to Michael Lesinski, a member of the [Jesters] and then an active deputy sheriff with the Erie County Sheriff’s Department.”

Chapter 28: Feds Define Jesters

Published Fri Jun 18, 2010 4:56 PM PDT

The June 7 criminal complaint in the case of United States of America v. Michael Lesinski paints a clear picture of “Mirth and Merriment,” Royal Order of Jesters style.

That’s how they describe their activities to the IRS, you know.

The Jesters tell the IRS that their tax-exempt mission is “promoting fellowship and fraternalism and extending good cheer to others” and that they hold annual events “devoted to fraternalism and spreading the gospel of mirth and good cheer.”

Apparently, this is code for renting a limo to get about a dozen “Jester Girls” from the Buffalo, New York airport to work as prostitutes at a Jester national meeting held in Niagara Falls Ontario, Canada.

Lesinski is charged with “knowingly, willfully and unlawfully combining, conspiring and agreeing together with others, including Ronald Tills, to commit an offense against the United States, that is to knowingly transport women in interstate and foreign commerce, with the intent that said women engage in prostitution, in violation of Title 18 (Mann Act) and that at least one overt act was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy, in that the defendant, Michael Lesinski, on April 18, 2005, did rent limousines in order to transport said women from the Buffalo airport to Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, with the intent that the women engage in prostitution.”

Lesinski’s complaint begins by listing agencies that make up the New York Human Trafficking Task Force and Alliance that are investigating the Jesters. These include the FBI, Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement or ICE, and deputies from the Erie County Sheriff’s Office. It then lists the criminal statute allegedly violated, that being the Mann Act.

Next, and for the first time, the Royal Order of Jesters are defined in their own self-titled section.

“The Royal Order of Jesters (“ROJ”) is a worldwide fraternal organization whose membership is limited to individuals invited to join by other members. The motto of the ROJ is ‘mirth is king.’ The ROJ has local chapters or ‘courts.’ On occasion, a local court or group of local courts in the same geographical area sponsor social gatherings known as ‘books of the play’ or ‘books.’ The sponsoring courts organize the ‘books’ and arrange for food, lodging, and entertainment at the ‘books.’ The ROJ also sponsors a yearly national ‘book,’ the equivalent of a national convention. In April 2005, the Jesters’ national book was held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.”

“As set forth below, a typical feature of a ‘book of the play’ is the presence of prostitutes (‘Jester Girls’) who engage in commercial sex acts with members of the ROJ. Arrangements for the prostitutes are generally made by the organizer of the ‘books,’ or the region hosting the national ‘book.’ On occasion, individual Jesters make arrangements to transport prostitutes to ‘books.’”

According to the complaint, investigators began interviewing several Jesters in January and February of 2008. Jester John Trowbridge, a retired captain with the Lockport, New York, Police Department, told investigators about how he attended a number of “books” throughout the United States and Canada that provided prostitutes for those members in attendance.

Trowbridge described a number of occasions where members of the Buffalo Court, including Ronald Tills, then a New York State Supreme Court Judge, and his law clerk, Michael Stebick, made arrangements for Jester Girls to attend “books.” Tills was in charge of getting the prostitutes to the Jesters’ national “book.”

According to his plea agreement, circa spring 2006, Tills admitted to coordinating the prostitute's travel with national Jester officers.

Trowbridge also described how Tills was in charge of getting the Jester Girls to the national meeting and that the judge asked Lesinski to take care of it.

Lesinski, at the time, was a deputy sheriff with the Erie County Sheriff's Department.

Trowbridge then disclosed that Lesinski rented a limousine to transport about a dozen prostitutes from Buffalo to Canada.

The Jesters' 2005 tax return lists \$70,049 for transportation. The complaint includes a receipt from Lakeview Limousine that indicates a deposit of \$980 was paid for by check, with a total cost of \$1,175.

The complaint then includes co-conspirator Michael Stebick's description of how Jester 'books' are typically held in hotel hospitality rooms where members can pick from a list of Jester Girl prostitutes. It continues that, in April 2008, Trowbridge provided investigators with contact information for the 13 prostitutes as he'd spoken with each of them as they gathered at the Buffalo airport though there were other prostitutes he'd not spoken with.

In June 2008, Tills told investigators that there were about 30 women at the national book and "described a network of members who had the ability to supply such women." It was then that he identified Lesinski's renting of two limousines that took the prostitutes to Canada.

According to "Sex Traffic Rises, Along With Scramble for Solutions" by WeNews correspondent Rich Daly:

"These (2010 United States Human Trafficking Report) statistics come out as Rep. Chris Smith, a New Jersey Republican and co-chair of the Congressional Human Trafficking Caucus, is co-sponsoring a bill to establish an international registry of known sex offenders to help foreign and U.S. law enforcement agencies crack down on underage sex tourism also linked to trafficking.

'This is modern day slavery and it's a winnable war,' Smith said in an interview with Women's eNews.

The Smith bill, called the International Megan's Law, was approved by the House Foreign Affairs Committee on April 28 and could come up for a House vote in the next few weeks, Smith said."

Representative Smith's HR 1623 is summarized here:

- Requires registered sex offenders to notify appropriate jurisdictions of their intent to travel not later than 21 days before their departure or arrival in the United States. Imposes a fine and/or prison term of up to 10 years for failure to report such travel.
- Requires diplomatic or consular missions in each foreign country to establish and maintain a countrywide sex offender registry for sex offenders from the United States who temporarily or permanently reside in such country.
- Directs the Commissioner of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to issue directives for the assessment of sex offenders whose travel is reported to determine whether such offenders are high-risk sex offenders.
- Directs the President to establish the International Sex Offender Travel Center to monitor the travel of high-risk sex offenders.
- Authorizes the Secretary of State to rescind the passports of individuals awaiting trial for a sex offense against a minor or a permanent resident who has been convicted of such an offense.
- Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to make convicted sex offenders inadmissible to the United States.

If passed as written, these new international sex offender laws would rescind the passports of any Jesters on trial for things like child sex tourism and require any other registered sex offenders to report their intention to leave the country at least 21 days before doing so.

Chapter 29: Brazilian News Confirms FBI Investigating Child Sex Crimes, Jesters Pictured w/Victims

Published Fri Oct 8, 2010 12:11 PM PDT

Update 10/10/10: Unofficial translation follows Brazilian news broadcast of “Childhood in Danger” by Rede Record. It reports that the FBI has been in Brazil investigating the sexual exploitation of underage Indian girls by North Americans. It also reports that the FBI interviewed a victim in her village and provides video of her living conditions. She alleges that she lost her virginity and was left pregnant by one of two North Americans on a fishing trip to Brazil.

Author’s Note: Portuguese-to-English translations done by myself using Yahoo! Babel Fish and Babylon. They are rough translations of what is in the subtitles.

Thank you,

Sandy

Over two years ago I published “Child Sex Tourism: Brazilian Teens Testify About Being Lured into Minor Prostitution for American Tourists.”

It imagined what it would be like to be a 13-year-old Brazilian Indian girl, living with her poor family on their reservation. Then a North American named “Richard” shows up and asks for your help to sweep, do laundry and cook on his fishing boat.

You agree because your family needs the money for food.

When you get to the boat, you learn that your real job, along with other girls, is to drink whiskey and beer and have sex with the “North Americans” on a fishing trip. After they go back home, you are left pregnant, not knowing who the father is.

Three years later, in July 2007, you find yourself with four of the same girls in the office of the Regional Superintendent of the Federal Police of the State of Amazonas with your mother, a federal police transcriber, an attorney hired to represent you and the federal police chief, who is asking you to tell him what happened. The police take your deposition because they are investigating that minor Indian and other girls living near the rivers in the regions of Autazes became victims of sexual exploitation by North American foreign tourists.

The girls testify that “Richard” went to the same village every year, luring girls to help him with housekeeping and cooking on his boat, the Amazon Santana.

Two days ago, a Brazilian news broadcast told the same story. “Companies that Sell Packages of Tourism in the Amazon Promote Orgies” aired October 6. Here is a description.

“Fashion in Europe, Japan and the USA is the ecological tourism. Who is buying the packages do not want the traditional uses, either adventure. One of the destinations is the Brazilian Amazon. Girls are employed to work on vessels of luxury and are sexually exploited by foreign tourists.”

The broadcast includes video of the Amazon Santana and interviews with some of the girls, their attorney and a Brazilian Federal Police officer sitting with a box of evidence marked 410/2007. This is the same case number with the same evidence that led the Brazilian Federal Police to indict former fishing tour operator Richard Schair for rape, operating a prostitution network and using minors as prostitutes.

The news report begins with police sweeping the streets for underage prostitutes. Then we see pictures of tourists on “ecological” trips through the jungles.

Reporter Luiz Carlos Azen then takes us to Manaus with the Amazon Santana and Santana II anchored in the background. These are the same fishing boats used by

Schair before he was indicted and denied habeas corpus. This means that, upon entering Brazil, he'll be arrested.

Azen narrates a performance by Amazon Indians after which a spokesman says on subtitle that the girls of the "program" come to the villages. A "program" is sexual services provided by these underage prostitutes.

We are then taken to the office of the superintendent of the Brazilian Federal Police for the Manaus region of the Amazon District and meet Dr. Washington Magalhaes, the attorney who represents the girls who went to the police.

Tears started running down my face as I saw, for the first time, the Indian girls that I have written for. They are shown sitting on a wooden floor with a laptop nearby. They may never know about me and my work, or the battles that I and others have fought on their behalf, but hearing their brave voices in their face-masked interviews makes it all worth it.

They answer Azen's questions about having sex aboard the Amazon Santana with those who speak English.

"How many men did you make sex with on this ship, the Amazon Santana?" Azen asks.

"With two," the girl answers.

"Would you recognize them?" he asks.

"With certainty," she answers.

"That nationality was?" he asks.

"Not from here, Brazilians were not."

"They spoke what language?" he asks.

"They said everything in English," she answered.

The second girl states "It was for me to use a drug that they were using called marijuana. It compelled me to make sex in a private room in the same motor boat, in a berth."

"The name of the boat?" Azen asks.

"Amazon Santana," she replies.

Azen then takes us on a quick tour of the Amazon Santana before showing still pictures that include members of the Royal Order of Jesters fishing and partying with the girls.

One has a picture of a fisherman in a Jester t-shirt with another Jester sporting a white beard similar to a national Jester officer who lives in Las Vegas. The Jesters involvement is best explained here.

From the article:

“Federal court documents filed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, related to case number 07-21228, list 19 witnesses who are believed to be members of the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ), a.k.a. Shriners/Masons, who are expected to testify about fishing trips to Brazil and “their firsthand knowledge of prostitution, minor prostitution, use of illegal drugs and/or entry into Indian reservations by Schair (plaintiff) and/or his customers.”

Back to the Brazilian news story.

We then meet Roberto Jesus Camara, the inspector in charge of Brazilian Federal Police investigation 410/2007. He and Azen discuss the case of American Richard W. Schair which includes violating the rights of the Brazilian Indigenous.

Azen then asks one of the girls, “What is the name of your enticer/inveigher/seducer?”

“Richard,” she answered.

“That nationality he was?” he asks.

“Wasn’t Brazilian, not. Was of the United States.”

Azen then discusses the indigenous violations with Dr. Washington and we see a map that shows exclusive Indian reservations and government preserves, protected by law against such trespassing.

Next, Azen takes us to what appears to be a shed but is instead the home of the girl who was left pregnant at age 13 after one of Schair’s fishing trips. We see worldly belongings on a bed and an empty refrigerator.

“Do you know the father of your son?” he asks.

“No,” she answers.

“Then there is a possibility that one of the two Americans is the father?” he asks.

“That possibility exists,” she answers.

“What would you like?” Azen concludes.

“So that they pay,” she answers.

RECORD

“Childhood in Danger: Companies that Sell Tour Packages in the Amazon Promote Orgies”

Unofficial translation of the broadcast follows.

10/06/2010

Ecological tourism is the style in Europe, Japan and the U.S. The purchasers of packages do not want traditional destinations, they want adventure. One of these destinations is the Brazilian Amazon. Girls are contracted to work on luxury boats and are exploited sexually by foreign tourists.

Video

(0:00) A police case in the U.S. and Brazil, companies that sell tourism packages of adventure in the Amazon, promote orgies during the sport fishing trips.

(0:14) Girls contracted to work on luxury boats are sexually exploited by foreign tourists. That is what reporters Luis Carlos Agnes, Aumari Ribeiro Jr. and Lumis Umica show in the special segment “Childhood in Danger.”

(0:27) The operation in a suburb of Manaus, the capitol of Amazonas, is to find minor prostitutes. On this night “titular councilor” or Minor Authority were able to locate two, one 15 and one 17.

(0:48) Azen: What do you find when you start to investigate the lives of these girls?

Police: The financial situation where they take food home, the money home and they sell themselves. The parents many times know that they are doing this, certainly the majority of the parents have the knowledge that the daughter is putting something in the house and they know that it is in exchange for their body.

(1:17) Now the authorities are starting to collect proof that the problem is aggravated by foreign tourists.

(1:39) On arrival, they see the splendid side of the city, the inheritance from when the city grew because of the robber barons. But the majority of the tourists also want to explore the jungle and the bounty of the waters.

(2:01) The style now in Japan, Europe and the U.S. is a type of tourism called “ecological tourism.” Whomever purchases the package no longer wants to know about the traditional destination—London, Paris, New York—they want adventure.

(2:12) One of the preferred destinations is this here, the Brazilian Amazon.

(2:16) We are navigating on the waters of the Rio Negro, and these boats that you see there are part of this industry of tourism. That attracts people full of money who come from the exterior and who many times trip over the laws of Brazil.

(2:32) Now we are on our way to Autazes, 150 km (92 miles) from Manaus. It is the destination of the trips that take the foreigner to the most isolated corners of the Amazon, where fishing is bountiful.

(2:47) It's not the only attraction for tourists; in the middle of the route they experiment with the easy ability to see up-close certain Indian groups.

(3:00) In Sao Joao do Tupe, they assist this ceremony of thanks for the bountiful plenty that comes from the land and the water.

(3:11) But the son of the chief complains that the interests of those who come from the outside is not for the traditions or the beauty of the jungle. They come in the company of girl prostitutes, here in the tribe. So this bothers me some because it looks like we are playing, do you understand?

(3:28) What Reginaldo wants to say, is that the sexual tourism that has spread along the river communities.

(3:35) The port of Autazes is where boats tie up looking for women to service the boats. The offers attract the girls who are faced with the hard economic situation.

(3:47) Now the Brazilian authorities are forced to act because of accusation that came from the U.S.

(3:56) Washington Magalhaes, Attorney—They were recruited with promises of work for one week, which is what an excursion lasts, to work aboard and such, under the promises of \$100 daily. In the end, they had to submit to sexual favors, exploitation of every order, and orgies. Images that were collected by the police themselves show that there were actually orgies.

(4:23) The attorney who presented the witnesses to the Brazilian Federal Police, he represents 7 river girls, all were minors when the case happened in 2004. "In the case of my clients, this initial meeting/briefing/reception was from the port of Autazes, and there they ordered their employees, there are depositions that state this, to recruit actually."

(4:46) Nine witnesses agreed to be interviewed without showing their faces; they are afraid of being retaliated against for denouncing this crime.

(5:05) Our producer showed, on a computer, pictures of some of the accused and they recognize the men that are on the boat. One states that she was taken by force to one

of the cabins. “They just forced, understand? But I did not do, no because I cried, I squirmed, yelled and he went and opened the door. And later because he was not able, he accused me of stealing from him.”

(5:30) This other youngster was 16 years of age, and says that she was invited to participate in a ride. They got there and saw they are really good-looking, and what happened was that [when] they arrived they said that if we did not mind that we would go for a ride, and from there go to the boat for the ride. When one touched my hand, others [took] hands of the other girls, and we went away.

(5:57) Do you remember with how many men you had to have sex on this ship, Amazon Santana?

Just two.

Would you recognize them?

Certainly.

What nationality were they?

I don't know.

Were they Brazilian?

No.

What language did they speak?

They all spoke English.

(6:24) The girl we are going to call “J” was 12 years old when she embarked.

He said that I was to use a drug that they were using, called marijuana. One forced me to have sex with him. It was in a room reserved on the actual boat, a suite.

And the name of the boat was?

Amazon Santana.

(6:46) The case is also being investigated by the FBI, the American police, because it involves U.S. citizens. Here in Brazil, the Federal Police made a search of those two boats involved—the Amazon Santana and Santana II. That is where the crimes would have happened involving the tourists and the minor Brazilians. They are luxurious yachts with various cabins. The packages sell for \$4,500 in the U.S. without the airfare.

(7:25) In the investigation, the Brazilian Federal Police obtained pictures like these and proved that they were taken aboard by crewmembers and the girls.

(7:39) Delegado Roberto Camara/Inspector Camara: The instruction of the investigation was based primarily on the statements of the victims, surveillance of some of these trips, seeing women on the boats utilized by the agency.

The investigation, which has already been sent to the “Ministerio Publico Federal” or Federal Attorney, indicted the owner of the agency in Brazil and the man who sold the trips in the U.S.—the American, Richard Wayne Schair, who is accused of raping the girl “J.”

(8:23) Azen asks, “Do you remember the name of your coaxer/seducer?”

Richard.

What was his nationality?

He was not Brazilian, no. Was from the U.S.

(8:36) The investigation shows how the route of sexual fishing operated from 2000–2007; at least 20 girls were victims.

Of the clients of the attorney, Washington, five were Indians. The investigation has been examining the depositions that show, for example, an agent of the Indian agency (FUNAI) facilitated the entrance of these excursions; facilitated paid or not, the fact that it is illegal and irregular because they were in prohibited areas. You can only enter in Indian areas with the consent of the Indian agents.

(9:21) Even today in the U.S., companies that sell fishing packages in the Amazon promote exclusive access into Indian areas. In this case, the reservations of Tapera, Xeurine, Marmelos Jufari—all in the Amazon.

(9:38) In a fishing season that lasts from August through March, the Federal Police calculate that these companies can make almost \$2 million—a fortune that almost all stays in the U.S., and here in Brazil leaves a trail of crimes and abuses.

(9:57) Attracted to provide services like cleaning, domestic services, cleaning the boat, cooking and laundry, in the end they were required to service and offered \$100.00 per night. They left with R\$30 or R\$40 (\$15–\$20 USD), the most that they were gifted was R\$50 (\$25 USD).

(10:19) The FBI agents who also investigate the case were in Autazes, in the house of this young lady of Indian origin. They found the same poverty level that we are witnessing, a fridge practically empty, they heard dramatic testimony. She states that, at

17, she accepted an offer to work on the yacht Amazon Santana. She was convinced by 2 foreigners to have sexual relations. On the trip, she lost her virginity, and believes that she became pregnant by one of them.

Do you know who is the father of your son?

No.

Is there the possibility that one of the Americans is the father?

Exists.

What would you like to happen now?

That they pay for what they have done.

(11:07) They are poor children, children that may have the difficulty of studying. Education is precarious, and there arrives a foreigner with \$\$\$\$. Makes it easy. Today, tourism must be configured as tourism.

Chapter 30: Fourth Jester Convicted, Former Judge Tills Out of Prison in Three Weeks

Published Sun Jan 2, 2011 6:57 PM PST

Today's news is that Michael Lesinski, a retired Erie County Deputy Sheriff and member of the Royal Order of Jesters, admitted last November 19 that he knew that others were committing felonies, such as the transportation of prostitutes in interstate and foreign commerce, and concealed it by not reporting the crimes to law enforcement as soon as possible.

The technical term for this is "misprision of a felony."

The following is according to Lesinski's plea agreement:

"The defendant did not report any of the above facts to any judge or civil or military authority under the United States. Also, when returning to the United States from Canada, the defendant then had knowledge of the purpose of the women's presence at the Jesters organization meeting and lied to United States Customs officials as to the true purpose of his visit to Canada in a deliberate attempt to conceal the crime."

Lesinski was released on personal recognizance without bail according to his conditions of release, filed on December 4, 2010 with the U.S. District Court of the Western District of New York. He was previously charged last June with conspiring with others to violate the Mann Act after driving a carload of six to seven prostitutes from the Buffalo International Airport to a hotel in Ontario, Canada, for an ROJ national meeting.

The first federal criminal complaint states “between April 18, 2005 to on or about April 24, 2005 that the defendant, MICHAEL LESINSKI, did knowingly, willfully and unlawfully combine, conspire and agree together with others, including Ronald Tills, to commit an offense against the United States, that is, to knowingly transport women in interstate and foreign commerce, with the intent that said women engage in prostitution, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2421; and that at least one overt act was committed in furtherance of the conspiracy, in that the defendant, MICHAEL LESINSKI, on April 18, 2005, did rent limousines in order to transport said women from the Buffalo airport to Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, with the intent that the women engage in prostitution.”

The first Lesinski complaint described the statute violated as the Mann Act.

A Department of Justice press release includes the Jesters in this headline “Former Erie County Sheriff’s Deputy Pleads Guilty in Connection with Jester Prostitution Case.”

According to the first complaint, investigators began interviewing several Jesters in January and February of 2008 including Trowbridge, a retired captain with the Lockport, New York, Police Department. He described a nationwide network of prostitution as he admitted travelling to “books” in both the U.S. and Canada. He described occasions where Buffalo Court Jesters, including Tills and Stebick, made arrangements for Jester Girls to attend “books.”

Tills was in charge of getting the prostitutes to the Jesters’ national “book” across the border in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. According to his plea agreement, Tills admitted to coordinating the prostitutes’ travel with national Jester officers, in or about spring 2006.

Trowbridge then stated that Tills asked Michael Lesinski, a deputy sheriff with the Erie County Sheriff’s Department, to take care of it. Trowbridge then disclosed that Lesinski rented a limousine to transport about a dozen prostitutes from Buffalo to Canada.

The complaint then includes co-conspirator Michael Stebick’s description of how Jester “books” are typically held in hotel hospitality rooms where members can pick from a list of Jester Girls.

It continues that, in April 2008, Trowbridge provided investigators with contact information for the 13 prostitutes as he’d spoken with each of them as they gathered at the Buffalo airport, though there were other prostitutes he’d not spoken with.

In June 2008, Tills told investigators that there were about 30 women at the national book and “described a network of members who had the ability to supply such women.”

It was then that he identified Lesinski's renting of two limousines that took the prostitutes to Canada.

This all started when the FBI began surveillance from August to November 2007 of massage parlors suspected as being fronts for prostitution.

It turns out that Len Wah Chong pleaded guilty to running four brothels, partially staffed with undocumented foreigners who travelled through an international human trafficking network.

This application for the search warrant includes information from FBI wiretaps and includes Chong talking about the "judge" and "police captain."

The only "judge" associated with this has been former Judge Tills. And the only "police captain" associated with this has been retired police captain John Trowbridge.

Here are descriptions of phone conversations found in the Chong complaint that mentioned the "judge" and the "police captain."

Chapter 31: Jesters Named

Published Sat Mar 19, 2011 9:57 AM PDT

Imagine answering the door to find IRS criminal investigators, badges on belts next to holstered guns, serving search warrants after they read a U.S. Attorney's description of your group as having guys in nearly every club nationwide who gets prostitutes for your weekend parties.

This is a partial list of names of those in charge of such groups from the nonprofit tax returns of the Royal Order of Jesters, currently under investigation for sex trafficking, prostitution and child sex tourism.

As we get ready to fill out our returns, these guys continue cheating the system and hoodwinking us taxpayers. They expect us to make up for the taxes they don't pay, like property tax. And since the Jesters' exempt purpose is to spread the gospel of mirth and merriment, they write off their party expenses.

A fraternal return from the Jesters shows the revenue from membership and assessments = \$546,156. Revenue from the Book of the Play = \$578,074. Expenses for the Book of the Play = \$594,938.

These guys think nothing of spending nearly \$600,000 on a weekend party.

That's over \$12,000 an hour.

Then they overspent by -\$16,564.

As Jesters deduct their membership dues and contributions on their individual tax returns, the national group, and groups nationwide raise the money needed to pay for their "Book of the Play."

The first article about this phony fraternity, "Jesters Exposed", describes how the Marion County Assessor rejected a property tax exemption after not being able to determine if the new Jester headquarters building met museum guidelines. The Jesters appealed the denial and convinced the tax appeal board to grant the exemption because the Royal Order of Jesters is an appendant body of Masonry.

Did the Jesters mislead the tax appeals board by confusing the apples of being a charity (501(c)(3)) with the oranges of being a fraternity (501(c)(10))? Are the Jesters misleading the IRS about their charitable purpose of housing a museum after it was rejected by the Marion County Assessor?

Tax return information from both national Jester groups can be found under "Indiana." This list is organized by state, Jester court and data from each year's return including contact information, income, Jester officers and unusual expenses.

And losses.

Out of 59 Jester returns cited, 26 don't lose money. Thirty returns show losses and three courts show losses for all years. These are Phoenix #17, Oakland #6 and Evansville #102.

Sorting through this list of tedious info can be fun in a "Where's Waldo?" kind of way. See if you can find anyone you know on the list, especially if they're in the judiciary or law enforcement.

Alabama

ROJ Court #75

124 South Main, Arab, AL 35106 / (256) 586-4111

2004 - Gregory J. Cook, Impresario; Forrest Knowles, Leading man; Robert Utley, Treasurer; Charles Lamar, Tragedian; Ted Ryan, Director. Income: \$10,440. Loss for year: -\$3,198. Conference expenses: \$9,214.

Nothing listed for exempt purpose.

ROJ Court Birmingham #127

3617 Wyngate Lane, Birmingham, AL 35242 / (205) 966-1701

2009 - P.V. Greggerson Jr., Director; Roger Scott, Leading man; John Lee, Treasurer. Income: \$63,854. Loss for year: -\$6,688. Convention expenses: \$63,126.

2008 - Chet Hayes, Director; P.V. Greggerson Jr., Leading man; John Lee, Treasurer. Income: \$82,478. Loss for year: -\$22,496. Convention expenses: \$98,017.

2007 - Miles Huffstutler, Director; Fred Slaney, Leading man; John Lee, Treasurer. Income: \$82,417. Convention expenses: \$67,693.

ROJ Court Montgomery #96

(2007) PO Box 1604, Millbrook, AL 36054 / (334) 285-5428

2007 - 990 signed by James Clyde Wiggins Jr. No income, expenses or liabilities listed.

(2006) 6252 Moon Rd., Columbus, Georgia 31909 / (706) 568-4481

2006 - 990 signed by Jeffrey P. Johnson, Impresario. No income, expenses or liabilities listed.

(2005) 2325 Winchester Ct., Montgomery, AL 36106-3331 / (334) 277-5967

2005 - 990 signed by George A. Walker, Impresario.

Alaska

ROJ Court Polar #182

35555 Kenai Spur Hwy, PMB #330, Soldotna, AK 99669 / (907) 344-7516

2008 - Robert G. Homoleski, Impresario; Mark Leaf, Director; Fred V. Angleton, Leading Man; Gene Browning, Treasurer. Income: \$55,772. Loss for year: -\$11,268.

Convention expenses were \$67,040, to "present annual gathering to promote mirth and fun among the organization's members and guests." Organization's Mission: "Fraternal Org'n promoting fun and mirth."

2007 - Robert G. Homoleski, Impresario; David Worel, Director; Mark Leaf, Leading Man; Fred V. Angleton, Treasurer. Income: \$84,573. Convention expenses: \$73,526.

2006 - Robert G. Homoleski, Impresario; Donald A. Witsoe, Director; David Worel, Leading Man; Fred V. Angleton, Treasurer. Income: \$52,715. Convention expenses: \$38,961.

Arizona

ROJ Court Phoenix #17

PO Box 32728, Phoenix, AZ 85064 / (480) 948-3202

Organization's mission: To operate under the bylaws of the National Organization of the Royal Order of Jesters.

2009 - Bob Hicklin, Impresario; Tommy Royden, Director; Charlie Grindstaff, Leading Man; Bruce McDonald, Tragedian; Wayne Marsh, Treasurer. Income: \$97,898. Loss for year: -\$56,890. Book of the Play: \$99,160. Director expenses: \$4,742.

2008 - Bob Hicklin, Impresario; Tommy Royden, Director; Charlie Grindstaff, Leading Man; Bruce McDonald, Tragedian; Wayne Marsh, Treasurer. Income: \$99,155. Loss for year: -\$35,181. Book of the Play: \$97,298. Director expenses: \$5,102.

2007 - Bob Hicklin, Impresario; Jerry Hollis, Impresario; Michael Grenz, Director; Don Claxton, Director; Tommy Royden, Treasurer; Vern Hicklin, Secretary. Income: \$164,708. Loss for year: -\$32,395. Book of the Play: \$109,284.

Arkansas

ROJ Court Little Rock #012

PO Box 2677, Little Rock, AR 72203 / (501) 374-6422

2009 - Glenn Grimes, Impresario; Gary Higginbotham, Director; William Paul Lawson, Treasurer. Income: \$25,144. Book of the Play: \$11,731. Dining: \$1,120.

2008 - Glenn Grimes, Impresario; David Lee, Director; William Paul Lawson, Treasurer. Income: \$25,877. Loss for year: -\$961. Book of the Play: \$13,915.

2007 - Glenn Grimes, Impresario; Wayne Ray, Director; William Paul Lawson, Treasurer. Income: \$62,213. Book of the Play: \$40,165.

California

ROJ Court Long Beach #161

(2009, 2008) 2601 Saturn St. #210, Brea, CA 92821-6702 / (714) 871-2422

2009 - Mike Smith, President; Beyn Schwing, Vice President; Dale Closson, Secretary. Income: \$79,012. Expenses: \$77,251.

2008 - Larry Lee, President; Beyn Schwing, Vice President; Dale Closson, Secretary. Income: \$80,027. Expenses: \$77,085.

(2007) 2600 Nutwood Ave. #200, Fullerton, CA 92831-3105, same as address listed for David L. Bates, Bates Coughtry Riess LLP CPAS, paid tax preparer.

2007 - Lew Main, President; Larry Lee, Vice President; Dale Closson, Secretary.
Income: \$91,342. Loss for year: -\$6,812. Expenses: \$98,155.

ROJ Court Fresno #157

c/o Jonathan W. Higgins, 4524 N. Manila, Fresno, CA 93727 / (559) 284-1493

Organization's primary purpose: Fraternal.

2009 - Jonathan W. Higgins, Impresario; T.A. Heckel, Director. Income: \$104,839.24.
Loss for year: -\$2,755.16. Expenses for monthly and other meetings: \$105,891.02.

2008 - Jonathan W. Higgins, Impresario; David Pitts, Director. Income: \$118,876.75.
Loss for year: -\$6,616.49. Expenses for monthly and other meetings: \$122,840.16.

2006 - Jonathan W. Higgins, Impresario; Louis Jelinek, Director. Income: \$120,064.32.
Expenses for monthly and other meetings: \$85,892.16. Christmas party: \$21,499.46.

ROJ Court Sacramento #119

c/o Larry Harris, 6744 Garmire Road, Meridian, CA 96957 / (530) 696-2355

2009 - Larry Harris, Impresario; Harold Barker, Director; Ted McCade, Leading Man;
Guy Harris, Tragedian; Gary Disher, Treasurer. Income: \$102,885. Fraternal events:
\$74,581.

ROJ Court Los Angeles #84

Exempt purpose: Social events for members and guests.

c/o Gordon Hoyt Jr. 1255 Harbor Lake Ave, Brea, CA 92821 / (562) 945-5443

2008 - Gordon Hoyt Jr., Impresario; Marc Brauer, Director; Larry Clement, Leading
Man; Steve Nauertz, Tragedian; Norman C. Wintjen, Treasurer. Income: \$165,328.
Event expenses: \$135,459.

2007 - Gordon Hoyt Jr., Impresario; Curtis D. Porterfield, Director; Marc Brauer, Leading
Man; Larry Clement, Tragedian; Steve Nauertz, Treasurer. Income: \$128,823. Loss for
year: -\$6,745. Social events receipts: \$86,095. Social events expense: \$109,186. Loss
from social events: -\$23,091.

2006 - Gordon Hoyt, Impresario; Don Aston, Director; Curtis Porterfield, Leading Man;
Marc Brauer, Tragedian; Larry Clement, Treasurer. Income: \$100,631. Social events
expense: \$56,214.

ROJ Court Oakland #6

c/o James L. Sloneker, 367 Conway Drive, Danville, CA 94526 / (925) 820-2024

2009 - Sam Smith Jr., Impresario; Gary Kenst, Director; James L. Sloneker, Treasurer. Income: \$40,511. Securities: \$168,254. Change in assets: -\$7,501.

2008 - Mark Manlove, Impresario; Gary Kenst, Director; James L. Sloneker, Treasurer. Income: \$45,543. Securities: \$153,239. Loss: -\$46,407.

2007 - Mark Manlove, Impresario; Gary Kenst, Director; James L. Sloneker, Treasurer. Income: \$49,146. Securities: \$175,147. Loss: -\$23,189.

Colorado

ROJ Court Denver #138

2389 Van Gordon St., Lakewood, CO / (303) 237-6127

2009 - Duane Hess, President; Chuck Petersen, Vice President; Tom Woodworth, Secretary; Jack Patten, Treasurer. Income: \$64,730. Expenses: \$66,121. Loss for year: -\$1,391. Charitable donation: \$125.

2008 - Lee MacDonald, President; Duane Hess, Vice President; Claude Akridge, Secretary; Jack Patten, Treasurer. Income: \$71,055. Charitable donation: \$125.

Connecticut

ROJ Court Springfield #144

c/o James Kocot, 76 Blue Ridge Dr., Somers, CT 06071-1027 / (860) 749-3884

2009 - James W. Kocot, Impresario; Robert D. Waltermire, Director; Stanley B. Rubinstein, Treasurer. Income: \$100,191. Net income summary: -\$2,579.

2008 - James W. Kocot, Impresario; Alan C. Garlick, Director; Stanley B. Rubinstein, Treasurer. Income: \$100,510. Loss for year: -\$2,799.

2007 - James W. Kocot, Impresario; James R. Spear, Director; Stanley B. Rubinstein, Treasurer. Income: \$123,498. Membership: \$120.

ROJ Court DiMaryp Ct. #66

150 Vincent St., Milford, CT 06460

2008 mission: Pyramid Shriners Children's Hospitals.

2008 - John Reynolds, Impresario; James Reed, Director. 96 members. Balance: -6,447.

2007 - John Reynolds, Impresario; William F. Knipp, Director. Securities: \$22,656.

2006 - John Reynolds, Impresario; William F. Knipp, Director. Gross receipts: \$43,193.

ROJ Court Hartford #141

3 Cottonwood Court, Graney, CT 06035-2416 / (860) 658-2266

2009 - John C. Kuzmak, Impresario; Adolph F. Matiz, Director; Kenneth A. Barrett, Treasurer. Barrett also provided home address as Jester HQ, and signed tax return. Revenue: \$34,380. Expenses: \$29,942.

2008 - John C. Kuzmak, Impresario; Frederick E. Cramer, Director; Kenneth A. Barrett, Treasurer. Revenue: \$34,803. Expenses: \$33,474, including Pins, Badges, Meetings (\$25,047).

2007 - John C. Kuzmak, Impresario; Joseph Kusso, Director; Kenneth A. Barrett, Treasurer. Revenue: \$44,519. Expenses: \$34,056, including Meetings (\$26,017).

Florida

ROJ Court Orlando #166

1046 Crestwood Commons Avenue, Ocoee, FL 34761 / (407) 222-8934

2009 - Denis West, Impresario; Scott E. Shearer, Director; Ben Benham, Leading Man; Roger D. Markham, Tragedian; Robert G. Woodall, Treasurer. Income: \$72,182. Meetings and conventions: \$43,558.

2008 - Denis West, Impresario; Paul Hyam, Director; Ben Benham, Tragedian; Scott E. Shearer, Leading Man; Robert G. Woodall, Treasurer. Income: \$35,683. Loss for year: - \$19,017. Meetings and conventions: \$46,082.

2007 - Denis West, Impresario; Paul Hyam, Leading Man; Thom H. Weekley, Director; Scott E. Shearer, Tragedian; Robert G. Woodall, Treasurer. Income: \$68,377. Meetings and conventions: \$51,188.

ROJ Court Tampa #89

402 North Howard Ave., Tampa, FL 33606

Program Service accomplishments: "Happiness and mirth was spread throughout the realm."

2008 - William G. Gainer, Impresario; Cliff Curry, Director; Harry B. Forehand, Tragedian; Lawton W. Thatcher, Leading Man; John J. Faircloth, Treasurer. Income: \$177,900. Conferences and meetings: \$161,458. Gifts: \$969.

2007 - William G. Gainer, Impresario; Cliff Curry, Leading Man; William T. Branch, Director; Lawton W. Thatcher, Tragedian; John J. Faircloth, Treasurer. Income: \$152,710. Loss for year: -\$17,019. Conferences and meetings: \$153,781. Gifts: \$715.

2006 - William G. Gainer, Impresario; Cliff Curry, Tragedian; William T. Branch, Leading Man; H. Cal Henderson, Director; John J. Faircloth, Treasurer. Income: \$152,710. Loss for year: -\$2,868. Conferences and meetings: \$148,260. Gifts: \$367.

Indiana

National Court of the Royal Order of Jesters

c/o Alex Rogers, 5725 Liberty Crossing Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46254 / (313) 295-1313

Organization's 501(c)(10) fraternal mission: "Promoting fellowship and fraternalism, and extending assistance and good cheer to others."

2008 - John T. Stafford, Royal Impresario; Scutter Newton, Royal Stage Manager; Kent E. Morstad, Royal Heavy Man; William H. Kemple III, Royal Property Man; James M. Lake, PRD, Royal Treasurer; Gary M. Martin, Royal Director; William Siders, Royal Leading Man; Robert S. Haynes, Royal Tragedian; Robert R. Armstrong, Royal Leading Lady; Alex Rogers, Business Administrator.

Revenue: \$941,859. Net assets: \$1,664,673. Book of the Play: \$235,137. Consulting: \$85,169. Director expense: \$20,928. Advertising and promotion: \$72,038. Insurance: \$33,732. Director compensation: \$59,300.

2007 - Robert S. Haynes, Royal Impresario; John T. Stafford, Royal Stage Manager; Taylor E. Best, Royal Director; Robert R. Armstrong, Royal Property Manager; James M. Lake, PRD, Royal Treasurer; Gary M. Martin, Royal Leading Man; William Siders, Royal Tragedian; Samuel Newton, Royal Leading Lady; Alex Rogers, Business Administrator.

Gross receipts: \$2,879,402. Net assets: \$1,642,997. Book of the Play: \$326,414. Director expense: \$23,533. Director compensation: \$59,300. Rituals: \$13,032. Loss for year: -\$155,232.

When is the last time you deducted "rituals?"

Scutter Newton is listed on the witness list linking the national Jester organization to the former fishing tour operator indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police for rape, using minors in a prostitution network, and violating indigenous rights.

International Royal Order of Jesters, INC

5725 Liberty Crossing Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46254 / (317) 295-1313

Organization's 501(c)(3) charitable purpose is "extending assistance and good cheer to others. Providing a museum for items and articles of mirth, comedy and laughter."

2008 - Hugh Libby, President; Ray Thagard, Vice President; George Burt, Secretary; Ray Grannis, Treasurer; James White, Board Member; Alex Rogers, Executive Director. Rogers gets \$11,277 Compensation, \$15,500 Deferred Compensation.

Receipts: \$75,709. Net assets: \$1,453,435. Land and buildings: \$963,162. Membership dues and assessments: \$64,877. Gifts, grants, and contributions: \$140,586. Functional expenses: \$151,259. Land: \$1,029,577. Telephone: \$0.

"The organization received revenues for the construction of a Jester monument that will help to promote the organization's mission." \$55,337.

2007 - Hugh Libby, President; Ray Thagard, Vice President; George Burt, Secretary; Ray Grannis, Treasurer; James White, Board Member; Henry Everett, Board Member; Alex Rogers, Executive Director.

Receipts: \$334,609. Net assets: \$1,430,812. Land and buildings: \$1,029,577. Membership dues and assessments: \$76,453. Gifts, grants, and contributions: \$303,150. Functional expenses: \$69,689. Stone and brick engraving: \$14,529. Telephone: \$0.

2006 - Gary N. Martin, President; William Siders, Secretary; Robert H. Haynes, Treasurer; Dennis R. Schueler, Chairman; Robert C. Davis, Board Member; James M. Lake, Board Member; John T. Stafford, Board Member; Alex Rogers, Executive Director; Gene Best, Board Member.

Receipts: \$665,739. Net assets: \$1,415,892. Land and buildings: \$1,281,660. Gifts, grants, and contributions: \$411,315. Functional expenses: \$221,563. Land: \$1,051,724. Building, improvements, furniture, and equipment: \$23,977. Building dedication: \$9,415. Telephone: \$0.

Gifts, grants, and contribution totals for 2004 and 2005 were \$446,236 and \$449,393, respectively.

What kind of a museum doesn't pay a phone bill?

ROJ Court Evansville #102

900 S. Meadow Road, Evansville, IN 47714-0664 / (812) 424-2104

2009 - J. Ken Wendt, Director; Joseph J. Vezzoso, Jr., Impresario (same address as above); Charles R. McDonald, Treasurer. Income: \$47,044. Membership dues: \$44,930. Loss from special events: -\$2,246. Meeting expense: \$34,728. Gifts: \$969.

Tax return asks in Part III, Statement of Program Service Accomplishments:

“What is the organization’s primary exempt purpose?”

Answer: “Fraternal”

“Describe what was achieved in carrying out the organization’s exempt purposes. In clear and concise manner, describe the services provided, the number of persons benefited, and other relevant information for each program title.”

Answer: “Not Required.”

The 2008 address for Evansville Court #102 is listed as 6 Walnut St. This is the same address as the Hadi Shrine.

2008 - J. Ken Wendt, Director; Joseph J. Vezzoso, Jr., Impresario; Charles R. McDonald, Treasurer. Income: \$65,478. Loss for year: -\$4,974. Meeting expense: \$36,175. New candidate expense: \$2,250.

2007 - Charles R. McDonald, Director; Joseph J. Vezzoso, Jr., Impresario; Jack A. Strassweg, Treasurer. Income: \$61,255. Loss: -\$12,031. Meeting expense: \$31,107. New candidate expense: \$844.

Special Events and Activities Statement

National Book: -\$3,976.

Golf Outing: -\$3,226.

Ladies Night: -\$4,829.

Total Loss: -\$12,031.

A Google search for “Joe Vezzoso” reveals news stories he’s involved with.

Maryland

ROJ Court Capital #50

7500 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814 / (202) 253-3290

2009 - Ernest N. Palmer, Director; L. Blaine Charak, Secretary (same address as above); Alan L. Gordon, Treasurer. Income: \$39,897. Regalia: \$2,471. Office supplies: \$725. Gifts: \$90.

2008 - Emerick Debor, Director; L. Blaine Charak, Secretary; Alan L. Gordon, Treasurer. Income: \$49,948. Membership dues: \$11,724. Loss from special events: - \$13,471. Loss for year: -\$5,067. Regalia: \$1,019. Office supplies: \$337.

2007 - Matthew D. Clarkson, Director; L. Blaine Charak, Secretary; Alan L. Gordon, Treasurer. Income: \$32,694. Membership dues: \$12,541. Total revenue: \$6,502. Loss for year: -\$1,543. Regalia: \$3,147. Office supplies: \$230.

Fraternal activity income and expenses were \$20,084 and \$26,192, respectively. Loss: - \$6,108. These negative balances are surprising since L. Blaine Charak is the vice president of a commercial bank.

Minneapolis

ROJ Court Minneapolis #53

c/o Larry Messerli 6550 York Av., Edina, MN 55435 / (952) 927-8350

2009 - Tony Krall, Representative; Terry Thiele, Director; Mark Berg, Impresario; Larry E. Messerli, Treasurer; Ken Chambers, Tragedian; Jon Hanson, Representative. Income: \$78,508. Expenses: \$86,082. Loss for year: -\$8,211.

Hanson is a defendant in a Shriner case, just accepted by the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

2008 records are temporarily offline.

2007 - Larry E. Messerli, Treasurer; Vernon S. Hoiium, Director. Income, membership dues, and assessments: \$166,199. Expenses: \$166,788. Loss for year: -\$589.

Finally, national Jester officials have, since December 2007, ignored four requests to provide tax returns as well as Form 1023, the group's application for exemption. Special thanks to Guidestar.org for making nonprofit tax returns available to the public.

Chapter 32: Fourth Jester Sentenced

Published Mon Apr 11, 2011 9:36 PM PDT

This DOJ headline says it all.

"Former Erie County Sheriff's Deputy Sentenced for Failing to Report Jester Prostitution in Canada."

Former Erie County Deputy Sheriff Michael Lesinski was sentenced today to one year of probation and a \$1,000 fine for “misprision of a felony.” He pleaded guilty to transporting prostitutes from the Buffalo, New York airport to a national Jester convention in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada in April 2005, and not reporting the felony to authorities.

He is the fourth sentenced after The Buffalo News first reported on March 8, 2008 that three Jesters were caught in an FBI human trafficking investigation aimed at the owner of four massage parlors that were fronts for prostitution. All pleaded guilty to transporting an undocumented, foreign prostitute from one of the Buffalo massage parlors to a Jester party in Ashland, Kentucky.

The Western New York Human Trafficking Task Force led a 15-month FBI investigation into prostitution in the Buffalo area. Agents gathered enough evidence to arrest Len Wah Chong, now in prison for six years after pleading guilty to sex trafficking by force, coercion and fraud. She attracted foreign, undocumented prostitutes by promising her establishments were protected by law enforcement.

According to Aaron Besecker of The Buffalo News:

“As a part of her guilty plea, Chong admitted she used names and titles of men she said were in positions of authority, like ‘judge’ or ‘sheriff,’ to exert control over the women. There were at least 11 women whom she employed over the period she operated the parlors.”

Chapter 33: Commentarial: Royal Order of Jesters

Published Fri Apr 22, 2011 9:42 AM PDT

This is an editorial in response to comments from “Mavis” left after “Fourth Jester Sentenced.”

Editor’s Note: This has been lightly edited for clarity since the original publication.

Dear Mavis,

Thank you for sharing your rage and passion because the Jesters do nothing but hurt people, exploit women and girls and rip the rest of us off with their devious little tax schemes.

I felt the same way after reading the depositions of those five Brazilian Indian girls who told the Federal Police that they’d been lured off their reservations into prostitution by a former fishing tour operator for sex with his North American clients. I then went on to read about the state of indigenous rights in Brazil, that the Indians were put on “reservations” as wards because they were viewed as too dumb and too uncivilized to

take care of themselves. Today, their resources are stolen with little or no compensation.

I knew then that I had to give voice to these girls. The FBI interviewed them, including one who was left pregnant after one such trip at age 13. Let's hope to hear about our own federal investigation sooner than later because the situation is definitely heating up.

According to the Brazilian Federal Court system, a decision was made on April 11, 2011 in the case of Richard Schair, charged and indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police with (1) corruption of minors under 18; (2) attracting the girls and facilitating the prostitution of the same; (3) maintaining locations (Santana boats) destined for the prostitution; (4) taking advantage of the prostitution and using it for support in part by using said services to attract clients and promoting the recruitment; (5) transport to the cities of Autazes and Barcelos; and (6) lodging on the boats for the girls that go there to practice prostitution, among other conducts. It has yet to be revealed what that decision is, but the judge in charge had a chance to dismiss the case in June 2009 after Schair submitted a failed habeas corpus request asking for just that.

ECPAT USA has a new "Protect Children in Tourism" project in Brazil. This is from the website:

ECPAT groups throughout Brazil met together to discuss the work plan for ECPAT Brazil for the year. Participants were the 23 of the 27 affiliated organizations from the Northeast, Southeast and Central Western Regions, including World Childhood Foundation. Groups were informed about the planned actions of ECPAT Brazil for the next two years including the Project in partnership with ECPAT USA.

One of those who had been expected to testify about his knowledge of sex with minor prostitutes while on a fishing trip to Brazil is a national Jester officer. The plea agreements of the former Judge and Erie County Sheriff state that they worked with national Jester officials to get prostitutes over the Canadian border to a national Jester meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

This does not bode well for those Jestors who are currently trying to reverse a decision against their property tax exemption application and avoid paying over \$50,000 in property taxes. The national Jester office hired attorneys to advance their claims of being a Masonic fraternity to gain the tax exemption, though the Jestors somehow convinced the IRS that "museum" qualified them as a "charity."

The problem is that the Marion County Assessor didn't believe the building was a museum and denied the exemption. The matter is before state tax authorities as they try to figure out who is telling the truth because the assessor's decision contradicts the IRS decision to grant the Jestors charity status as a "museum."

What will happen after state investigators Google “Royal Order of Jesters” and identify court and tax documents linking prostitution and child sex tourism to that same building?

Questions emailed to the Masonic Grand Master of Indianapolis, Kenneth Willis Jr., remain unanswered, including his recognition of the Jesters as a Masonic group. Does he support their fraternal claims so they get the property tax exemption? Is he aware of any Masonic activities held in the Jesters’ HQ building?

Maybe I shouldn’t have emailed it last April 1.

Back to those Jesters who party with prostitutes at taxpayer expense, like your husband.

He’s certainly no different than other Jesters whose status as Master Mason and Shriner puts them next to “hypocrisy” in the dictionary. Who vows love, charity and brotherhood and gets caught driving a foreign, undocumented prostitute to a Jester party or is pictured partying with underage prostitutes in Brazil?

The things you are going through, Mavis, are the certainly among the worst.

Your golden years ruined because your husband wants to be a pimp instead of a husband. But if he had been one of those Jesters who went fishing for girls over 13 in Brazil, he’d be facing calls for death and castration.

Discussions about American pedophiles in the Amazon have been going on since March 13, 2008. Words like “monsters,” “pigs,” “motherf*ckers,” and “a**holes” describe those who prey on Brazil’s children. One posted:

According to the indigenous Guaraní culture that inhabited from the South to the Midwest the parent or responsible for a son or daughter who were abused or assaulted by another Indian or person had the right to decide whether such an aggressor would be castrated or suffer the same aggression committed.

Another wrote:

What would you do if you discover that a Stallion abused if your little girl of 11 or 12 aninhos? Certainly this kind of criminal, mentally ill, in my opinion had to be arrested and immediately, castrated, cut all off to serve as examples.

What about the Lesinski sentencing? He basically screwed his brothers by fighting the first charge of violating the Mann Act by pleading guilty to knowing about a felony and not reporting it. This sets precedent for and provides prosecutors with the template to go after these guys nationwide.

Hang in there, Mavis, and thank you for being a voice for Jester wives.

Sandy

Chapter 34: Brazil Prosecutes Schair and Co. for Running House of Prostitution

Published Sat Apr 30, 2011 1:44 PM PDT

The Brazilian Public Ministry filed notice yesterday that federal attorneys are prosecuting the indictment against former fishing tour operator Richard W. Schair, of Gainesville, Georgia, for allegedly operating a house of prostitution. Schair is the only North American among a group of Brazilians charged in this criminal action including Jose Lauro Rock Da Silva, Juscelino of Souza Motta, Daniel Geraldo Lopes, Admilson Garcia Da Silva, Adilson Garcia Da Silva, and Silvo Pettengill Neto.

Will U.S. investigators use evidence gathered on their trip to Brazil to charge Schair or his Jester clients with violating the Protect Act of 2003? Will they be charged with engaging in illicit sexual conduct of any commercial sex act in a foreign country with anything of value given to or received by a person under the age of 18?

According to the U.S. Department of State:

“It is a crime for a United States citizen or permanent resident to travel abroad for the purpose of having sex with a minor and it is a crime for a United States citizen or permanent resident to actually have sex with a minor while abroad... It is a criminal activity to knowingly arrange, induce, procure or facilitate for profit the travel of a person when you know that the person is traveling for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with minors.”

Chapter 35: Brazilian Girls Sue Richard Schair for Sex Trafficking

Published Tue Jun 14, 2011 2:54 PM PDT

Update 7/12/2011: U.S. Congressman Chris Smith, representing New Jersey's Fourth District, authored the “Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (P.L. 106-386)” or TVPA.

Equality Now, a humanitarian group dedicated to protecting and promoting women's rights around the world, has just announced their coordination of unprecedented legal efforts to represent four Brazilian Indian girls in a complaint filed today in U.S. District Court, Gainesville Division, against Richard Schair of Gainesville, Georgia. (1)

The complaint alleges that Schair caused the underage girls to engage in commercial sex acts and describes them as victims of sex trafficking, with one as young as twelve.

The complaint further alleges that Schair, “by and through his agents and employees, engaged in international commerce and sex trafficking of children by recruiting customers in the United States to engage in ‘sex tourism’ in Brazil.”

The complaint continues that Schair and associates used fraudulent and coercive means to recruit, obtain, harbor and transport “young girls under the age of eighteen aboard the Amazon Santana and used fraudulent means to solicit and coerce Plaintiffs into commercial sex acts with his customers aboard the Amazon Santana.”

The following is from a press release hosted on Equality Now: “Initiated and coordinated by international human rights organization Equality Now, the landmark civil case will be filed by Atlanta law firm King & Spalding. The case is noteworthy because it is the first time that the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) will be used by alleged victims of trafficking to seek damages from a sex tour operation.”

John Harbin, a partner in the law firm, will lead the pro bono litigation. He states, “With this lawsuit, we hope to shine a spotlight on such conduct and the real harm it does to the victims, and to get justice for the victims.”

King & Spalding has been in business for 125 years, with over 800 lawyers in offices in Abu Dhabi, Atlanta, Austin, Charlotte, Dubai, Frankfurt, Geneva, Houston, London, Moscow, New York, Paris, Riyadh (affiliated office), San Francisco, Silicon Valley, Singapore and Washington, D.C. According to their website, “King & Spalding represents half of the Fortune100 and, according to a Corporate Counsel survey in August 2009, ranks fifth in its total number of representations of those companies.”

The girls are seeking damages for trafficking them to engage in commercial sex acts while (1) under the age of eighteen; and (2) by means of force, fraud or coercion, in the State of Amazonas, Brazil, aboard the vessel Amazon Santana in an amount to be determined at trial.

Brazilian attorney, Dr. Washington Cesar Rocha Magalhaes, anchors the legal activity in the Amazon as he represented the girls when they testified in June 2007 as part of a federal investigation into the sexual exploitation of minor Indian girls living along the Amazon by North American foreign tourists.

The TVPA was passed by Congress in 2000 to prevent and protect against sex trafficking by punishing the traffickers and protecting the victims.

Equality Now chooses their cases “based on their significance and the prospects of finding restitution for the victims and reshaping the rule of law by setting precedents or highlighting the need for equal protection under the law. Cases are brought to the public’s attention and foster public debate and more widespread rights-seeking. Equality

Now is currently supporting three cases through the Adolescent Girls' Legal Defense Fund.”

Ethiopia - Marriage by abduction, a common practice in parts of Ethiopia, occurs when a man kidnaps a woman or girl, rapes her and then pressures her to marry him. In 2005, following advocacy efforts by the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA), supported by an international Equality Now campaign, Ethiopia abolished the law that provided for exemption from punishment in these cases of abduction and rape, if the rapist subsequently married his victim.

Zambia - The “defilement” or rape of minors is rampant in Zambia. Equality Now has been actively supporting a case involving the rape of a 13-year-old girl by her teacher. Two other teachers confirmed her allegations, and the girl’s aunt/guardian reported the incident to the school. The teacher admitted she was his “girlfriend”, and remarks reportedly made by the head teacher indicated that this was not the first such incident involving this teacher. The teacher went into hiding, and his parents tried to negotiate with the aunt, who refused and reported the matter to the police. The teacher was arrested but was released on bond and has not been prosecuted. As a result, the aunt consulted a lawyer she knew who agreed to handle the case pro bono as a civil matter.

Kenya - The AGLDF is monitoring the case of a young Maasai girl who bled to death after being subjected to Female Genital Mutilation in Kenya. The circumciser and the girl’s father were arrested and are facing manslaughter charges. This may be one of the first prosecutions of a circumciser and a parent in the Maasai community. The AGLDF retained a lawyer to help the prosecution bring a successful case (public prosecutors in Kenya are often not lawyers themselves), and we will follow the case until a judgment is rendered.

Taina Bien-Aime, Executive Director of Equality Now explains, “This unprecedented case focuses on the criminal links between human trafficking and the sex tourism industry operating from the United States with impunity. We hope it sends a loud and clear message to all sex tour operators in the United States that sex trafficking victims anywhere can bring a case against those who exploit them by pressing for damages in the U.S.”

Equality Now reports that UNICEF estimates about a quarter of a million children are forced into the commercial sex industry in Brazil, the second largest number after Thailand. The 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report by the U.S. State Department reports that officials are concerned about Brazil’s “serious official complicity in trafficking crimes at a local level” and that “police have turned a blind eye to child prostitution and potential human trafficking activity.”

“It is time for the U.S. federal government to take all forms of sex tourism seriously,” Bien-Aime continued, “and apply the law to the fullest extent to punish the perpetrators and protect the victims of American sex tourism around the world.”

(1) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 11, states, “Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which they have had all the guarantees necessary for their defense.”

Chapter 36: Richard Schair Admits U.S. Criminal Investigation

Published Fri Jul 8, 2011 2:54 PM PDT

Yesterday, Richard Schair made public a criminal investigation by a federal grand jury into his and ex-wife Amelia’s alleged involvement with child sex tourism in Brazil.

Schair filed a pro se motion in the Gainesville, Georgia federal court to “stay” or stop a civil complaint brought against him by four Brazilian girls who allege he caused them, while underage, to engage in commercial sex acts with his North American fishing clients.

Their unprecedented complaint was coordinated by Equality Now, an international humanitarian group dedicated to fighting the sexual abuse and exploitation of women and girls with pro bono legal assistance provided by the Atlanta law firm of King & Spalding.

The complaint was filed to enforce civil remedies provided by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), describing the girls as victims of sex trafficking, with one as young as twelve.

Schair’s motion to stay “is a private counterpart to two ongoing criminal actions,” including prosecution by the Brazilian Public Ministry and Grand Jury FGJ 08-304 (MIA) out of Miami, Florida. It is not yet clear if the foreign prosecution is admissible in support of the stay.

Schair’s motion includes a copy of the original Brazilian charging document and documents from the Miami Grand Jury, including a target letter sent to Schair’s ex-wife on December 16, 2010. This request from Assistant U.S. Attorney Marlene Rodriguez asks Amelia to talk with agents because “according to information that ICE and FBI supplied, Ms. Schair was involved with a company and/or an individual who may have engaged in child sex tourism in Brazil.”

Other grand jury documents include a subpoena to testify, issued to Schair’s former fishing company Wet-A-Line Tours in July 2009.

One document asks for (1) Schair's travel records from January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2008; (2) photographs of all customers; and (3) electronic communication, files and contact information regarding all individual customers, corporate entity customers and subcontracted travel agencies.

Another document is a request from the Brazilian Federal Ministry to a Federal Judge in the Amazon District, asking for the prosecution of Richard W. Schair and five others. The request alleges that, from 2005–2007, Schair's fishing trips aboard the Amazon Santana "engaged in the illegal activities of sexual exploitation of minors, taking financial advantage of the prostitution of minors." The request spells out the charges for which Schair was indicted:

- Sexual Exploitation of Minors.
- Rape.
- Facilitation of Prostitution.
- Ruffianism.
- Domestic trafficking of people.

It has been confirmed that investigators have interviewed the Jesters about their trip/s to Brazil. It has yet to be determined if any of them have been called to testify before the grand jury.

Chapter 37: International Coverage of Brazil Child Sex Tourism Takes Off, 20 American Tourists Targeted by Brazilian Federal Police, Documents from Richard Schair's Criminal Past

Published Tue Jul 12, 2011 9:41 PM PDT

Disclaimer: All are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The news about Richard Schair's alleged involvement with child sex tourism in Brazil has spread around the world since "Allegations Link U.S. Companies to Brazilian Sex Tourism" by Barry Meier, was published by The New York Times on Friday, July 8, 2011.

Different articles in The Brisbane Times, CNBC, The Huffington Post, and AOL Travel, show that other journalists are digging into the story.

In The Huffington Post article "Iriney Lopes, Brazil Women's Rights Minister, Calls for Amazon Sex Tour Investigation" reports the following:

“RIO DE JANEIRO—Brazil is investigating allegations that an American fishing tour operator was using expeditions in the Amazon to cover up the sexual exploitation of underage Indigenous girls, the country’s minister for women’s rights said Monday.

‘The country cannot stand idly by before allegations of this sort,’ Iriny Lopes told The Associated Press.

She said she was meeting with the minister for human rights, Maria do Rosario Nunes, and seeking information from investigators and prosecutors on the case to decide whether to establish a commission to look into the matter.”

The AOL article specifically links to “Brazil Prosecutes Schair & Co. for Running House of Prostitution,” and reports that Schair’s customers included a group of Shriners.

This was first reported in “Jesters to Testify about Illegal Drugs, Prostitution?”

Brazil’s largest news outlet, Globo, reported yesterday (translation by Bing):

“The Minister of the Secretariat for women’s policies, Iriny Lopes, decided on Monday proposing an agreement between the federal Government and the States of the Legal Amazon to combat sexual exploitation and enhance monitoring of fishing tourism companies in the region. The decision was taken Monday the Minister, after meeting with the Federal Police (PF) and the Prosecutor. The action was taken after the newspaper “The New York Times” reported that the American company Wet-A-Line Tours, formally known as fishing tourism, tourist sex packets also sells on Amazon. The G1 tried to contact the company, and waits for response.

To organize the action, the Minister will talk to the Ministers Luiz Sérgio, fisheries, defense, Nelson Jobim, Antônio Patriot, of Foreign Affairs, José Eduardo Cardozo, justice, and Carlos Lupi, labor and the President of FUNAI (Indigenous Agency), Márcio Meira.

In an interview G1 to this Sunday, Iriny said that the priority is to monitor the process so that it is not stopped, as, according to the American newspaper, either the owner of the Wet-A-Line Tours.

For the Federal Public Ministry, the evidence is damning. The criminal action against the company Wet-A-Line, by American Richard Schair, runs in the 4th Vara Federal do Amazonas and is at the stage of service of the five denounced.”

The 24 Horas News has just published “PF investigates 20 Americans suspected of sex tourism” (translation by Bing) and reports the following:

“The Federal Police (PF) in the Amazon will investigate more 20 Americans suspected of participating in sexual tourism scheme with Indigenous children in the Amazon, on

the pretext of sport fishing. An American and five Brazilians have already been denounced by suspicion.

In research, the PF had a list with other alleged American clients of travel agencies. She was on the computer of American Richard Schair, agent of the Wet-A-Line Tours, target of process in the United States on suspicion of sexual tourism exploitation in Brazil.

The Agency also is being processed in Brazil, as well as the Santana ecological tourism-Fishing Safaris, partner in organizing tours in Manaus.

According to PF, packages for fishing, which allegedly included sex tourism, cost \$4,000–\$5,000 (\$6,300–\$7,900). The PF said that at least 15 girls were victims of rape and grooming.”

It has yet to be determined if these 20 customers include the 19 Jesters known to have gone on Wet-A-Line tours to Brazil.

FOX News Atlanta ran a news report about this earlier today, featuring pictures of Jesters partying with Brazilian girls.

One correction to the FOX News story, (typos included) concerns:

“Senior I-team reporter Dale Russell broke this story nearly two years ago and is [sic] he has the exclusive report.”

The Brazilian Sex Tourism story was first reported here on March 6, 2008, with six other articles published prior to FOX News broadcasting “Brazil Sex Tourism” on November 23, 2009.

Reporter Dale Russell interviewed a disheveled Richard Schair who proclaimed his innocence over and over, as if he’s above the law; as if he’s got inside connections.

Schair may very well have connections, vested in protecting him and/or keeping him from naming names. Documents filed with the Georgia Real Estate Commission in 1986 show how Schair, though a recently convicted felon, applied for, and was granted a Georgia real estate license. One witness who wrote two letters of support and testified at his hearing was former federal prosecutor Larry Mackey, who convicted Schair for moving over three tons of marijuana and cocaine possession in the early ‘80s.

Documents submitted to the Georgia Real Estate Commission include two letters of support from Mackey, plea agreements, amendments to sentencing, a transcript of the entire hearing, and the commission’s decision. The transcript tells how Schair was kept in solitary confinement after he turned drug informant. The transcript details how Schair was moved to city and county jails to gather information on other drug dealers in cases

from Illinois to Arkansas and Florida. This is how he managed to serve three years of a 20-year prison sentence.

Mackey is better known as the federal prosecutor who convicted Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh. He works today in the Indianapolis branch of Barnes & Thornberg LLP, the same firm as Schair's current Federal White Collar Crime Defense Attorney, Solomon Wisenberg.

Both Mackey and Wisenberg have yet to return calls to answer questions about their client's recent legal filing or explain why their client, who is under criminal investigation by a grand jury, is being prosecuted in Brazil and is being sued by four Brazilian girls for sex trafficking, is talking to the media.

Chapter 38: A New Interview with Newsvine Investigative Journalist Sandy Frost on Her Continuing Award-Winning Exposé of the Shriners

Published Tue Aug 9, 2011 10:21 AM PDT

By Scott Butki, Newsvine Columnist specializing in book and movie reviews

This is a follow-up interview on my prior interviews with Sandy Frost. She was awarded the RAV (Random Acts of Vineness) by Newsvine for her journalism work. We reconnected recently and agreed to do a new interview updating her latest work and findings.

So let's start by talking generally about what has transpired with your investigations and reporting since our last interview.

We're starting to see some results from all my digging, with two equally shocking story lines emerging at the same time.

"Let's Make a Deal: Five Categories of Shriner Corruption" provides 61 headlines grouped into just that, five areas of Shriner corruption. Of the 61 articles, 37 are new since our last interview. Three stories I'm currently tracking:

- 1) Members of a secret society linked to Brazilian child sex tourism;
- 2) This same group operating a nationwide nonprofit network of prostitution and human trafficking at taxpayer expense;
- 3) What happened to the \$32 million from the DoD to commercialize a cultured skin substitute developed at the Shriner hospital after the FDA shut down the clinical study?

I first broke the Brazilian story in March 2008 after reporting that 19 members of the Shriners' secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, were on a witness list to testify

about their firsthand knowledge of sex with minors while on a fishing trip to Brazil. Three years later, my cover story for Namaste Magazine UK describes the biggest nonprofit fraud of our time: “Masons Amazon Fishing Trips: Prostitution at U.S. taxpayers’ expense.”

For those who might now know, I’ve been investigating the Shriners for over five years after one of their own asked me to. They are best known for their red fezzes and driving goofy cars in parades as they support their network of 22 hospitals that now take insurance for previously free medical care of burned and crippled children.

One of the things I’ve exposed is their secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, currently under investigation for human trafficking, prostitution and child sex tourism. Dan Herbeck and Aaron Besecker of The Buffalo News first broke the story that three Jesters had been caught in an FBI human trafficking sting out of Buffalo, New York, for taking a foreign, undocumented prostitute to a Jester party in Kentucky. Another member was sentenced for driving a limo full of prostitutes to a national Jester meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. These Jesters were, at the time, a New York State Supreme Court Judge, his law clerk, a Lockport Police Captain and an Erie County Deputy Sheriff. The funny thing is that these stories broke within four weeks after I published the first article about the Jesters.

Three years after I first began covering child sex tourism in the Amazon, a Brazilian news broadcast reported that the FBI had been interviewing some of the same girls who told the Brazilian Federal Police that they’d been sexually exploited by North Americans. It was quite emotional to see the girls describe being raped, with one reporting she’d been left pregnant at age 13. These are same the girls who alleged that “Richard” lured them into prostitution for his North American clients. The good news is that we’re beginning to see results.

Four months ago, the Brazilian Public Ministry began prosecuting Richard Schair of Gainesville, Georgia, along with six Brazilian co-defendants, for operating a house of prostitution. Then I broke the news about how Equality Now and the law firm of King & Spalding coordinated a federal lawsuit filed by four Brazilian women against Schair in Federal Court for damages for allegedly sex-trafficking them. Schair was granted a motion to stay or suspend this case after disclosing he’s being prosecuted by Brazilian authorities and is being investigated by a Grand Jury for child sex tourism. His supporting documents included translated court filings from Brazil and subpoenas from the U.S. Attorneys’ Office. So, since our last interview, I’ve essentially reported on and documented the biggest nonprofit fraud of our time: prostitution and human trafficking at taxpayer expense.

I've also assembled a team and created a business model to publish a book about all of this called "The Vampires of Charity." I think I still hold the dubious distinction of being the only Newsviner to be targeted online and challenged in court. I've also gotten more involved with the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ). I was appointed to our National Diversity Committee and serve on the Rainbow Sourcebook sub-committee. I attended a "Journalism That Matters" event in Seattle where I met others like me, slaves to this calling we call journalism. I'm a lone-wolf journalist, a one-woman newsroom and kind of an outlier so it's important that I associate with others struggling to survive as journalism evolves. And I recently was named an SPJ Diversity Leadership Fellow and as such, will be attending our national convention in New Orleans at the end of September. I will be working to identify high technology processes to increase diversity in the newsroom.

Can you talk about the lawsuit that was filed against you and Newsvine?

The Brazilian Federal Police indicted Richard Schair on April 29, 2009. On May 5, 2009, I reported his indictment. On June 26, 2009, Schair filed a libel complaint against Newsvine in Hall County Superior Court, Georgia, claiming he'd not been indicted and that my articles damaged him. He claimed "clients are refusing to deal with him believing he is currently under indictment in a Brazilian court" and that the "economic and emotional damages to Mr. Schair are overwhelming and continue now, unabated." He also claimed "such statement was false as Plaintiff Schair has not been indicted by Brazilian authorities." The lawsuit revealed that Schair began whining the year before in letters to Newsvine asking to have my articles removed. His attorney, Aaron Clark, specifically complained how I moderated my comment section after scolding him for hijacking it to make his case in public.

Between when I reported Schair's indictment and his lawsuit against Newsvine, he filed an application for habeas corpus on June 19, 2009, asking the Brazilian Judge overseeing his indictment to dismiss all charges against him. This made public evidence gathered by the Judge before she denied his request. This evidence included a report from the Federal Police that spelled out the charges for indictment, including rape, corruption of minors, operating a network of prostitution to lure clients and violation of Indigenous rights.

So, ten days after asking a Brazilian Judge to drop the indictment, Schair sued Newsvine after I'd reported his indictment. On July 28, Schair's attorney filed a motion to dismiss the complaint and the next day, it was granted. Richard Schair has tried three times to prove his innocence. Each time, things have blown up in his face. This all started when Schair sued competitor Philip Marsteller on May 11, 2007 after alleging he provided prostitutes to clients. Schair was forced to settle the case out of court as evidence mounted against him. Evidence for the defense included the depositions of

five Indigenous girls who went to the Brazilian Federal Police to describe how “Richard” lured them off their reservations into prostitution for his North American fishing clients as well as the testimony of two fishing guides who provided pictures of “Masons” having sex with underage girls to the Brazilian Federal Police. One must first be a Master Mason before joining groups like the Scottish Rite, the Knights Templar and the Shriners. One must be secretly invited from the Shriners to join the Royal Order of Jesters.

The story of the four Brazilian women suing Schair was picked up by The New York Times a month ago. As it went around the world, Google Analytics showed my site traffic was up by 200%. The top service provider said the most popular search request was “comite gestor da internet no brasil,” with nearly 300 visits from Brazil. Two days later, the Brazilian Minister for Women announced she was launching an investigation into this case and lobbied for stricter oversight over tour operators involved with child sex tourism in the Amazon. The latest news out of Brazil is that investigators are now looking at a list of 20 of Schair’s customers. It has yet to be determined if these are the same Jesters I first wrote about three years ago.

Remember, this was not the first time my work has been challenged. Five years ago, the Shriners came after the two whistleblowers who first alerted me to this. It looks like they never imagined I’d fight to protect correspondence between me and my sources. Instead, they launched an expensive SLAPP lawsuit to see if I was being paid or if someone else was writing these articles for me. After this public insult, I wondered what it was they were so desperate to hide. Today, we know it’s their secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters, and their nationwide network of prostitution and human trafficking and the fact that the majority of those on the Shriners’ hospital boards are Jesters.

Then, as we discussed years ago, the Shriners conspired to get my work censored off Newsvine by abusing the “!” icon that reports abusive or offensive articles. Today, my work remains unchallenged because my findings are documented. As readers read, they can click through to the actual document being discussed. This is especially important as I investigate the PermaDerm situation. I won’t say too much about this because I’m still digging into things, but from what I’ve found, this story makes the Jester human trafficking/prostitution scandal look like a parking ticket. Who knew that doctors at a Shriner hospital used little burned kids in a clinical study so bad the FDA shut it down? Two years after \$32 million in DoD dollars went to drug manufacturer Lonza, the protocols have yet to be developed for a new clinical study that will use our burned service members as human guinea pigs to further “develop” this failed product for military applications.

Documents suggest that this money was obtained using data in violation of FDA rules and regulations from invalid patients. And why would those involved hide material facts about PermaDerm's failures from the SEC, FDA, investors, the DoD and others with a need to know? As of today, posters on the message board for Regenicin Inc., or RGIN, are trying to discredit me for asking questions they can't answer. They can't find fault with my work so they are attacking my journalism and disparaging my heritage.

Regenicin is a marketing company that is working with biopharmaceutical giant Lonza to commercialize PermaDerm, the cultured skin substitute developed at the Cincinnati Shriners Burn Hospital. As the stock hovered between 11 and 15 cents a share, I decided to do some research by reading what was being posted on the Regenicin Yahoo! message board. I asked a few questions like "Where is the proof that this product works?" and "Can you please provide more information about the 150 pediatric burn patients this has been tested on?" Instead of answering, some became hostile and begin attacking my journalism. Another came after me personally, quoting from my Newsvine bio, degrading the important role of Native American storytellers. They also mocked my totems or animal spirits and otherwise disparaged my Athabascan or Alaska Native heritage. After dealing with tactics like this for years, I again wonder what it is that they are so desperate to hide.

I understand you have an upcoming cover story on Namaste? What's it about?

I started what I thought was an article for my news site, summarizing the biggest nonprofit fraud of our time—how a handful of Jesters have hijacked the IRS and our tax system to party with prostitutes at taxpayer expense. I then decided to get a hold of an experienced editor before pitching it because these guys are Master Masons and I don't want to be labeled, dismissed or diminished as a "conspiracy theorist." He kindly responded and reminded me if I thought I was on to a major scandal, I needed to develop three unimpeachable sources for each fact I used, then pitch it to a magazine and make sure I was absolutely solid on my sources.

I've corresponded with the editor of Namaste Magazine for years and decided to pitch the story of Masons facilitating prostitution at taxpayer expense. Namaste is a cutting edge magazine that reports on stories not found in the mainstream media (MSM). Carl sent me back a deadline and as we worked on it over Skype, he decided to make it the cover story.

For a while you were getting attacked online at Newsvine from Shriners who think you're painting all Shriners with too wide a brush. Is that still happening? I wanted to give you another chance to explain your stance. If memory serves, you're just focusing on bad apples and not saying all Shriners are bad, right?

This generalization, or maybe it's a rationalization, is still going on. I just wonder if these guys can read. I have written the past five years over and over that this is not about the faithful Shriner who gets up at zero dawn thirty to put on a pancake breakfast. Or who drives through town in his clown makeup to put a smile on the face of a badly burned baby. One of the most shocking things I've discovered is the ruthless retaliation with which these corrupt leaders attack those who question them. They use their billions to launch court battles against the little guy who just can't win. Whistleblowers are thrashed within inches of their lives and threatened as their lives are destroyed. This is ultimately about corrupt leaders who exploit their positions of public trust for private gain. It just so happens that they are Shriners who are also Jesters who hide behind helping kids so they can screw us all as they party with prostitutes at taxpayer expense.

Can you tell me about your email signature: Sole writer/editor/publisher of first strictly online investigation featured in Investigative Reporters and Editors Extra, Extra section?

Investigative Reporters and Editors is a group of those who share the latest and greatest about this specific genre of journalism. We focus on things like high tech applications to build better databases and organize all our information. I identify myself as an online investigative journalist and one-woman news room and, as such, have done all this research online as well as published my findings online. I asked their Extra, Extra editor to post my work and became the first journalist to have an exclusively online investigation posted in this section for other investigative journalists and editors to read.

Chapter 39: Jesters' End

Published Wed Sep 14, 2011 2:44 AM PDT

In your time of dying

Struggling, raspy breath

Do you remember sexy squealing

As you fight impending Death

The soaring costs of enlightenment

Hypocrisy and betrayal

Ill-gotten leadership

Hear that final nail

You shame your Most Worshipful brothers

Your soul forever gone
Feeding all your addictions
A slave, no longer strong
Here's your grim reality
Exploiting women and girls
You are the worst of humanity
The filth around you swirls
Time to stand before your Grandmother
To stand before your wife
To stand before your daughters
And confess your wicked life
Tell them of your high-price drunks
Your Bacchanalian, sleepless nights
Confess your bags of penis pills
Describe the sex delights
Feel your inner demons fight
Where you're dying, sick and black
From all that is so very wrong
With your predatory packs
There is no redemption song
No Grand Master's blessing spell
No incantation or magic sing-along
To save you from your hell
But this is not the worst of it
Because as you pass away

It's a tortured, ghastly journey
Of never-ending days
Discarded on a writhing pile
You're thrown at bloody, studded walls
Because your life personified
The very worst of all
The man who rapes 13-year-olds
The cop and sheriff who lie
The judge who pimps from his chambers
And those proud among such guys
Then there's your faithful, loving wife
Ignorant, blind and dumb
Sadly clinging to fading hope
Sucking on her thumb
Retirement years spoiled
Husband's sleeping around
She finds the texts and messages
Long weekends out of town
Weekends away at meetings
Or "Shriner" get-togethers
Paying to screw your weekend girl
Abandoning all that matters
It's like a growing, wormy brain
Being eaten through and through
Paying the darkest price of sin

To be among the few
Lying in front of your family
And loved ones you've betrayed
Every person you've ever harmed
For each hooker that you've laid
What kind of a man has to pay for sex
Or the company of girls
And then brag about living a life so low
So heartless and so cruel
To hide behind sick children
Pretending to be nice
Pretending to be ethical
It's time to roll the dice
It's now too late to live right
You're your own worst foe
You really have no honor
And now it's time to go

Chapter 40: Updates in Schair's Human Trafficking Cases, Nonprofit News

Published Mon Sep 19, 2011 2:04 AM PDT

Author's Note: I apologize that my work is so dull, dry and boring. I have previously published warnings for readers to get a quad shot 20 oz. mocha or an "Annihilator" from Dutch Brothers, since I'm boycotting Starbucks. In an effort to make things more interesting, I've borrowed from Dr. Seuss to explain what happened after I asked for the tax returns and 1023 application for exemption for Richard Schair's nonprofit group, The Circle Fund. Please be warned that this article reports on the disturbing subjects of human trafficking and rape. I consider this an editorial, as it provides opinion. As always, the accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Thank you,

Sandy

The Honorable William O'Kelley, Senior Judge for the U.S. District Court, Gainesville Division, agreed with Plaintiffs A, B, C and D to grant Richard Schair's motion to suspend their civil case against the former fishing tour operator. Four Brazilian women have alleged in federal court that Schair trafficked them into prostitution, while minors, for his North American fishing clients. This is the first case enforcing the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and it appears that Judge O'Kelley wrote his decision with extreme great care, fully aware that he is setting precedent by determining the legal conditions under which the civil case can be reinstated because of Schair's criminal grand jury investigation. Here is his decision:

"A criminal action includes both 'investigation and prosecution.' Once initiated, a criminal action remains pending until final adjudication in the trial court. The statute gives no guidance, however, about how to determine when a criminal action is initiated or when a criminal action that does not lead to a prosecution is terminated...The statute also does not specify when a criminal action that does not lead to a prosecution ends... Thus, the statute leaves open the possibility that an investigation could remain pending indefinitely which would effectively foreclose any civil suit arising out of the same occurrence as the subject for investigation."

Judge O'Kelley then called for updates every 90 days to keep track of Schair's "pending criminal investigation and/or prosecution."

Evidence for Schair's motion to stay included a federal criminal grand jury subpoena, issued on June 25, 2009, to his company for various documents for purposes of the grand jury investigation and a grand jury target letter issued to his ex-wife Amelia Karr, stating, "According to information that ICE and FBI supplied (the U.S. Attorneys' Office in the Southern District of Florida), (Ms. Schair) was involved with a company and/or an individual who may have been engaged in child sex tourism in Brazil."

Schair also provided a Brazilian request for prosecution from the Public Ministry to a Federal Judge in the Amazon District that "denounces" or accuses him and five Brazilian nationals of operating a house of prostitution. (1)

This case began on June 14, 2011 when, for the first time ever, four Brazilian women filed a complaint in U.S. Federal Court based on the TVPA, alleging they "were victims of sex trafficking...while under the age of eighteen...They were caused to engage in commercial acts by Defendants" Richard Wayne Schair and Wet-A-Line Tours, LLC. The case was coordinated by Equality Now, a humanitarian group dedicated to protecting and promoting women's rights around the world, with pro bono legal services led by attorney John Harbin of the Atlanta law firm of King & Spalding.

According to the U.S. State Department, “It is a crime for a United States citizen or permanent resident to travel abroad for the purpose of having sex with a minor and it is a crime for a United States citizen or permanent resident to actually have sex with a minor while abroad... It is a criminal activity to knowingly arrange, induce, procure or facilitate for profit the travel of a person when you know that the person is traveling for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct with minors.”

Though the case was stayed, Schair filed an answer to the complaint on August 12, 2011, sounding like a Bart Simpson defense: “I wasn’t there, I didn’t do anything. You can’t prove it.” He never denied any of the charges, claiming that the alleged victims aren’t entitled to damages because they “stem entirely from the acts and omissions of other persons and parties over whom Defendants exercised no control.” It has yet to be determined if “other persons” included the 19 members of the Royal Order of Jesters. It also has yet to be determined if these Jesters are the same customers being investigated by Brazilian authorities as national leaders call for tour operator reform in the Amazon.

Schair’s other customers include former Oklahoma Governor, Brad Henry. In September 2007, Henry and 23 friends, family, and trial lawyers were clients of Wet-A-Line Tours in Brazil, two weeks after a Jester trip. According to a report, Governor Henry’s guests included his chief of staff, Gerald Adams, and an Oklahoma Highway Patrol security trooper, Patrick Mays. The report also lists two-time past president of the Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association, Terry West. The report continues with the following:

“Also listed are Oklahoma Judicial Nominating Commission member and former Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association President Jimmy D. Loftis, and fellow attorneys Blake Virgin, John R. Hargrave, John W. Norman, John B. Norman, 2006 Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association president Brad West, Bart West (Terry West’s sons), former Judicial Nominating Commission member William E. Woodson, oilman Paul Hale, Robert D. Bell, Robert L. Bell and Mike Oliver. Hale, Oliver, Loftis, Virgin, Woodson and the Bells also took the 2003 trip based on a report in The Oklahoman at the time. Also listed is Richard R. Dunning, a member of the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents, appointed by Henry earlier this year.”

Now that the case is suspended, Schair claims the complaint should be dismissed because it violates his rights to the following:

- Procedural due process as provided by the Fourth and Fifth Amendments.
- Substantive due process as provided by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments.

- Equal protection under the law and are otherwise unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Protection from “excessive fines” as provided under the Eighth Amendment.

Schair also claims that multiple awards against him and Wet-A-Line Tours constitute double jeopardy and are in violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. Based on all this, he further claims that the womens’ claims for punitive damages should be dismissed, that the venue is improper, and that the claims are barred by applicable statute of limitations.

This is Schair’s fourth attempt to prove his innocence, or maybe fifth if we count his current efforts to avoid indictment by the Grand Jury in Miami. These are his three previous failures:

- Unsuccessfully suing a competitor who claimed Schair provided prostitutes for his clients fishing in the Amazon.
- Unsuccessfully suing Newsvine.com after I reported he’d been indicted by the Brazilian Federal Police.
- Failing to convince a Brazilian Federal Judge to dismiss the charges and indictment against him.

Judge O’Kelley is the same judge who presided over the Schair v. Newsvine case, filed by attorney Aaron C. Clark. The Judge granted Schair’s Petition for Removal Libel, Assault, Slander on July 24, 2009.

The Judge more recently agreed that Plaintiffs A, B, C and D could maintain their anonymity after they shared concerns for their safety, charging that Schair and his company “by and through their agents and employees, engaged in international commerce and sex trafficking of children by recruiting customers in the United States to engage in ‘sex tourism’ in Brazil.” Judge O’Kelley issued his order on July 15, 2011, writing the following:

“Plaintiffs are four Brazilian women who claim that defendants enticed or coerced them to engage in commercial sex with American customers on tour boats operated by defendants. Plaintiffs also allege that they were coerced into performing sexual acts with defendant Richard Wayne Schair. The sexual acts occurred while the tour boats were located in the Amazon basin. Each plaintiff was a minor at the time of these sex acts; one was allegedly twelve years old. Plaintiffs claim that the disclosure of their identities will ‘subject them to embarrassment, humiliation and ridicule,’ particularly ‘given the prevalence of social media and internet communication world-wide.’ Additionally, plaintiffs allege that since defendants are still actively engaged in sex

trafficking in this area, disclosure of their identities could expose plaintiffs to danger... Given the factual allegations in this case, the court finds that at the present time, plaintiffs may file their complaint under pseudonyms and may maintain their anonymity through the Rule 16 scheduling conference that will be held to address the parties' Joint Preliminary Report and Discovery Plan. The prime fact that compels this decision is that plaintiffs were minors at the time of the alleged sexual coercion. Sexual coercion of a minor is information of the utmost intimacy that warrants special protection."

Trying to defend himself, Schair continues throwing people under the bus. He threw his ex-wife Amelia Karr under the bus by submitting her Grand Jury target letter as evidence for his motion to stay. In his answer to the human trafficking complaint, his attorney, L. David Wolfe, wrote back:

"Defendants deny the allegations contained in paragraph 8 of the Plaintiffs' Complaint. Furthermore, the vessel AMAZON SANTANA was owned and operated by Lauro Rocha and Jean Phillip Perol as owners of Santana Turismo Ecologico Fishing Safaris, LTDA. Defendant Richard Schair held a security interest in the vessel from mid-2005 to late 2007 as collateral for a loan made to Santana Turismo Ecologico Fishing Safaris, LTDA, for the build-out of the vessel that would become the AMAZON SANTANA. Defendants played no role in the day-to-day operations of the vessel or tours. Finally, the acts alleged by Plaintiffs fail to meet the requirement of 'coercion' as set forth in 18 U.S. C. 1591(e)(2)(A-C), and therefore Plaintiffs have not stated a claim upon which relief can be granted."

Here, he throws his Brazilian business partner Lauro Rocha under the bus along with the head of the official French tourism office and the Chairman of the European Travel Commission, Jean Philip Perol.

Chairman Perol told Elite Travelling magazine:

"My favorite region is the Amazon, and every year I invite friends from around the world to take a five-day cruise up the river on my boat. People from France, the U.S., Mexico, Canada and Brazil all mix together on board, up to 18 people. What happens is people discover themselves, and they all have a little something in common. I've done this for three years now, and it's on board the 100-foot boat that I share with another friend."

Brazilian court records show that Schair's co-defendant and business partner Lauro Rocha, was served on September 9, 2011.

An online search for "Wet-A-Line" with the Georgia Secretary of State reveals that the corporation was "terminated" last July and that Richard Schair is the CEO of a nonprofit group. The "Wet-A-Line Tours, LLC" Certificate of Voluntary Termination has the

Secretary of State terminating the company on May 9, 2011, with Schair backdating his signature to July 1, 2010.

According to the Secretary of State, the articles of dissolution must state that there are no actions pending against the corporation in any court or that adequate provision has been made for the satisfaction of any judgment, order or decree that may be ordered against the corporation in any pending action.

Judge O'Kelley granted Schair's motion to stay because he provided evidence of two criminal actions pending against his corporation in an effort to stay the civil action also pending against his corporation.

The webpage for the Georgia Secretary of State (section "Dissolving a Corporation") states the following:

"If articles do not comply with requirements of the Georgia Business Corporation Code they will be returned to the filer for correction. If corrected and returned, the date of dissolution will be the date the articles were initially received."

Do these ongoing cases prevent Schair from terminating his company? Does this termination create a date from which a statute of limitations can start tolling, counting on the grand jury to drag on until the Plaintiffs' time runs out? Was his signature backdated so a hypothetical two-year statute of limitations would end on July 1, 2012? And does not disclosing the criminal actions against Wet-A-Line Tours mean that the Certificate of Termination filed with the Secretary of State is fraudulent?

The other filing was for "The Circle Fund," a nonprofit group listing Richard Schair as CEO. Most philanthropists would proudly list their nonprofit groups on their professional websites and include their charitable associations in their online business listings.

Schair does not.

The following is from The Circle Fund website:

"The Circle Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation whose mission is to 'Support the Families that Support Our Freedom' by providing scholarships for dependents and spouses of service-members that have been killed or severely disabled as a result of their military service. We believe it is our solemn duty as Americans to honor these great men and women of freedom by receiving their sacrifice with sincere hearts and bringing it 'Full-Circle' back to those who are left behind."

Here is the "About Us" section:

"The Circle Fund is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Foundation that was formed by a select group of business professionals and entrepreneurs who have combined their passion for

‘Supporting The Families that Support Our Freedom’ by providing scholarship grants to the families of our fallen heroes and wounded warriors. Our Leadership Team and Board of Directors consist of military veterans, real estate brokers, CPA’s, attorneys, developers, non-profit leaders, and business owners. Due to the experience and expertise of our seasoned professionals, along with our ongoing fundraising efforts through corporate sponsors and individual partnerships, The Circle Fund is uniquely positioned to accept all types of Real Estate assets while providing a philanthropic avenue for receiving the maximum allowable tax benefits according to current Internal Revenue Service codes and regulations.”

Curious is the timing of the group’s formation, considering its placement in the following timeline:

April 29, 2009 - The Brazilian Federal Police indicted Schair for rape, corruption of minors, operating a network of prostitution and Indigenous violations.

May 5, 2009 - I report Schair’s indictment.

June 19, 2009 - Schair asks a Brazilian Federal Judge to dismiss all charges against him by applying for habeas corpus.

June 23, 2009 - Judge denies Schair’s application, citing his request has no merit.

June 25, 2009 - U.S. Attorneys’ Office in Miami sends Schair and Wet-A-Line Tours a subpoena to testify before a grand jury on July 16, 2009.

June 26, 2009 - Schair sues Newsvine.com in Hall County District Court, Georgia, over my work.

July 6, 2009 - Schair named CEO and Founding Board President of The Circle Fund.

July 28, 2009 - Schair withdraws complaint after Newsvine.com changed venue to federal court.

August 3, 2009 - Brazilian Federal Judge accepts case against Schair.

Applicant, Secretary/Treasurer and CFO Chris Brooks explained to the IRS in the “Finances” section of the 1023 application for exemption:

“Startup expenses will be provided by substantial donations from the founding Board of Directors.”

In contrast, the website states the following:

“The Circle Fund relies solely on the support of others to maintain its ongoing mission of providing Educational Scholarships to the families of our fallen heroes.”

The Circle Fund's business plan defines program qualifications as "Military service-Member must have served on active-duty in a theater of combat operations and either been killed (KIA) or wounded in action (WIA) as a result of their military service during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) from October 7, 2001 and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) from March 20, 2003."

The marketing plan described the primary market as "Families of military service-members killed or wounded while on active duty...Many children and spouses of those killed in action are now facing financial hardships and are unable to meet their educational goals due to the permanent loss of income to the family. Also, many of these injured heroes are facing significant barriers to employment by being unable to continue their military service and unable to find comparable civilian employment in their field of expertise as a result of their disability."

When a request for the tax returns and 1023 Application for Exemption were emailed to Schair's agent/attorney, Aaron C. Clark, he responded "Seriously?"

Then I heard from the CFO Chris Brooks and two other attorneys, which in my ten years of asking for nonprofit returns, was the strangest response ever.

As in ever.

Their responses went something like this, thanks to Dr. Seuss.

That Schair I am.

That Schair I am.

I do not know

That Schair I am.

He's caught up

In cases of

Courthouse spam.

I do not know that

Schair I am.

The CFO wrote:

"I've got a wife.

I've got two kids.

I know nothing of
His nonprofit biz.”
One lawyer made
It crystal clear
“I’ve fought the feds
Year after year
To clear his name
In the blogosphere.
I know nothing
Of his nonprofit biz.
I’m just a white collar
Criminal whiz.”
Another wrote:
“I’m just the agent,
Seriously?
I’m that guy
From your history.
Remember when we
Sued Newsvine
Over your work?
I’m just that
Nitwit legal jerk.”
Because he loves
Making legal spam.
He’s at arm’s length,

That Schair I am.

The tax documents were lawfully provided within 30 days of my request by the nonprofit attorney who helped form the group. According to the group's 1023 application for exemption, the Projected Statement of Revenues and Expenses anticipated income of \$250,000 in 2009, increasing in 2010 to \$500,000 and then \$1 million in 2011.

On August 18, 2011, attorney Thomas R. Wrobel of NonprofitLegalCenter.com, wrote this:

"In response to your request for disclosure of our form 990s please be aware the organization has had minimal activity in the past few years. No 990EZ was filed in 2009 because the organization was below the \$25,000 threshold. For 2010, please see attached the receipt for the filing of the form 990N, because the 2010 revenue was below the 990EZ threshold of \$50,000. Additionally, attached is the 1023 form you requested."

Why did Schair, secretary/treasurer Chris Brooks, and agent/attorney Aaron C. Clark go to all the trouble and expense of writing up a business plan and applying to the IRS to create a nonprofit group that currently solicits the following donations? Here they are:

- CASH - One-Time Cash Gift, Monthly Sponsor, Estate Gift
- REAL-ESTATE - Residential Property, Multi-Family, Commercial Property, Raw Land, Industrial / Warehouse, Manufacturing Plants, Income Property
- OTHER NON-CASH - Stocks / Bonds, Tangible Personal Property, Automobiles, Coin / Stamp Collections

Why does this group appear to have not met their financial goals and performed as promised to the IRS? Has Schair provided any scholarships or grants to family members of dead service members and disabled veterans? Why was The Circle Fund invisible on the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks?

Or was this nonprofit group created as a vehicle to potentially hide assets?

Next: "Zen and the Art of Throwing Others under the Bus."

(1) Schair's motion to stay and answer to the Plaintiffs' complaint is contrary to the findings of the Federal Prosecutor in the Amazon District of the Brazilian Public Ministry:

"The Facts—Richard Wayne Schair and Jose Lauro Rocha Da Silva, as administrative partners of the Santana Turismo Ecologico company, Fishing Safaris LTDA, owner of the vessels Amazon Santana and Santana 1, in the years between 2005 and 2007,

engaged in the illegal activities of sexual exploitation of minors, taking financial advantage of the prostitution of minors.

At the same time period, acting as managers of Richard Wayne Schair and Jose Lauro Rocha Da Silva, the nationals (Brazilian citizens) Juscelino De Souza Motta, Daniel Gerbaldo Lopes, Admilson Garcia Da Silva and Adilson Garcia Da Silva, who worked as interpreters for North-American tourists, executed the recruitment and facilitated the prostitution of minors, making it partially possible, through the economic exploitation of the prostitution of minors.

Thus, all of the denounced (accused) people were associated with this criminal group, which was established to economically explore the prostitution of underage Brazilians in the State of Amazonas, through actions that constitute the following crimes, according to the normative prescription of the time period when the facts occurred:

- Sexual exploitation of minors.
- Rape.
- Facilitation of prostitution.
- Ruffianism.
- Domestic trafficking of people.

The United States citizen Richard Wayne Schair, owner of the tourism agency Wet-A-Line Tours, located in the state of Georgia in the U.S.A. promoted (or facilitated) touristic trips of North Americans to Brazil more precisely to the State of Amazonas. Through his tourism agency, he under-contracted (or hired) in that Country, touristic trips for cruising and fishing in the Amazon River, and offered his clients the possibility of sexual encounters, for (financial) remuneration, with Brazilian girls, many of whom were underage.”

The letter to the judge continues that the defendants acted under the orders of Schair and Rocha to recruit the girls to work as prostitutes for North Americans during the trip. “Photographic proof and recordings of police missions reveal how Brazilian girls were hired to participate in parties with foreign tourists.” (Author’s Note: These pictures include members of the Royal Order of Jesters.)

It also explains that the evidence obtained after searching the boats “attests to the existence of numerous images of Brazilian women in sexual poses within the vessels and in the company of foreign tourists.” It continues that one woman “admitted that on the 2nd semester of 2006 while being 13 years old, that she was invited by Richard Wayne Schair along with her sister to cruise on the vessel, where she had carnal

relations (sex) with Richard Wayne Schair deeming indubitable the practice of the crime of rape.” The request from Federal Public Ministry prosecutors asks the judge to process the accused ones to their final condemnation and requests that the witnesses and victims be summoned to trial.

Chapter 41: Editorial: International Human Trafficking Day and Jester News

Published Thu Jan 12, 2012 12:16 AM PST

Today is International Human Trafficking Day.

Soroptimist International is sponsoring the 4th annual Northwest Conference Against Trafficking & Film Festival this week in Portland, Oregon at the Doubletree Hotel-Lloyd Center. According to Michelle Bart, event organizer, the human trafficking film festival is playing to SRO audiences in advance of this weekend’s January 13–15 conference. CNN Hero of the Year Anuradha Koirala will be the keynote speaker. Saturday night’s banquet will honor the winner of the Jane Velez-Mitchell Award for reporting on human trafficking.

This is from the NWCAT.org site:

The Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award is named after award-winning journalist Jane Velez-Mitchell, host of “Issues” on HLN. “I am proud to support such an honorable and urgent cause by encouraging journalists to cover the critical issues affecting women. Fighting the “war on women must become a priority in our society... this can be accomplished only by making it a priority in our national dialogue,” Velez-Mitchell said.

I came to know Michelle Bart after submitting my own work for this journalism award. I shared some of my findings to make sure that I qualified and then went on to apply.

This year’s award went to CNN’s Hero Project. According to the NWCAT.org electronic press kit:

CNN launched earlier this year The CNN Freedom Project and in a very short time they have made a global impact on Ending Modern-Day Slavery. A vision of Executive Vice President and Managing Director of CNN International Tony Maddox a year ago, today has become a global recognizable brand on the war against human trafficking in America and around the world and has generated more than 200 stories of human trafficking from five continents. “The ongoing commitment to educating viewers is one of the utmost important defense tactics we can take on the frontlines of this war,” said Michelle Bart, NWCAT Conference and Soroptimist Public Awareness Chair. “The CNN Freedom Project without a doubt has improved the lives of women and girls this year,” said Bart.

“I lost to CNN,” I whined to Michelle after calling her earlier today to ask about the conference.

“You didn’t lose,” she said. “It’s just that CNN saved over 20,000 people.”

She explained how each entry deserved to win because they came from such diverse media. “Maybe next year we’ll include categories,” she said. “All the applicants were excellent.”

The internet offers journalists many resources, like the human trafficking case law database maintained by the UN, for example.

The Polaris Project held a conference call a few months ago on the status of human trafficking legislation in Congress.

As a member of the Society of Professional Journalists and Investigative Reporters and Editors, I call on my fellow reporters and editors, professional and citizen, to explore not only my work but that of Jane Velez-Mitchell and CNN as examples of how to cover this modern form of slavery. Here is part of my contest essay to show what just one journalist can do to fight human trafficking.

Editor’s Note: This excerpt was left unedited in order to preserve the initial content.

I am an online investigative journalist who has exposed and documented a nonprofit group with members convicted of Mann Act violations, including sex trafficking with links to child sex tourism in Brazil. Nearly 40 articles have detailed and documented the sexual exploitation and trafficking of girls and women committed by members of the Shriners’ secret subgroup, the Royal Order of Jesters (ROJ). Victims include foreign, undocumented Asian sex slaves and underage Indigenous girls trafficked as prostitutes for weekend sex parties and fishing trips to the Amazon.

The Shriners are best known for providing medical care to burned and crippled children, wearing their red fezzes and driving goofy cars in parades. One must first be a Master Mason before joining groups like the Scottish Rite, the Knights Templar and the Shriners. One must be secretly invited Shriner to join the Jesters, described in court documents as having at their “Book of the Play”:

“The presence of prostitutes (‘Jester Girls’) who engage in commercial sex acts with members of the ROJ. Arrangements for the prostitutes are generally made by the organizer of the ‘books,’ or the region hosting the national ‘book.’ On occasion, individual Jesters make arrangements to transport prostitutes to ‘books.’”

My findings document the biggest nonprofit fraud of our time; prostitution and human trafficking at taxpayer expense, facilitated by sworn officers of the law, members of the judiciary and members of the Bar.

I believe my work has contributed to:

- 1) The Brazilian indictment and prosecution of a Georgia man for allegedly coercing underage Brazilian girls into prostitution.
- 2) The criminal investigation by a Miami Grand Jury of the same individual for child sex tourism in Brazil.
- 3) The first ever lawsuit filed by four Brazilian women who allege this same individual trafficked them, while underage, as prostitutes for his fishing clients.
- 4) The prosecution of an Erie County Sheriff who pleaded guilty to driving a limo full of prostitutes to a national Jester convention in Canada.

I am a one-woman newsroom.

I do it all.

Two of the unique aspects of online journalism are moderating the comment sections after each article and linking to the documents being described. I'm still trying to remedy repeating certain information as readers read each "stand alone" article as they're reposted to other sites.

Things were slow until I published the first article about the Jesters over three years ago.

Then, it was like being in a knife fight as they fought back.

Then, Richard Schair, the former fishing tour operator who took groups of Jesters fishing in Brazil, unsuccessfully sued Newsvine.com after I reported his indictment by the Brazilian Federal Police. His complaint whined that I scolded his attorney for hijacking the comment section to try his case in public.

Then, the editor of the Jesters newsletter came after me in two unsubstantiated "Copyright Infringement" complaints after making public two Jester newsletters, one of which included his illegal distribution of prescription drugs. He misused these complaints so I'd reveal my sources in federal court. These newsletters are still public.

My work has survived these challenges because I link my findings to documents stored in my online document depository. I also link to sites such as Brazil's federal court

system, translated through Yahoo! Babel Fish, so readers can track Schair's prosecution themselves.

At the end of the day, my findings describe how the Jesters abuse more than women and girls because, through this unprecedented nonprofit corruption, they screw us all.

Back to International Human Trafficking Day.

ECPAT USA published a page to commemorate the day with the video "What I've Been Through is Not Who I Am." It shares the message that "arresting children for prostitution does not rescue them."

Shared Hope International, a nonprofit group started by former Washington State Congresswoman Linda Smith, presented Texas Attorney General their "Pathfinder Award" for 2011. The award was presented at the National Association of Attorneys winter meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Starlocalnews.com reports the following:

As the chairman of the Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, Attorney General Abbott has worked closely with legislators, law enforcement authorities and non-profit organizations to combat human trafficking in Texas. In Shared Hope's report card, which was released today, Texas outranked all other states for human trafficking prevention efforts.

"Human trafficking is a horrific crime that is devastating to its victims and subjects them to modern day slavery," Attorney General Abbott said. "The Pathbreaker Award is a testament to the work the Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force and the Texas Legislature has done to ensure Texas is hostile territory for human traffickers. Together, we have worked to increase penalties for traffickers, enhance coordination within the law enforcement community and improve victims' access to vitally important services."

There is a connection between Texas and the latest news about the Royal Order of Jesters. There is an incorporation filed with the Texas Secretary of State as a handful of Jesters decided to build a new headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. They then applied for and obtained 501(c)(3) charitable status from the IRS, claiming their new building was a museum.

My investigation of the Jesters started with "Jesters Exposed." This article included allegations of prostitution and reported that the Jesters were appealing a Marion County Assessor's decision to deny property tax exemption for their new, million-dollar headquarters.

Inspectors found little evidence the new building was a museum and the Jesters' application for exemption was denied.

The Jesters then appealed to the Indiana Board of Tax Review, asking for a fraternal exemption, arguing that their headquarters building should be property-tax exempt because they are part of Masonry.

This is the first time in four years that I've seen the Jesters officially claim that they help the Shriners hospitals. They don't include this as an exempt purpose in their application for tax exemption, on their tax returns or on their website.

The news is that the Indiana Board of Tax Review decided on January 9, 2012 that the Jester HQ building is 100% taxable. This means that they lost their appeal for tax exemption both as a fraternity, based on their Masonic affiliation, and as a charity, claiming their building was a museum.

These denials mean the Jesters could be in serious trouble with the IRS.

It appears that their applications for tax-exempt status, as both a fraternity and as a charity, could be fraudulent.

These official denials could adversely affect other Jester holdings, threaten their nonprofit status and put an end to their write-offs (like nearly \$600,000 for one of their weekend parties), especially if the state brought up the subject of prostitution during the tax appeal hearings.

In other Jester news, the governor of Florida just promoted a judge with an appointment to the fourth judicial circuit out of Jacksonville.

If the nominating committee had vetted the applicant's email address, they would have found that this official city of Jacksonville email address was included on two Royal Order of Jester subscription lists posted online.

The judge's application fails to list his Jester affiliation though he lists membership in the Masons, Shriners, York Rite and Scottish Rite. This suggests, again, another fraudulent application—this time for a judicial position. The appointment of this judge may remind you of some other Jesters in positions of power, like those caught in the human trafficking sting out of Buffalo, New York.

So, what can you do as a reporter, editor or otherwise?

Educate yourself.

It could be as easy as watching the movies on NWCAT.org.

It could be as easy as creating a Google or Yahoo! alert for "human trafficking" or "child sex tourism."

It could be as easy as spending a few minutes learning about the organizations fighting this modern form of slavery.

Learn about and support groups like Soroptimist International, because women like Michelle Bart walk their talk, which is the most important thing we can do.

Chapter 42: Jesters Lose Tax Decision

Published Tue Feb 14, 2012 3:54 AM PST

Author's Note: This article is dedicated to Carl Bernstein in honor of his 68th birthday today, February 14.

Thank you,

Sandy

2/14/2012

Starbucks, WA

Here is the January 9, 2012 decision against the Jesters:

“All property receives protection, security, and services from the government, such as fire and police protection, and public schools. These governmental services carry with them a corresponding obligation of pecuniary support in the form of taxation. When property is exempt from taxation, the effect is to shift the amount of taxes a property would have paid to other parcels that are not exempt.”

The Jesters submitted Exhibits A-Q that included previous tax applications and documents, IRS approval letters and a list of U.S. National Masonic Appendant bodies. Presenting their case was attorney Paul M. Jones of Ice Miller LLP; and Alex Rogers, Executive Director. Here are the reasons they argued that the Jesters deserved both charitable and fraternal property tax exemptions:

- The property is owned, occupied and used for charitable, educational and religious purposes.
- A previous consent order granted exemption based on fraternal claims.
- They are part of Masonry.
- The Jesters are exempt from federal taxation as both a 501(c)(3) charity and 501(c)(10) fraternity made up of 191 “courts” with 20,500 members.

Rogers testified that the Masons were the “highest respected fraternal organization in the world” and that that “The purpose of the Jesters is spreading the gospel of mirth, merriment and cheerfulness, promoting fellowship and fraternity among members, and extending good cheer and assistance to the general public, which furthers the Masonic principles of brotherly love, belief and truth. Mirth is king explains to the world the purpose of our existence.”

The Jesters submitted Exhibit Q, a list of national Masonic groups. The Grand Lodge of Indiana does not include the Jesters on their own page of affiliated groups.

The Jesters referred to two cases that supported Masonic property tax exemption. The first case was 150 years old and the second case was issued by the Court of Appeals in 1969.

Jones’ and Rogers’ claims were countered by John C. Slatten, the attorney for the Marion County Assessor, who successfully argued that the Jesters’ property should be 100% taxable for the following reasons:

- The Jesters building is used for administrative purposes only such as collecting financial information, sending out reports to the various subordinate courts and answering questions about the bylaws.
- The Jesters failed to prove the property was predominantly used for any exempt purpose.
- The Jesters failed to show they provided a public benefit that would justify the loss of tax revenue.
- The Jesters do not serve the class of people that are legitimate subjects of charity.
- The property does not relieve any government burden.
- The Jesters are a recreational group that is predominantly a social club.
- The Jesters aren’t engaged in any charitable activities.
- Jester educational activities are limited to the membership.
- The second case used to support their argument was overturned.
- The government has no obligation to provide entertainment, merriment or “mirth.”

If you were at the IRS, would you have approved “mirth” as an exempt purpose?

IRS documents like the 1023 application for tax exemption and the last three years of a nonprofit group's tax returns are, by law, to be disclosed within 30 days of request. A first request for the Jesters' 1023 was sent on December 20, 2007, and two times since. They have not complied; and, at the rate of \$20 a day, could be fined nearly \$30K.

Slatten then pointed out that the Jesters provided no evidence that the Masonic fraternity, as it exists today, operates in the same manner, performs the same functions and retains the same position in society as it did 150 years ago. He continued that the Jesters also failed to prove that today's exemption statute is the same or substantially similar to the exemption statute applied by the court in 1865.

"Likewise," the decision reads, "the Petitioner failed to show that the Jesters operate in the same manner, performs the same functions and retains the same position in society as the Masons. Though to the extent that the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Indiana remains good law 150 years later, the case merely found property owned by the Free Masons to be exempt. Nowhere in that decision was there any analysis of property owned and used by the Jesters."

Slatten then argued that the Jesters had not established an educational or charitable purpose because the museum was not advertised or promoted as being open to the public, had no signage and was not on the national museum registry.

The Jesters property has now been classified as "commercial."

As a result, they must now dissolve.

According to a source at the IRS, "This decision means the Jesters are no longer considered a tax-exempt group. They must now dissolve and start to file taxable returns."

A source from the Indiana Secretary of State Office agreed, stating that they had no enforcement power, so it is up to the Jesters to dissolve and reincorporate as a taxable group. An Indiana expert on nonprofit dissolution stated "If the IRS says that's what this group must do, then that's what they must do."

So, what does this mean for the Jesters and other Masonic organizations in Indiana who own tax-exempt property? And will the Jesters appeal?

1) The Jesters must now dissolve their charity as well as their 191 "courts" because Jones and Rogers failed to prove either deserved tax exemption.

2) The Jesters can't give their assets to themselves. Most logically, they will donate their cash and assets to their corresponding Shriner temples.

3) The Jesters' failure now provides Indiana's assessors with a blueprint to challenge Masonic-related property tax exemption applications as potential sources of revenue.

It's safe to speculate that the leaders of the Grand Lodge of Indiana aren't going to be too happy after learning that the Jesters threw them under the bus. Projected 2012 income tax revenues for Indianapolis are down 30%, or \$85 million, from 2010. The Grand Lodge of Indiana's building is worth \$4.2 million. If taxed at a rate of 3%, the county could take in \$126,500 from this one building alone.

Tax returns, available through GuideStar.org, show the national fraternal office reports \$1.3 million in assets. Tax returns report the charity has \$443,661 in cash. A search of Indiana Secretary of State's list of registered businesses reveals that the fraternal "courts" are not registered, but the charity is.

The Fort Wayne Court #27 is led by Director Larry Freeman, Treasurer David Ballinger and Secretary Dave Goodwin; it reports \$155.69 in savings.

Court #43 operates out of 136 Country Club Dr., La Porte, Indiana. It is led by Director Michael C. Woolfington, Treasurer Edwin M. Bowers and Impresario R. William Stoll; it reports \$42,154 in cash.

Terre Haute Court #45 operates out of 9814 Armstrong Place, Terre Haute, Indiana. It is led by Impresario William Campbell, and it reports \$13,404 in cash.

The Evansville Court operates out of 900 S Meadow Rd, Evansville, Indiana. It is led by Director Dr. C. Mike Wood, Impresario; Joseph J. Vezzoso Jr., and Treasurer Charles R. McDonald. It reports \$18,531 in cash.

So, will the Jesters appeal?

Sources report there was no mention of human trafficking, prostitution or child sex tourism during the property tax hearing.

Would you appeal, knowing how easy it would be to link Jester sex crimes to the building in question?

Indiana officials recently toughened human trafficking penalties in advance of the Super Bowl being held in Indianapolis. The Indiana Attorney General worked with the Indiana legislature to create and unanimously pass a bill that Governor Mitch Daniels signed on Monday, January 30, 2012. The bill increases the penalty for forcing an underage person into the sex trade to up to 50 years in prison.

Now it's time for Indiana investigators to connect the dots with their counterparts in Buffalo and Miami, visit Alex Rogers and ask him a few questions about the link between these sex crimes and the Jesters' property.

Did you work with Judge Ronald Tills to get the “Jester girls” for the national meeting in Niagara Falls, Ontario?

If you knew, who else knew and when did they know it?

If you knew, how many others have worked with the national office to make sure they got “Jester girls” to their next weekend meeting?

Are you aware that board member Scutter Newton was expected to answer questions about having sex with minors while on a Jester fishing trip to Brazil?

Did you, or anyone else in Jester leadership, sign an out-of-country trip letter, mandated by your bylaws, sanctioning the Jesters’ fishing trip to Brazil?

Can we search your computer, the computers of your board of directors and other officers, and any associated Jester emails for child pornography?

Chapter 43: Human Trafficking Resource for Reporters and Editors

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Author’s Note: This article brings together law enforcement officers, prosecutors, non-government organizations (NGO), the media, and victims to help reporters and editors better understand (and, thereby, better report on) these forms of modern-day slavery.

Thank you,

Sandy Frost

Starbucks, WA

Headlines rage daily about human trafficking, sex tourism and child sex tourism.

CNN just posted “Commentary: Urge U.S. Congress to action via your tweets.”

According to a recent Seattle Times editorial, “Human trafficking is a \$32 billion global industry, the fastest-growing and second-largest criminal activity in the world.”

Here are some breaking news hooks:

- Twenty or so of the President’s Secret Service team thought it was ok to not only to frequent prostitutes in Columbia, but then stiffed one for \$47.
- Nicholas Kristof of The New York Times just exposed Goldman Sachs as a 16-percent owner of Village Voice Media, sponsor of Backpage.com, a “leading site for trafficking of women and girls in the United States.”

- The National Association of Attorneys General, under the leadership of Washington State's Rob McKenna, has launched their "Pillars of Hope" initiative to unite AG nationwide against human trafficking.
- Last June, Brazil reports on developments in a story I broke four years ago. Atlanta attorney John Harbin, of King & Spalding, is representing the four victims pro bono.

Journalists are also reporting legislative news from those states furiously enacting legislation that creates stiffer penalties for trafficking underage victims. This happened in Iowa, where officials just passed new human trafficking legislation and approved human trafficking awareness training.

At this point, fashionable or not, unfunded mandates or not, the right people at the right time at the right places are collaborating to end these forms of modern-day slavery.

The Soroptimists published a White Paper that reports, according to the FBI, that human trafficking is estimated to annually generate 9.5 billion dollars of revenue and is the second largest criminal industry in the world today.

The Polaris Project provides answers to questions like "What types of human trafficking can be found in the United States?" and "How do I get a copy of the State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report?"

Certainly, there are those of us who live for the scoop. However, 99% of breaking such news requires professional and personal preparation.

The advice from the following three experts is intended to help reporters and editors better cover these crimes.

These three are Jon Daggy, an Indianapolis detective sergeant with 23 years in uniform and four years' experience investigating human trafficking. Next up is Cheryl Smith, who was lured from working as a professional escort to just now escaping an eight-year relationship with a sex predator. Last is Michelle Bart, a tireless worker who has dedicated her life to ending human trafficking.

Here is Detective Sergeant Jon Daggy.

First, your bio—how do you want to be described?

I am a Detective Sergeant with the Indianapolis Metro Police Department. I have been on duty 23 years and spent most of my time in uniform. I did two years, from 1992–1993, investigating gangs in Indianapolis. I have taught at the academy and, for the last 6 years, I've been in the Vice unit responsible for vice crimes. Four years ago, human trafficking became my responsibility.

If you've thought about this, providing advice to journalists, what have you thought about telling journalists about covering human trafficking? As a law enforcement officer, what would you like reporters to know before asking questions about a human trafficking case?

Understand that when you find out that the police are investigating a human trafficking case that they may be in the initial stages of the investigation, and the victim most likely does not even trust the police yet. It takes several long interviews before the victim will tell the complete truth about what happened. A lot of shame has built up in these victims and they may be realizing for the first time the acts that they were committing while they were trafficked. If they see that their case has made the news, it could ruin the building trust between the detective and the victim. The one thing they are most worried about is their family finding out about the crimes they had to commit while being trafficked. Also, reporters need to understand that a victim, especially in sex trafficking, will often return to the trafficker. Cases may take one to two years, and losing then finding the victim again in another part of the country is quite common. It's very similar and many of the same dynamics of a domestic violence victim.

If a reporter has fifteen minutes to do research on human trafficking before calling a public relations type at a law enforcement agency (city, county, state and federal) where would you direct them?

Most departments have a Public Information Officer (PIO). He or she is usually the person that will get permission from the department head to have the officer speak to you. Also, make sure that you promise to not identify the victim or suspect. Most likely if a source tells you that the police just caught a human trafficking case, they don't want the trafficker to find out yet. It's difficult to outright arrest a trafficker. It takes a lot of investigation and documentation.

How many components are there to a human trafficking investigation? There are the investigators, the traffickers, the victims and who else?

There are also the NGO's or Non-Governmental Organizations that provide the victims with food, housing, counseling, training, jobs, and other needs. They are the victim services and are worth their weight in gold. We had a Chinese victim and they know that housing them will be long and sometimes boring. Since they speak little to no English, they will get movies in Mandarin or any foreign language to help pass the time. Remember they are going through a life change and they are still connected to the trafficker through feelings, and even a sense of loyalty. Once again, very much like a domestic violence victim.

What kind of training do law enforcement investigators get on computer forensics? I have long wondered because I've heard in the past that the editor of the Jesters'

national newsletter claimed his computer got burned up in a fire and had to be replaced in an attempt to hide his work and emails. Isn't data stored at the customer's provider so there is always a record somewhere of what the suspect may have sent to others via email and/or viewed? Without letting the horse out of the barn, are there forensic tools to investigate someone's computer beyond the one they have at home or work?

Unless they use a remote server that stores information, everything is on a computer. I don't know much more about computer forensics. Very few, specially trained officers do these forensics.

What do journalists need to do to prepare for writing on human trafficking from an FBI or DOJ press release?

What you see is all you are going to get on a federal press release. All federal cases are cloaked with a grand jury umbrella and what is released was probably approved by the DOJ. If you have a source that is giving you information on a federal case, he is violating federal law and will go to federal prison.

What are the top online media for raising awareness of human trafficking? YouTube messages? Facebook pages? Wikipages?

I would say that Facebook does a really good job since it's the most popular. Ashton and Demi's DNA foundation on FB has over 100,000 likes. It doesn't seem as active though, since they split up. Nevertheless, it has done a good job of raising awareness. Ashton is a patriot for being the only celebrity to front out Backpage.com for its prostitution ads.

What is the most misunderstood aspect of human trafficking that reporters don't get?

The cases are long-term and sensitive, and arrests aren't immediately made. The first goal of a human trafficking case is to make a victim safe, and arresting the suspect is next. Also, they are usually more girls that haven't been recovered, and too much publicity could make it dangerous for them.

In about 30 words, what turned you into an advocate? The moment you decided to fight human trafficking? Have you seen a point of no return for advocates? I read the depositions of those five Brazilian girls and my life was forever changed to give them a voice and fight for justice for them. Was there such a moment for you?

I am an undercover vice detective. About four years ago, I was ordered to run the human trafficking investigations along with my other vice duties. I did not really want it at first, since the laws were new and there was not a lot of buy into it. I'm a good order-follower and gradually started to enjoy doing the investigations. I fight a lot of battles and lose most of them when it comes to these types of investigations.

I've actually had a couple of no-return moments. One was when I realized the victim dynamics were similar to domestic violence and it no longer mattered to me: "Why they didn't just run away from the trafficker?"

The second moment was when I recovered a Chinese girl who hated the only life that she did not pick here in America of being a prostitute. When she got to return to her family, it was a feeling that I wouldn't sell for a million dollars.

There is the possibility that some may experience PTSD or secondary trauma from investigating, prosecuting and reporting about human trafficking. Have you seen evidence of this or experienced this yourself?

I have not experienced PTSD from these types of investigations but I think some of the NGO's could possibly be a victim of this. So could police, but not yet from these cases.

Do you feel comfortable providing an overview of the perpetrators? Are there commonalities among them? I am finding that they seem to be driven as successful business, community or public servants.

The Johns are usually, not always, white married men with children, when it comes to the escorts online. Many of the escorts, whether white or black, will not serve African American men. The John that picks up the street walker has changed over the last twenty years from being mostly white men, to white and black men, and now we see a majority of Hispanic males picking up street walkers and getting arrested for it. The chance of getting caught by the police is always in their mind since they put undercover female officers through "cop" tests. We still get them.

What is the top legislative solution you'd like to see enacted to help you better do your job?

I would still like states to lift the burden of proving force, fraud and coercion to victims under 18 years old. The federal job does a good law of covering this. Juveniles are vulnerable and can't make these decisions for themselves.

Is there a strong, united focus among worldwide agencies or do they fight among themselves?

There is a worldwide focus but it could be better united. Everybody has different statistical estimates on the numbers of people being trafficked. I am concerned more with the one that I can help at the time I'm doing an investigation. I do believe acting locally will affect us all globally, though.

Lastly, for journalists. Let an investigation work without digging at first. You can review court documents to see what charges have been filed, which are public information.

Also, by that point the victim will have made the life-changing decision to assist in the investigation and confront her trafficker in court, which takes a massive amount of bravery.

Next, meet Cheryl Smith. She is on the tough journey from being an “escort” to a concubine controlled by a sexual monger the past eight years. She has hit rock bottom and is at the painful point of taking responsibility for recovering after her daughter moved out because she couldn’t stand to watch her Mom suffer. Cheryl has vacillated between loving and hating “Gregor” for destroying her personhood and ability to recognize the woman she has become today, living between terror and warrior.

Cheryl was led by Gregor (name changed to protect those innocent until found guilty) into the dark and dangerous world of sex tourism. Here is the “sex tourism” definition from Wikipedia:

Generally, an adult can travel and engage in a sexual activity with an adult prostitute, in similar circumstances as would apply to local prostitution. However, when the sexual activity involves child prostitution, is non-consensual or involves sex trafficking, it is generally illegal, both in the participating country and sometimes in the individual’s home country.

“He exploited my naiveté,” she says with remorse. “I became a pawn in his ‘sinister mind games.’”

Today, she is trying to identify predator traits as a warning system for others. She wants others to know how narcissism and sex addiction drives successful businessmen to endanger others by passing STDs.

Cheryl has advice for both victims and journalists.

“If you are being trafficked, go to the media,” she said. “You get the positive esteem coming back. Bring your story to light even when it’s painful to do so.”

Here is what Cheryl wants journalists to know.

“First,” she stated, “be aware that the victims have been treated in the worst ways possible. They’ve been sexually violated in every way possible. Gone are intimacy, trust and love. The victims can also experience the Stockholm Syndrome, where they love and want to protect their captors in a weird kind of way, the perpetrator.”

Today, Gregor is under federal investigation and is believed to have been indicted for a long laundry list of financial crimes. Cheryl has been trying to connect the dots for her own healing and has come up with some common traits of those who sexually prey on women, children and family.

“We are ruled by these cons,” she said. “They are control freaks and that, in part, makes them successful in their professional lives. They do whatever they want. They are power-hungry predators who get off on conquering and taking control, then going home to rule their families.”

“I watched him escalate into these episodes,” she continued, “he had these moments in front of others he wanted to recruit into his global mongering. What little he had of his intimate humanity is gone. He’s ultimately absorbed in himself—consumed by narcissism and a conquering addiction—but will show his affection with gifts, to purge any guilt of wrongdoing.”

“It’s hard for outsiders to get it,” Cheryl explained, “that these guys get off on harming human spirits. I used to be so social, so beautiful, and he’s had no remorse after destroying me. He knew he was going to go to prison but he’d beg me: ‘Give me another day and week it will get better.’ It’s like living w/an alcoholic.”

“Journalists should know that there are two types of victims,” she said. “They’ll think ‘I brought this on myself.’ Unassuming lovers, in the same slave-like position, don’t see someone as narcissistic while he’s growling and running his fingers through their hair calling them a pretty baby and to not doubt that their ‘keeper’ loves them. In my personal situation it would hurt his feelings when I voiced skepticism about his sincerity. Psychopathic. They are all most definitely are self-serving, yet needy for constant attention even though they are, in fact, rulers and controllers. They’ll keep the perfect-looking image and succeed because he’ll exert manipulations in his game of control that include kind gestures and rewards as tools of entrapment.”

“A journalist needs to know this personality type, else they be similarly fooled,” Cheryl explained. “When I met Gregor, I was strong, happy, confident, and never felt uncomfortable around people. I would never have been sleeping for ten hours. He slowly removed me, changed me, even the way I dressed. I cut my hair and began wearing dresses below the knee to be this conservative Stepford type. Once I achieved the Squeaky-Clean image, he started making it obvious he was chasing exactly what I ‘was’—“sexy.” However, I could no longer even put on lingerie. He told me I looked like a slut. It was common that I would discover websites and phone numbers of prostitutes and fellow ‘mongers’ on his iPad and cell phone. He stopped having sex with me and would treat me like shit. Oddly, he obsessed over my photos, as if I were his ‘fluffer’ before his conquests. He’d say ‘I come when I can; if you don’t like it, tough shit.’ He would commission me to work on business marketing projects that never truly existed. At times, he would also ‘ration’ his supporting funds and encourage me to sell off my jewelry and every other small asset I had, with claims that a big business deal would soon pay off. He did this to have more control and I fell for it. Physically weak and

sinking into depression, I felt like I was going crazy sometimes as he was chiseling away at my 'being'. I tried to kill myself twice.”

“A psychiatrist we saw together said ‘It’s obvious you’re a con-man. You don’t want help.’ He blamed me for that too, but later reverted into delusional self-righteousness and faulted my depression. Away from public’s eye, he treated me like a princess, but would turn on me if I called his office five minutes later. Everyone in his office thought I was a Looney Tune with this other personality. He strategized his pawns that way. Everyone in his life is carefully ‘compartmentalized.’”

As Cheryl learned more about Gregor and his international business dealings, she became a threat to his operation and learned more than she wanted about sex tourism. Today, he blames her for his arrest related to a 192-charge indictment filed against him. She has been honest with authorities and honest with him about every report made, as he ‘encouraged’ with proclaimed innocence.

“People have to know what it is like,” Cheryl re-emphasized. “It’s hard to make sense of. He tells me I’m sick and his crimes are the works of others trying to frame him. In the end, he left me in dire straits and hurt the emotions of my developing kids. He’s known my son his whole life. He didn’t care. At one point, my daughter took his side with admiration, but before she moved out, she hid behind her bedroom door to protect her heart.”

“As I was getting help and therapy,” Cheryl went on, “it destroyed everything in his ‘fantasy.’ The man delivered magic and charismatic charm into everything he did. Sweet, perfect and wonderful. I know no one will ever compare to that. On the flip side, he was sinister, berating and never kept a single promise spoken so beautifully. I’m shell-shocked. It’s going to take a long time to heal.”

Cheryl first contacted me after reading my investigation into the nationwide network of human trafficking conducted at taxpayer expense by the Royal Order of Jesters. “Jester wives are like Stepford Wives,” Cheryl explained. “It’s like they’re 17 and on the cheerleading squad. They identify as ‘Jerry’s wife’ instead of their name. I’m not internally that type of woman, but became such. Their identity becomes that of their husband. They don’t think they need help, and most seem to be in denial.”

“I tried to bring sense to light with Gregor and he’d react with anger,” she recalled. “His mindset was described to me like, if you look at the way the mind of a serial killer is like that of a predator. A sexual monger like Gregor develops a similar ‘conquer’ mentality as that of a serial killer. It’s about conquest and control. Gregor arrogantly demanded that I turn in evidence that I’d gathered. He knew he was guilty because there is a part of him that wants to get caught. He swore I would learn he was ‘clean.’ Collecting

trophies and leaving trademarks was his boast in online forums. Ha-ha I was here and you didn't catch me. Push it that far, wanting to get caught. Hit rock bottom."

"These guys get away with it because it's a different addiction and it's acceptable," she said. "You don't see the bad behavior. You don't see it unless you're part of it. Like I said when I saw pictures of them being dropped off. Taking pictures of the puddle jumpers and get off in the middle of the Amazon make shift huts, each one, holds different age groups. In camps, sex camps. I do know what I saw in photographs where these people are held in villages, to rape groups of women to leave a few bucks. Going home like 'I'm a man hear me roar' because I fucked a boy, a girl, mom and daughter. Completely detached. They are your more powerful power-hungry, as low as a manager in a movie theater to your major CEO. Or they like to be dominated. These are predators who exchange photos. Trophy photos. A social addiction, when they bring each other into it, it's all OK. It becomes a sport. It's not healthy. Even if they don't hit rock bottom, it's still not acceptable. It's taboo. When I've told people sex trafficking is the fastest-growing crime in the U.S., they think I'm exaggerating."

"Someone does need to help," Cheryl pleaded. "Help the lovers, wives, and the victims ourselves. I can't function sometimes today. He told me I need to watch out, because fellow mongers want revenge. The things that scare me most are the things in the bigger picture. I have reason to not be at ease."

Though Cheryl fears for her life, she still wants to stand on her own two feet. Some days she feels that her only true freedom will come with Gregor's loss of freedom. It makes her remorseful.

"He killed me slowly from the inside out," she lamented. "I was sick because of the dysfunctional situation. These are not healthy situations. No one would participate if they were healthy. It takes lots to recognize that."

"Here are some words to never use when talking about sex trafficking," Cheryl said. "Never ask 'Why did you stay?' The codependent can't explain their surrender. If they're at the point of recognizing it, maybe—but you can't explain to anyone. There might be a trigger that can bring back all those insecurities."

"Never tell them how to move forward," she said. "Never say 'This is what you need to do now' or they'll go 'You're fucked up' and end up isolated. If you could talk to someone and they'd not look down on you as being weak or messed up, where would you go? We need to support and create more programs for victim assistance. Not enough exist."

"Always be mindful because it's hard to understand," Cheryl said. "Treat them like a beaten spouse. You don't know what their triggers are going to be. They've been under someone's control. Make them feel valued. That's how you will get more people coming

out. Be mindful that the article is supposed to help fight human trafficking, even if a reporter respects their anonymity.”

How does Cheryl advise a reporter if the victim has been a prostitute?

“If it’s in the U.S., I would not tell them they are doing something wrong,” she said. “I’d not tell them they are bad. Not bad, not doing drugs, sober. The majority of girls, many girls, go downhill because of drugs. They’re single moms with a habit; and a lot of dysfunction, if they’re still working. If they’re still in the profession, they don’t divulge it.”

“The money becomes an addiction too,” she confessed. “With \$7000–8000 a month, I was an exception; I had a reputation for being the golden girl. I built mystique. Nothing feels better than to be here. The ones who have done it previously, keep it in your past. It’s surprising how many people understand. Empower the person you are interviewing. Ask questions like ‘If you could be in a better position sooner, what would that be?’ With that, both might be able to help each other. Don’t shame a prostitute. There really is a way out.”

When it comes to sex tourism, Cheryl shared her experience as an investigator for three years. “This is a huge contributor to trafficking. Smiling faces don’t betray that they are scared because their family could be killed. There is always a threat or promise. No one should support sex tourism, yet it’s an unspoken benefit of foreign business trips. It’s like a guerilla war against the economy of victims. Worst is, that, you’re a slave on top of it. If more people are in a safe haven of recovery with victim assistance programs, we can reach more victims. Tip hotlines and financial services and clothes are OK, but when can I talk with someone?”

“Then there’s the emotional detachment disorder,” Cheryl shared. “It’s hard to convince yourself because on one hand he was wonderful, but it isn’t real to him. It’s only real to me. The minute he left, it was part of making him happy. I’ve been to the hospital 21 times. I finally had to leave without any money. He was like a daddy figure, my rock, my husband. Through therapy, I was paying attention to whether or not he was there and the lights were on. He was my greatest lover, my life love. I was willing to sacrifice my whole self to him, my biggest betrayer. It’s hard to remember that part. When you have BWS, we wipe the bad from our brains. That’s how we end up stuck. I had to let go of my earth’s core and come to terms that none of this was real for him,” she said. “I was a fantasy and was created to fulfill his self-image. He was not there for his wife either.”

“I’ve left him countless times. I have letters from him how he’d mesh his family with mine. I can’t live like this,” she concluded.

Next is Michelle Bart. She owns Helping Heroes, which helps families of missing children by keeping a child’s face and case visible through national media outlets

including HLN's "Nancy Grace Show," "Issues" with Jane Velez-Mitchell on HLN, Fox News, CNN's "Larry King Live," and People Magazine. Michelle was on Lifetime Television's "American Most Wanted" human trafficking two-hour special, and recently was also seen on E! Entertainment's "True Hollywood Story."

Michelle also hosts "Voices for Justice" on BTR. She is the Public Awareness Chair for Soroptimist International Northwestern Region, and the Region Chair of the Northwest Coalition Against Trafficking. Michelle is a member of Soroptimist International, NCLR, and is a member of Society of Professional Journalists.

In other words, she's an expert.

Listen to her.

What do journalists need to do to prepare for writing a human trafficking from an FBI or DOJ press release?

They need to write with an open mind and with ethics. Journalists must never re-victimize the victims just to support the power and money of the high-profile folks caught with their pants down. NWCAT created the Jane Velez-Mitchell Journalism Award, and the purpose is to honor those that have a voice for women and children in the media!

What resources do you recommend?

There are so many fraudulent individuals and organizations with hidden agendas, and we are very cautious of those who we continue to partner with. These are just a few partnerships we constantly refer to:

- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
- Transitions Global
- GEMS
- Polaris Project
- Friends of Maiti Nepal
- America Overseas Domestic Violence & Trafficking Crisis Center
- Colorado Human Trafficking Task Force
- CATW
- ESTEAM
- Shared Hope

What is the economic benefit, if any, for media to report on human trafficking? In other words, are there sales points owners and publishers can exploit to increase the bottom line by including human trafficking in crime reporting?

Any media that takes a penny from an advertiser selling sex, in my opinion, is not doing justice against exploitation of women and children. In fact, those that take dirty money are just as much to blame as those doing the selling and those buying the sex. You cannot have it both ways—we must all be a part of the solution, or the problems in our society will continue to spiral out of control.

What are the top online media for raising awareness of human trafficking? YouTube messages? Facebook pages? Wikipages?

Hard to say. All of the partners listed above have great sites including our own NWCAT.org. We must all do our part to clean up the Internet and have a voice for the voiceless!

What is the most misunderstood aspect of human trafficking that reporters “don’t get”?

No child and, for the most part, most women did not go into prostitution and were trafficked because it was their choice; most were forced from the beginning. For those that stay in the “life” may not know anything else and they are not to blame; the Johns and Pimps must be taken down and until we can begin prosecuting and arresting those doing the crime, the children and women will not be rescued and restored to a better life!

In about 30 words, what turned you into an advocate? The moment you decided to fight human trafficking?

It was in Los Angeles; I heard a child victim tell her story. How can anyone not have a voice once you learn about this horrific epidemic?

There is the possibility that some may experience PTSD or secondary trauma from investigating, prosecuting and reporting about human trafficking and/or associated sex crimes. Have you seen evidence of this or experienced this yourself?

Yes, I have seen this in some of our survivors from our NWCAT Survivor Network. I am not a survivor of trafficking; so, much of what I experience is in the conversations and eyes of our survivors. Unfortunately past survivors are never really living without the stress of their experiences. Survivors deal with PTSD among many other issues; many survivors we have are in therapy 20 years later. There will always be triggers, smells, visions and other “past life” things that may continue the rest of their life. Dealing with it helps them to cope and move onto their future. Support groups, therapy, faith and wellness efforts help survivors make it through!

Do you feel comfortable providing an overview of the perpetrators? Are there commonalities among them? I am finding that they seem to be driven as successful business, community or public servants but somehow the power corrupts them and they go off the deep end, sexually. Common traits seem to be narcissism and self-delusion. Overall, my assessment is these individuals suffer from addictions and need to be treated like the sick criminals that they are.

I suggest you ask a doctor on this. I can get you a recognizable psychologist to answer this for you, if you like.

What is the top legislative solution you'd like to see enacted?

In my opinion, the state of Oregon needs to change their constitution so that Portland and other cities can reduce the number of business licenses given to "legal brothels." Every time the city issues a license to a strip club, lingerie shop, or massage parlor, the city ultimately is adding to the epidemic of human trafficking and exploitation, and they are just as much to blame as those doing the criminal acts.

Is there a strong, united focus among worldwide agencies or do they fight among themselves instead of fighting for the victims?

One of our major unified focuses is Ending Modern-Day Slavery. Despite many with hidden agendas, most reputable organizations agree this inhumane criminal activity needs to end and the violence against women and children needs to be addressed locally, state-wide, nationally and internationally. The war on women needs to end and civic and governmental leaders need to pony-up and stop fighting over petty things. For every minute we waste on verbiage and not law, it's a minute lost on another life. We need to be a voice for the voiceless and it starts with all of us!

Thanks to these three for their time.

My advice to those wanting to learn more about human trafficking is read the 77-page FBI request for arrest warrants. It provides rare insight into how carefully the FBI builds a human trafficking case, the dire living situations of sex slaves, and provides evidence necessary for the judge to sign-off on arrest warrants.

No one should be above the law, especially those who enforce it.

Chapter 44: Plaintiffs File Motion to Lift Stay in Richard Schair Trafficking Case

Published Fri Jul 13, 2012 10:10 AM PDT

A motion to lift a yearlong stay has been filed on behalf of four Brazilian women who allege that former fishing tour operator Richard Schair of Gainesville, Georgia, coerced them while underage into prostitution for his North American fishing clients.

Attorney John Harbin moved “to lift the stay of this action ordered by the Court, pursuant to the Trafficking in Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003” or TVPA.

He wrote as “Factual Background” that “On June 4, 2011, Plaintiffs initiated this action seeking damages for violations of the TVPA. On July 7, 2011, Defendant Richard Schair moved for a ‘mandatory stay’ of this action on the grounds that both the Brazilian authorities and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of Florida were conducting criminal investigations of Defendant Schair, and that the terms of 15 U.S.C. 1595(b)(1) mandated a stay on such a motion.”

The motion then explained that Schair submitted evidence that Brazilian federal prosecutors are prosecuting him for child sex tourism while U.S. prosecutors are conducting a criminal grand jury investigating him for child sex tourism. Documents included Brazilian court documents dated January 31, 2011, a target letter sent to his ex-wife Amelia from the U.S. Attorney’s Office dated December 16, 2010 and a Federal Grand Jury Subpoena for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida issued to Defendant Wet-A-Line Tours, dated June 25, 2009.

An online search for “Wet-A-Line” with the Georgia Secretary of State reveals that the corporation was “terminated.” The “Wet-A-Line Tours, LLC” Certificate of Voluntary Termination has the Secretary of State terminating the company on May 9, 2011, with Schair backdating his signature to July 1, 2010. In Verification of his Answer of Defendants, he represents himself as President of Wet-A-Line Tours and swears the facts and assertions are true and correct to the best of his knowledge. The date of his signature is August 12, 2011.

According to the Secretary of State, the articles of dissolution must state that there are no actions pending against the corporation in any court or that adequate provision has been made for the satisfaction of any judgment, order or decree that may be ordered against the corporation in any pending action.

No such statements are in Schair’s dissolution, though Wet-A-Line was subpoenaed in June 2009.

The target letter to Schair’s ex-wife states “The Office of the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida has been asked by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to review certain evidence concerning a matter that may relate to your conduct. Specifically, according to information that ICE and FBI supplied to this Office, you were involved with a company and/or an individual who may have engaged in child sex tourism in Brazil.”

The letter from Brazil’s Public Ministries’ Prosecutor for the Amazon to the Federal Judge of the Amazon lists those they “denounce” and then cites as fact that “Richard

Wayne Schair” and “Jose Lauro Rocha Da Silva,” as partners of the Santana Turismo Ecologico Company during 2005–2007, sexually exploited minors and took advantage of the prostitution of minors. All the “denounced,” including Schair, are then charged with being part of a group that was established for the prostitution of underage Brazilians in the State of Amazon. There are further charges listed here:

- Sexual exploitation of minors.
- Rape.
- Facilitation of prostitution.
- Ruffianism.
- Domestic trafficking of people.

Schair’s answer to the Plaintiffs’ complaint denied any wrongdoing and revealed that the fishing boat used for the alleged prostitution was actually owned by Lauro Rocha and Jean Philip Perol. Rocha is a co-defendant as he, Schair and four others are being prosecuted in Brazil for operating a network of prostitution of underage girls for North American fishermen. Rocha was also called to testify before the Brazilian Congress as they conducted their own investigation. Perol was the head of the official French tourism office and the Chairman of the European Travel Commission.

Attorney Harbin, who is representing the Plaintiffs pro bono, noted there were no changes in the status updates filed every 90 days since the case was first stayed.

Harbin states, “In issuing its decision, the Court stated that “[a]” at some point during this litigation, particularly if the investigation in this case does not proceed to a prosecution, the court will need to decide when and if a criminal investigation is no longer pending.” He submits that that time is now, a year after the Plaintiffs filed this suit.

According to the “Federal Regional Court of the First Region,” (case number 0006327-13.2011.4.01.3200), entries document Brazilian case activity that may have qualified for the status update of May 14, 2012. It reported “At this time, the parties are not aware of any changes in the criminal proceedings in the United States or Brazil that were raised by the defendants in the motion to stay the case.”

Harbin then states that “it does not appear that the federal government intends to seek an indictment against either Defendant, as nearly three years has passed since the government issued its Subpoena to Defendant Wet-A-Line Tours, LLC. It appears that the United States Attorney’s interest in this matter has waned. Plaintiffs should not be

made to endure further delays when the Defendants can only ‘theorize that an investigation might be possibly ongoing.’”

Harbin cited in support of “Kolbek v. Twenty First Century Holiness Tabernacle Church, Inc.” He wrote “The Kolbek court noted that the legislative history of the TVPA indicates that it was the Department of Justice that pushed for the inclusion of the mandatory stay in, based on a concern that civil suits might hinder prosecutors’ abilities to try a case unfettered by the complications of civil discovery. The court found that Congress enacted these amendments to strengthen the U.S. government’s ability to combat the worldwide scourge of trafficking in persons by enhancing provisions on prevention of trafficking, protection of victims of trafficking and prosecution of traffickers, that the stay was not included to protect the defendants in civil actions. Ultimately, the court held, stays under the TVPA should be imposed in cases where the government has intervened, informed the Court of an ongoing investigation, and advised the civil case is subject to a mandatory stay. These circumstances do not exist here.”

Harbin concludes his argument by asking if including Schair’s Brazil prosecution is relevant under the statute, submitting that “the stay provision does not encompass foreign criminal proceedings.”

If the Honorable William O’Kelley, Senior Judge for the U.S. District Court, Gainesville Division, agrees, would he disregard Schair’s potentially fraudulent status report?

Or, if the status report is proven fraudulent, might he charge Schair with perjury or contempt of court?

And finally, who is in charge of squaring up the “no actions pending against the LLC in any court” statement and dates on Schair’s dissolution documents with those dealing with Wet-A-Line from the grand jury—because they don’t seem to match at all.

Chapter 45: Jesters in Congress

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Updated 10/3/2012 with in-text notation.

Editor's Note: This article contains my opinions, specifically when I editorialize in the calls to action.

Thank you,

Sandy

Federal Election Commission (FEC) expense reports document that two current U.S. Congressmen used campaign contributions to pay for membership dues and meeting registration fees to the Royal Order of Jesters.

John J. Duncan Jr. (R) of Tennessee's 2nd District, has four entries for paying Jester dues for the years 2005 and 2007, with two for 2006.

Gus Bilirakis (R) from Florida's 9th District has three entries for Jester membership dues for the years 2008 with one entry for "Jester event registration."

Both are currently running for re-election.

The most basic problem is that the FEC documents show that these Congressmen used campaign contributions for personal expenses.

According to the FEC, use of campaign contributions for personal expenses is prohibited. From page 53 of FEC guidelines:

Personal Use of Campaign Funds

Using campaign funds for personal use is prohibited. 2 USC 439a(b)(1) and 113.2(e). Commission regulations provide a test, called the "irrespective test," to differentiate legitimate campaign and officeholder expenses from personal expenses. Under the "irrespective test," personal use is any use of funds in a campaign account of a candidate (or former candidate) to fulfill a commitment, obligation or expense of any person that would exist irrespective of the candidate's campaign or responsibilities as a federal officeholder. 113.1(g). More simply, if the expense would exist even in the absence of the candidacy or even if the officeholder were not in office, then the personal use ban applies.

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The following is also forbidden:

Entertainment - The campaign may not pay for admission to sporting events, concerts, theater and other forms of entertainment. Campaign funds may be used, however, if the entertainment is part of a specific officeholder or campaign activity. They may not be used for a leisure outing at which the discussion occasionally focuses on the campaign or official functions. 3113.1(g)(1)(i)(F).

Dues, Fees and Gratuities - Campaign funds may not be used to pay for dues to country clubs, health clubs, recreational facilities or other nonpolitical organizations unless the payments are made in connection with a specific fundraising event that takes place on the organization's premises. See, for example, AO 1995-26. Campaign funds may be used for membership dues in an organization that may have political interests.

113.1(g)(1)(i)(G). EXAMPLE: A candidate or officeholder may use campaign funds to pay for a membership in a civic or community group in his or her district in order to maintain political contacts with constituents or the business community.

So, what about the potential conflicts of interest and ethical violations? Could this lead to the suspension of both Congressmen from their committees because of the HUGE security risks? Duncan sits on the Immigration Reform Caucus. Bilirakis sits on the Homeland Security and Foreign Affairs Committees.

Homeland Security conducted part of the Jesters' human trafficking investigation. The agency helped the FBI catch Jesters transporting prostitutes to a national Jester meeting in Canada as well as to Jester parties in Kentucky, Florida, Pennsylvania and New York. One was an undocumented alien Asian sex slave.

Congressmen are automatically given Top Secret clearances upon election. Could Duncan and Bilirakis obtain such clearances if they disclosed these associations as required by the Top Secret Application, Form SF86?

The form states the following:

In addition to the questions on this form, inquiry also is made about your adherence to security requirements, honesty and integrity, vulnerability to exploitation or coercion, falsification, misrepresentation, and any other behavior, activities or associations that tend to demonstrate a person is not reliable, trustworthy or loyal.

These guidelines specify why 89% of those reporting sexual events are denied such clearances.

The Concern: Sexual behavior that involves a criminal offense, indicates a personality or emotional disorder, reflects lack of judgment or discretion, or which may subject the individual to undue influence or coercion, exploitation, or duress can raise questions about an individual's reliability, trustworthiness and ability to protect classified information.

The solution?

- The immediate suspension of these Congressmen from their committee activities until investigations could prove they are not clear and present security risks because their membership dues and registration fees demonstrate their connections to a group involved with human trafficking, prostitution and child sex tourism.
- Investigations by Homeland Security Inspector General, House Ethics Committee and Office of Congressional Ethics, who has to report if they will investigate in 30 days.

- Congressional ethics investigations focusing on self-disclosure and conflict of interest. Did either Congressman recuse himself from any work with human trafficking, immigration and child sex tourism?
- Call for Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) to immediately file complaints with the FEC.
- The FBI to obtain warrants to seize Bilirakis' and Duncan's work and home computers to see if they ever used their positions of public trust to keep track of Jester cases and warn their "brothers."

This is important because other Jester judges and high-ranking law enforcement officers present the same security risks.

Governor Rick Scott appointed a Jester judge who used his City of Jacksonville email address for Jester newsletters. Additionally, this Judge did not put his Jester membership on page 47 of his application. This Judge is a member of the same Jester "court" with another Judge as well as one of the Jesters who went fishing in Brazil, Harry Howlett Waldron.

The Impresario of the Tallahassee Jester Court #194 is also a retired U.S. Marshall.

Governor Bobby Jindhal's former head of Louisiana's Sentencing Commission is also a Jester who could have used his position to protect his "brothers." I sent Jindhal's staff emails asking about Carle Jackson with no reply. These Jesters are in positions to help protect their nationwide network of prostitution and human trafficking, as described by the FBI and DOJ.

At the very least, the Senate Finance committee and IRS should investigate the Jesters for nonprofit abuses. This situation is much worse than the veteran's groups currently under committee investigation. The Jesters just lost a property tax exemption appeal because the Indiana Board of Tax Review decided they do not qualify as a charitable or fraternal nonprofit group.

Specifically, the Jesters' claims were countered by John C. Slatten, the attorney for the Marion County Assessor, who successfully argued that the Jesters' property should be 100% taxable because:

- The Jesters building is used for administrative purposes only such as collecting financial information, sending out reports to the various subordinate courts and answering questions about the bylaws.
- The Jesters failed to prove the property was predominantly used for any exempt purpose.

- The Jesters failed to show they provided a public benefit that would justify the loss of tax revenue.
- The Jesters do not serve the class of people that are legitimate subjects of charity.
- The property does not relieve any government burden.
- The Jesters are a recreational group that is predominantly a social club.
- The Jesters aren't engaged in any charitable activities.
- Jester educational activities are limited to the membership.
- The second case used to support their argument was overturned.
- The government has no obligation to provide entertainment, merriment or "mirth."

An official at the IRS stated, based on this decision, that the Jesters must immediately disband.

About the Author

Sandy Frost is an Alaska Native (Athabascan) online investigative journalist who writes for Newsvine.com, a subsidiary of NBC.com. She is CEO and founder of NewsHooks 2 NewsBooks, a publishing company designed to help journalists with stories to tell but nowhere to tell them. Her twenty years of journalism experience includes daily news, daily copy editing, radio news, technical writing, content writing and magazine writing. Sandy began writing online twelve years ago with an emphasis on investigating nonprofit corruption.

Sandy's work has been cited in "Ritual America: Secret Brotherhoods and Their Influence on American Society: A Visual Guide" and was used as a source for "WCTV Update Exclusive: Complaint Filed Against Florida Congressman" and FOX News Atlanta's "Brazilian Sex Case." She wrote the June, 2011 cover story ""Masons Facilitate Prostitution at U.S. Taxpayer Expense" for Namaste Magazine, UK. She presented "Investigative Journalism" at a University of Washington Career Day, presented "Just Because We're Different Doesn't Mean We're Wrong: diversity and culture and how their impact on online journalism can help you" at the Seattle Rainbow Book Festival and co-organized and presented "Diversity and the Medicine Wheel" at a SPJ Diversity event held at Seattle University. She was invited to hold a journalism clinic with the Skyline High School News Staff after evaluating ideas for their own investigations.

Sandy's memberships include Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) and Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ). She was the first exclusively online investigative journalist to be featured in IRE's "Extra, Extra" section. She served as a director for the Western Washington SPJ pro chapter, helping win "The Large Chapter of the Year" award three years in a row as well as the 2008 SPJ "Circle of Excellence Award" for Diversity.

Sandy was named a 2011 SPJ Diversity Fellow while serving on the SPJ Diversity Committee. She has won four SPJ awards, including two for her current investigation. She was also peer nominated and presented with Newsvine.com's top honor, "Random Act of Vineness." She is the author of "The Cassandra Frost Collection, A decade of writing on remote viewing, intuition and consciousness," "Vampires of Charity: Secret Societies & Human Trafficking at Taxpayer Expense" and "The Story of HollyWolf," published as a gift for her Granddaughter on her 12th birthday.

After winning "Best Community College Newspaper" as editor in chief of Yakima Valley College's "The Galaxy," Sandy enlisted in and completed the Navy's tough Advanced Electronics training at Naval Training Center Great Lakes. She served honorably as an electronics technician, maintaining a wall of KW-7 crypto gear for our Navy's "Hunt for Red October" SOSUS sub tracking network at COMOCEANSYSLASNT, Norfolk, Virginia.

Sandy then "served" as a Navy wife for 11 years, "the toughest job in the Navy." She spent three years volunteering for the Navy Relief Society and was named chief ombudsman by the commanding officer of the USS Belleau Wood, LHA3. As such, Sandy helped the ship's wives during two six month deployments. She has been married to her husband for thirty years, is the mother of three and grandmother of two. She can be contacted at SandyLeeFrost@yahoo.com.