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Long Island Teacher for the Gifted Pleads Guilty to Possession of Child Pornography

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2007

Conviction Results from "Project Safe Childhood" Task Force

Roslynn R. Mauskopf, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, announced that MICHAEL KELLY REINER, a former teacher on Long Island, pleaded guilty today to possession of child pornography. The proceeding was held before United States District Court Judge Joseph F. Bianco at the U.S. Courthouse in Central Islip, New York.

On August 4, 2006, REINER was stopped by Canadian border personnel while entering Prescott, Ontario. A search of his laptop computer revealed photographic images of young boys in provocative clothing. During a subsequent interview, REINER stated that he was traveling to Canada to visit a friend with whom he operated a website, Heritage Prep Service.com, created for persons with fetishes for cannibalism and slavery. REINER also stated that he had a fetish for young boys. At the time, REINER was employed as a teacher at the Long Island School for the Gifted in Huntington Station, New York.

On September 12, 2006, special agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) searched REINER's residence and seized his desktop computer and external hard drives. Forensic examination of one of the hard drives revealed the presence of numerous still images and video clips that depicted children engaged in sexually explicit activities. REINER was arrested in this district on September 27, 2006, based upon a complaint charging him with possession of child pornography, and has remained in federal custody since that time.

"Child pornography offenses subject the children in these images to continuing degradation, and those who engage in such crimes will be vigorously investigated and prosecuted," stated United States Attorney **Mauskopf**. "The defendant's conduct is particularly reprehensible given his position of trust as a teacher." Ms. **Mauskopf** thanked the Department of Homeland Security, United States Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Canada Border Services Agency, and the U.S. Department of Justice High Technology Investigative Unit for their assistance in the investigation.

Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative, was created in February 2006 to protect children from on-line exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better investigate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit "<http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov/>."




Upon sentencing, REINER faces a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, sex offender registration, a life term of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine.

The government's case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Allen L. Bode.

The Defendant:

Name: MICHAEL KELLY REINER
 DOB: June 13, 1960

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