

July 17, 2008

## Pedophile incites action

Two local lawyers are mad as hell about self-proclaimed pedophile Jack McClellan promising to return to Santa Clarita and they're not going to take it anymore.

Anthony D. Zinnanti and Richard Patterson, who each have law offices in the Valencia Oaks Building on Valencia Boulevard, on Tuesday filed a restraining order against McClellan in Los Angeles Superior Court at the courthouse in Chatsworth.

By late afternoon, Zinnanti said the court had granted him and his partner immediate permission to file their injunction on behalf of the children of Santa Clarita.

If the judge grants the injunction, McClellan will not be allowed in Santa Clarita at places where children gather and he will not be allowed to photograph them and then post those images on a Web site.

"Jack is going to get legally bombed into the Stone Age," Zinnanti told The Signal Tuesday.

But, while he and Patterson - both fathers - stepped up to oppose McClellan, police announced they are scaling down their McClellan probe.

Capt. Joe Gutierrez, commander of the Special Victims Bureau for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, said Tuesday: "We have no active criminal investigation involving Mr. McClellan.

"I can only say we are aware of his Web site. We have visited his Web site and determined it does not rise to the level of a crime."

When informed that there is no active criminal investigation, Zinnanti said: "A statement like that makes it even more necessary that we seek a civil injunction.

"Someone's got to do something."

Zinnanti said he was going to try and serve McClellan notice of the court's decision to proceed on the injunction. Police would neither confirm nor deny media

reports that McClellan is living in his car - a two-door Ford Escort with Washington state plates.

The two local lawyers filed the injunction after having read The Signal's interview with Jack McClellan in which the self-admitted pedophile promised to return to Santa Clarita.

McClellan, 45, came to Santa Clarita on June 9 to watch young girls at a bowling alley and at the San Fernando Valley Fair.

On Monday, he told The Signal he likes to watch pre-pubescent girls at family events such as fairs and amusement parks, and plans to return here again for that purpose. He also said he has attended more than 100 such events in Southern California.

"What put me over the edge, was the statement (in The Signal Tuesday) that he was planning on coming back to the Santa Clarita Valley," Zinnanti said.

"I'm halfway expecting Jack to come out and say 'April Fools, I was actually just testing to see if you would actually protect your children.' I mean, this guy has been so blatant, it's like a test.

"We're not looking to be malicious and beat someone up who is easy to beat up," he said. "We're looking at putting order in place, keep the peace, protect these kids and, furthermore, draw this guy out and find out what the hell is really going on in his head."

The lawyers listed in their injunction aliases used by McClellan, including: Peter John Hyland, Jack Hyland and John Hyland. They also name as "collective respondents" his Web sites, Stegl.org and Stegl.info, that feature photographs of children and information on where to find them.

In their injunction, Zinnanti and Patterson describe McClellan and his Web sites as: "Collecting and disseminating information on the whereabouts of minor children for the purpose of advocating pedophilia."

About McClellan personally, they claim in their petition: "The activities of McClellan are undertaken for the purpose of promoting, advocating and undertaking lewd and lascivious conduct with non-consenting minor children, ranging from arousal by virtue of so-called legal 'cuddling' and 'touching' to inter-generational sexual contact for the purpose of McClellan's sexual gratification and the sexual gratification of those engaging in similar practices."

Patterson, of the firm Owen, Patterson & Owen down the hall from Zinnanti's office, said he and Zinnanti were of like minds on the issue of McClellan.

"Here's the problem from my perspective," said Patterson, who has five daughters and three granddaughters.

"With impunity, this guy lets you take his picture, put it on the front page and tells people 'I'm coming to take a picture of your little girl and I'm going to put that picture on a Web site and I'm going to let other sick people look at it.'

"My primary concern here is that we have: A. a person who is psychotic and, B. he's a drug user and, C. he's acting out his prurient fantasies," Patterson said. "It doesn't take much of a psychology degree to know what happens next - that what he assumes is harmless action usually, quickly, escalates to physical action."