

Millard sex case advances

By RYAN SMITH
News Tribune

Reid Millard sat stoically as Cole County Senior Judge Byron Kinder pronounced that there was probable cause to hold a trial on charges that the Jefferson City funeral director committed statutory sodomy with a 16-year-old boy.

Millard, 46, was bound over to the circuit court's Division I circuit court, where he is scheduled to be arraigned by Judge Thomas J. Brown III on Jan. 18 at 9 a.m.

If convicted of the charge, Millard would have to be listed as a registered sex offender, and he could be sentenced to a term of up to seven years in prison.

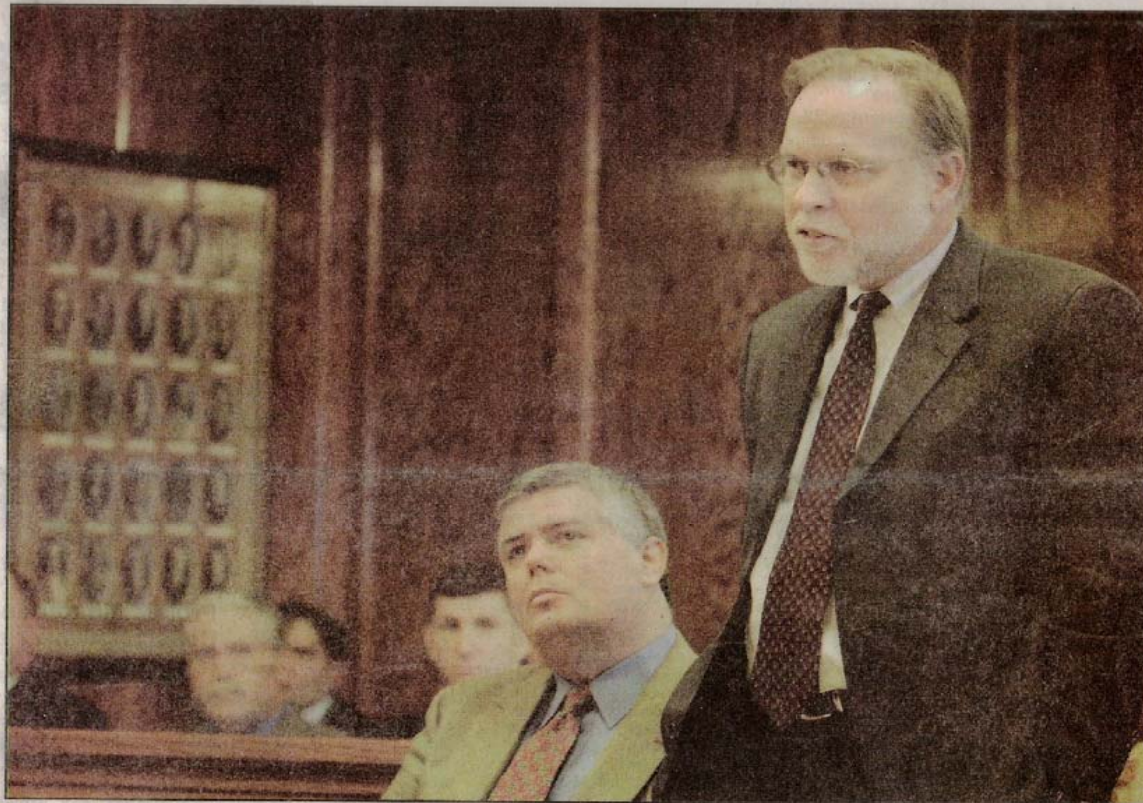
Kinder's finding came after the court heard more than 90 minutes of testimony during Millard's preliminary hearing from the teen-age accuser, Highway Patrol investigators and a DNA expert.

The boy, who is not named because he is a juvenile, took the witness stand and described in detail his relationship with Millard, and his version of what happened during the alleged Aug. 28 incident.

According to the teen, he worked for Millard doing odds and ends jobs for several weeks prior to the incident.

During that time, the teen claimed Millard called him on his cell phone approximately 50 times, often asking him to hang out.

On Aug. 27, the teen agreed to go shopping with Millard in Columbia and attend races with him in Lebanon. During the shopping trip, Millard purchased almost



Attorney, J. R. Hobbs, right, questions investigators during the preliminary hearing for Reid Millard, seated, to determine whether there is enough evidence to bind him over for trial.

Julie Smith/News Tribune

\$600 of clothing items for the teen.

After spending a few hours at the races, the teen said Millard invited him to spend the night at his Apple Creek Farm residence near Centertown, because it was late.

The teen also admitted that he had spent the night at Millard's residence on previous occasions. The week before he had reportedly spent a night at the farm and watched

cartoons with Millard.

The teen said he went to bed fully clothed in Millard's bed and fell asleep while Millard was in a hot tub. But he woke up the next morning with Millard laying behind him, rubbing his lower back.

The teen then said Millard touched him in a sexual way. During the incident, the teen claimed to have tried to get up, but Mil-

lard "held me down with his left hand."

Shortly afterwards, Millard then drove the teen home. The teen reported the incident to the Cole County Sheriff's Department later that morning.

Millard — who did not testify Tuesday — reportedly acknowledged the trips to Columbia and Lebanon to police, but said

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he and the teen only watched cartoons together for about 30 minutes before Millard went to another room.

Defense attorney J.R. Hobbs, meanwhile, questioned the teen's motives for reporting the incident to police.

The attorney questioned why the teen and his parents filed a civil lawsuit against Millard on Sept. 22, two days after Millard was charged with statutory sodomy.

The family seeks "an amount in excess of \$25,000" in damages in the three-count suit.

Hobbs also suggested the teen recently boasted to a fellow student that he was "going to make a

lot of money on this."

Hobbs also asked the teen if it was true that he once told Millard that one could make a lot of money from lawsuits. The teen said he did, and also acknowledged he once worked for Jefferson City attorney Sam Trapp.

Prosecutors believe DNA samples found on a quilt on the bed, a pair of shorts and a shirt worn by Millard the night of the incident help confirm the teen's story.

Ruth Montgomery, a DNA analyst with the Highway Patrol crime lab, testified Tuesday that semen stains consistent with both Millard's and the teen's DNA were found on the quilt and the shorts.

The teen's DNA was also discovered on Millard's shirt.

Evidence introduced in Millard case

Senior Judge Byron Kinder allowed several key pieces of the state's evidence during Tuesday's preliminary hearing in the Reid Millard case, including:

- A tape-recorded phone call from the teen's cell phone to Millard the morning after the incident occurred. Police were present with the teen during the call and recorded it.

During the four-minute conversation, the teen described to Millard what he believed happened, including the sexual contact. The teen said he was confused and asked Millard how the incident would affect his job.

Millard said very little, responding often with "I don't remember" or "I don't know what you mean" after long pauses in the conversation.

- A quilt that had been on Millard's bed during the alleged incident in the bedroom of Apple Creek Farm.

More than 130 semen stains were found on the quilt and seven were tested for DNA by the Missouri Highway Patrol Crime Lab. One of the stains was found to be "consistent" with Millard's DNA, and one with the teen. The others are currently considered "unnamed male donors."

- A green pair of Millard's shorts that both he and the teen said Millard was wearing at the time of the alleged incident. The patrol's DNA analysis of the shorts found semen consistent with Millard on the interior of the shorts and a combination of Millard and the teen's semen on the outside of the shorts.

- A "Millard Racing" shirt allegedly worn by Millard during the incident also containing DNA from the teen.

- DNA samples from both Millard and the teen.

-Ryan Smith