



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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June 2, 2003

Ms. Sandy Rios, President  
Ms. Janet LaRue, Chief Counsel  
Concerned Women for America  
1015 Fifteenth St. NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Greetings:

Thank you very much for your letter dated April 30, 2003, in which you express your concerns, and those of your organization, regarding the proliferation of hard-core pornography and obscene material and inquiring about the status of any obscenity cases and investigations based on complaints forwarded by Morality in Media. I write to assure you and your organization of our vigorous investigation and prosecution of child exploitation and obscenity crimes in the District of Oregon.

As you may have anticipated, I am not able to discuss specific facts and circumstances of enforcement efforts directed against child exploitation and obscenity within the District of Oregon. However, I have discussed the need to investigate complaints about potentially obscene material in the District of Oregon with federal law enforcement. In fact, I have personally researched the physical locations and ownership of web sites referred to this office by Morality in Media. Unfortunately, as you may already be aware, I have found that the web sites are either located offshore or outside of our ability to prosecute. Similarly, the owners, distributors or administrators of those sites are outside of the District of Oregon and therefore do not present a sufficient nexus to Oregon to confer jurisdiction for prosecution. In all cases with the referrals from Morality in Media, the venue for prosecution has not been in the District of Oregon.

I was in attendance with many others at the Federal Prosecutor's Symposium on Obscenity held at the National Advocacy Center last year when Attorney General John Ashcroft declared that the tasks of fighting obscenity and child exploitation were committed priorities for the Department of Justice. In addition, Michael Mosman, the U.S. Attorney for this district, has repeatedly affirmed the desire of this office to prosecute appropriate obscenity and child exploitation cases. In that spirit, I have maintained contact with attorneys with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice and other law enforcement sources in other districts to keep abreast of recent investigative and legal developments.

I have continued to coordinate our enforcement efforts with attorneys in the Child

Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice as well as federal, state and local authorities to detect, investigate and prosecute individuals and companies who manufacture and distribute materials which exploit children and other obscene materials.

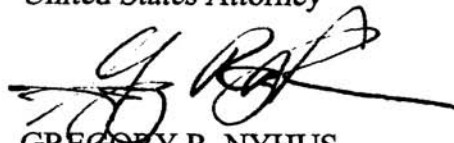
Currently, although we have not had success with the materials referred to us by Morality in Media, we are beginning an investigation which was the direct result of search warrants which were served in another district. Evidence recovered during that investigation indicates that a distributor of obscene materials may in fact have a significant Oregon presence which warrants prosecution. Although time will reveal the merits of our investigation, we are encouraged by what we have seen to date and will continue to develop the case.

In addition to devoting increased resources to the detection and investigation of obscenity cases, substantial efforts have also been directed at aggressively prosecuting individuals who are engaged in the exploitation of children. Most recently, the Portland, Oregon, office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation received funding and staff to begin participation in the Innocent Images National Initiative. Since its inception in November, 2002, more than fifteen cases have been inducted relating to the possession or transportation of child pornography or interstate travel with the intent to engage in sexual relations with a minor. We are encouraged by these early successes.

Thank you so very much for your inquiry. We continue to make the investigation and prosecution of obscenity and child exploitation a priority and we are grateful for your efforts in continuing to raise public awareness.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL W. MOSMAN  
United States Attorney



GREGORY R. NYHUS  
Assistant United States Attorney