

NOTE: This exclusive article created a buzz among our younger readers and prompted local television stations to copy or do similar stories about Myspace.com. The photo of DeLeon and his girlfriend was taken from his Myspace page.

Web sites for suspected criminals draw attention

BY SERGIO CHAPA

The Brownsville Herald

February 19, 2006 — A dark Web page featuring a black background with red letters describes the thoughts and interests of a Southmost man accused of videotaping himself having sex with a 9-year-old, a dog and others.

Jesus “Jesse” DeLeon remains in custody under \$1.23 million in bonds since his Jan. 23 arrest, but his profile on the Myspace.com Internet site has caught the attention of police and created quite a stir in both Brownsville and in cyberspace.

The 25-year-old man, who has not logged on to his profile since Jan. 20, faces charges of child pornography and sexual performance of a child, as well as two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a child.

In his profile, DeLeon uses the display name “Devil May Cry” and describes himself as a “crazy cool person,” whose interests among others are “GIRLS...GIRLS...GIRLS,” as well as racing his car, the Internet, “phone” and hard music.

In a Web log entry, DeLeon describes the possibility of a mutual romantic interest between him and a girl who works at a snow-cone stand.



“... I just wanna meet girls. And more girls, until I die,” he wrote in his profile.

Shortly after DeLeon’s arrest, word of his profile on the popular Web site spread quickly through e-mail and bulletins, prompting dozens of members to post comments about their disgust for the alleged acts.

Few of the 200 comments posted on his profile can be reprinted in *The Brownsville Herald* because of their graphic and vulgar language, but most users express revulsion and then insult DeLeon or wish him harm while in custody.

Many of DeLeon’s 71 online friends — most of them women — turned on him.

One woman who identified herself as “?aLe?” insulted DeLeon using vulgarity and went on to say, “you disgust meeeee! how could you do that to an innocent child?! you probably won’t read this because you’ll be too busy serving your time!!! i hope you rot in jaiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiL perveeeeeert!!!!!!!! >/”

Police Investigate

Brownsville Police Lt. James Paschall said DeLeon’s Web site caught their interest shortly after his arrest.

“It helps with identifying people who may be close to him,” Paschall said.

One of the people featured in DeLeon's profile is his 23-year-old girlfriend, Claudia Rodriguez, who was arrested on Jan. 26 on a charge of knowing about the videotape with the explicit acts but failing to report it sooner.

Rodriguez is free on a \$4,000 bond, but both she and DeLeon are depicted acting as a happy couple on his pictures area.

During a search of DeLeon's Monclova Drive home, police seized a computer and other video-making equipment.

Local police and federal authorities are looking into the possibility that explicit homemade films could have been broadcast or distributed over the Internet, but do not believe he used myspace.com to do so.

Although DeLeon describes his sexual orientation as "straight" in his profile, police seized a vast DVD and VHS collection containing both homemade and studio-produced homosexual and heterosexual pornography.

Paschall said did not disclose findings of the review of the computer or videos but confirmed that investigators are trying to identify a teenage girl as a possible third victim in the case, after they allegedly discovered footage of DeLeon engaging in intercourse with her.

Other Suspects

Police said DeLeon is not the only suspected local criminal to have an online profile that has attracted their attention.

Miguel Leija Jr. is accused of stealing thousands of dollars in forged checks from the Brownsville Public Utilities Board. The 23-year-old man has online profiles posted on myspace.com and gay.com.

According to his myspace.com profile, Leija logs in daily, and at one point, taunted police and others from cyberspace.

"I am doing great despite everything," he wrote in his Feb. 9 blog.

Brownsville Police Sgt. Jimmy Manrique said investigators are able to track Leija's movements and believe that he is still in the Rio Grande Valley.

"His time in the free world is limited," Manrique said.

Other Reactions

Officials with myspace.com declined an official interview, but said in a written statement that the company cooperates with law enforcement officials in any criminal investigation that is brought to its attention.

The popular Web site said it protects the privacy of its more than 55 million users but has streamlined procedures for authorities to submit subpoenas and other legal processes to obtain critical data.

Officials with the Cameron County District Attorney's Office declined to comment on DeLeon's presence on the Internet, but Brownsville lawyer Hector Garza said the online profile would not likely make it into a courtroom as evidence, unless DeLeon committed a crime through it.