

Interview Report

Student: [REDACTED] age [REDACTED] Grade [REDACTED]
Interviewer: Frankie Valentine, Director of Personnel
Subject: Mark Taylor, teacher
Date/Time: October 30, 1992, 10:30 a.m.
Place: Bethel Jr High

Note: [REDACTED] was a student of Mr. Mark Taylor during the [REDACTED] school year in his [REDACTED] period [REDACTED] class, second semester.

Interviewed by Frankie Valentine; in attendance Dee Sparks, counselor, Bethel Jr High.

Interviewer: [REDACTED] I understand that you went to Ms. Davis with a complaint about a teacher and she instructed you to go home and tell your mom about it and to let her know that the school district would be contacting her. I have just spoken with your mom, and she is anxious for me to talk with you.

What is this teacher's name?

[REDACTED] It's Mr. Taylor.

Interviewer: And you were a student of his?

[REDACTED] Yes, I had [REDACTED] from him last year.

Interviewer: Why don't you tell me what you told Ms. Davis and your mom.

[REDACTED] Well, it went like this, Mr. Taylor had this seating chart and instead of sitting with the rest of the kids, he put me and [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) at a table where he sat. He was always talking to me and passing me notes, and I didn't have to turn in all the work that I should of. All I did was draw some mountains and he said that's all right, and he gave me a B anyway.

Interviewer: What did the notes say?

[REDACTED] Stuff like, on this certain weekend he would be out in the yard or field with only his shorts on, and he'd wish I would be there with him. He gave me one on my birthday asking me how old I was and asking me to come to his house. One note said on the weekend come to my house and we'll go out to my tent. I didn't think he was serious.

Interviewer: [REDACTED], do you have any of these notes?

[REDACTED] No, he would write the note and then it would always be a question, so I would have to write him an answer and give it back to him. One of the notes he asked, 'Are you a virgin?' And, I wrote back, yes,

and [REDACTED] said that I should try it sometime, he thought it felt really good.

Interviewer: What did he mean by try it?

[REDACTED]: Sex.

Interviewer: Are you sure of that?

[REDACTED]: Yes, because he said one time to me, 'If you come over we'd go into my bedroom and have sex.'

Interviewer: What else did he talk to you about?

[REDACTED]: Well, he asked me if I had a boyfriend and if I liked him, and I said yes, and he said, 'If you did something with me would you feel guilty the next day?' And I said yes. He asked me if I was a virgin and I told him, yes I was.

Interviewer: Have you ever met Mr. Taylor outside of school?

[REDACTED]: How do you mean?

Interviewer: At times other than at school during school time?

[REDACTED]: I saw him at the fair. He had [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with him.

Interviewer: Who are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]?

[REDACTED]: They're his daughters. He has asked me to babysit his daughters. I asked mom and she said no. He told me where he lived. He's called me at home two or three times just to talk. He'd tell me what he did during the day, and also how he wished I was at his house. That's when he said, 'If you could come over we'd go into my bedroom and have sex.'

Interviewer: Did Mr. Taylor ever touch you?

[REDACTED]: Well, at Wild Waves he grabbed my, I don't know how to say this, grabbed my butt. Then on the bus on the way home I fell asleep leaning against the seat and the window, and then I woke up and Mr. Taylor had his hand down my shirt.

Interviewer: What do you mean down your shirt?

[REDACTED]: Well, I had this shirt over my bathing suit, and he had his hand under my shirt and under the bra of the bathing suit. He had his hand on my breast. I sat up straight and he took his hand away.

Interviewer: Did anyone else see this?

[REDACTED]: Yes, there were several students. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and another teacher.

Interviewer: What was the teacher's name?

[REDACTED]: It was Mr. Melton.

Interviewer: Did he say or do anything?

No, he didn't. [REDACTED] anything.

Interviewer:

Were there any other times that Mr. Taylor talked to you?

One other time, the last day of school. He hugged me. That was all.

Interviewer:

If this happened last year, [REDACTED] why didn't you tell your mom or tell someone before now?

Because Mr. Taylor made me promise. He said things like, 'If this gets out, I'll really be in trouble, so please, please don't say anything about what we talk about.'

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