



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC, HARRISONVILLE, CONCORDIA MEN INDICTED FOR \$1 MILLION 'DATE RAPE DRUG' CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that three men have been indicted by a federal grand jury for participating in a conspiracy to illegally import a chemical from Canada in order to manufacture and distribute more than \$1 million worth of GHB, an illegal date rape drug. Today's indictment is part of the nationwide Operation Webslinger investigation that targeted the illegal Internet trafficking of date rape drugs.

Travis J. Swingle, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., **Paul L. Schleicher**, 30, of Harrisonville, Mo., and **Andrew M. Schulze**, 28, of Concordia, Mo., were charged in a 35-count indictment returned under seal by a federal grand jury in Kansas City on July 1, 2004. That indictment was unsealed and made public upon the arrests and initial court appearances of the defendants.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all three of the defendants participated in a conspiracy to import gamma butyrolactone (GBL) into the United States from Canada, with the intent to manufacture gamma hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), between Jan. 1, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2002.

Count Thirty of the federal indictment alleges that all three defendants participated in a conspiracy to manufacture and distribute GHB between June 1, 2001, and Sept. 18, 2002.

GBL is a GHB analog, meaning that it has a similar chemical structure to GHB. GBL metabolizes into GHB when ingested, Graves explained, and can be used in the manufacture of GHB. Although it is available legally as an industrial solvent to produce polyurethane and pesticides and as a cleaning solvent for computer hardware and telecommunications equipment, federal law prohibits the sale of GBL for human consumption.

Graves explained that GHB, which is odorless and colorless, can be dissolved in

beverages. GHB can cause drowsiness, dizziness, loss of consciousness, and loss of inhibition.

In addition to the conspiracy charges, nine counts of the federal indictment allege that **Swingle** imported GBL from Canada on nine separate occasions from June 20, 2002, to Sept. 13, 2002. Ten counts of the indictment also allege that **Swingle** was in possession of chemicals used to manufacture GHB, with the intent to manufacture GHB, on 10 separate occasions from Aug. 31, 2001, to Sept. 16, 2002.

The federal indictment also alleges that **Swingle** maintained a residence at 9857 N. Holmes in Kansas City for the purpose of manufacturing GHB between Jan. 1, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2002.

In addition to the conspiracy charges, the federal indictment alleges that **Schulze** imported GBL into the United States from Canada with the intent to manufacture GHB on Aug. 20, 2002.

In addition to the conspiracy charges, eight counts of the federal indictment allege that **Schleicher** was in possession of chemicals used to manufacture GHB, intending that it would be used to manufacture GHB, on eight separate occasions from Jan. 8, 2001, to July 13, 2001.

Today's indictment also alleges three counts of money laundering. Two counts of the federal indictment allege that **Swingle** transferred funds to Nassau, Bahamas, on Aug. 17 and 20, 2002, with the intent to promote the unlawful activity alleged in the indictment. The federal indictment also alleges that **Schulze** transferred funds to Nassau, on Aug. 20, 2002, with the intent to promote the unlawful activity alleged in the indictment.

Count Thirty-five is a forfeiture count, which would require each of the defendants to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the offenses alleged in the indictment, including more than \$1 million they allegedly received in exchange for the distribution of GBL.

Operation Webslinger is a nation-wide investigation that targeted individuals and organizations supplying large quantities of GHB, GBL, and/or 1,4 BD (another analog) ordered over the Internet and delivered by the mail. Law enforcement agents investigated the activity of a group of Web sites from which individuals allegedly purchased GBL, Graves said. During a 30-day period, Graves added, more than 1,520 orders for GBL and other analogs and precursor chemicals were placed on those Web sites. Those orders are estimated to be worth more than \$3 million.

From four primary investigations, agents developed leads that led to the identification and arrest of individuals across the country involved in buying and selling these drugs. All totaled, agents conducted enforcement operations in over 80 U.S. cities with drug seizures that could have yielded more than 25 million dosage units.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and

not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow