

Josef Boehm was a convicted rapist, NOT a victim

The beatings were so severe, women were left with black eyes, chipped teeth and broken ribs. Then there was “the box,” located in a frigid crawlspace where women would be tied up naked and left without food or water for days. But for brutal pimp and convicted sex trafficker **Don Arthur Webster, Jr.** (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160415205526/https://unsilencedak.wordpress.com/2015/09/07/trauma-bonds-sex-workers-and-jerry-starr/>), there was an even more ominous threat he made to the women he abused and exploited, something sure to make any woman’s blood run cold: “You don’t want to end up like Ruby,” he’d tell them. “Ruby” was the alias of Michelle Rothe, whose dismembered body was **found on the shore of Turnagain Arm** (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160415205526/https://unsilencedak.wordpress.com/2015/09/06/the-brutal-murders-of-desiree-lekanoff-and-michelle-rothe/>) in 2003—less than a mile from the Oceanview home of Alaska Industrial Hardware president Josef Boehm.



Josef Boehm

The discovery of Michelle’s body on September 6, 2003 was the second such discovery that year, the first being the dismembered torso of Desiree Lekanoff discovered on June 18. Given the state in which the bodies were found, law enforcement had a difficult time even identifying them, and both cases remain unsolved. But there was one man who claimed to know something about those horrific murders—a man who was likely desperate to cut a deal on drug and child trafficking charges—the aforementioned Josef Boehm.

Members of the Anchorage business community seemed—or at least feigned—surprise at the arrest of one of their most successful peers. After all, Josef Boehm came to Alaska from war-torn Germany and built a multi-million dollar business from a company that sold second hand screws and rusty bolts. To all outward appearances, he was the embodiment of the American Dream, an immigrant who made his fortune in a new land—only he took that fortune and turned it into a house of horrors where girls as young as 13 were systematically turned into drug addicts and sex slaves.

According to Anchorage lawyer, former mayoral candidate and Boehm friend Dan Coffey, the businessman was simply a victim to his addiction, exploited by drug dealers like Allen K. Bolling and Leslie J. Williams, Jr., who were charged alongside him. “These people who now point fingers at Joe, have never built anything,” Coffey **said in a letter** (https://web.archive.org/web/20160415205526/http://juneauempire.com/stories/050905/sta_20050509008.shtml#.VtDVi1srLnA) to the judge conducting Boehm’s trial. “They are vultures who saw Joe’s addiction as a way to get to his wealth and they were all over him with their drugs and the other inducements.”



But Josef Boehm was no victim. In fact, he was already a convicted rapist when he became president of AIH in 1974.

Leslie J. Williams, Jr.

In 1965, Boehm and two other men were convicted of raping a 15-year-old named Cathie Prindle, establishing a pattern of abuse and assault against young teens. Cathie's experience had such an impact on her that when Boehm went to trial in 2004, she came to court in order to counter Boehm's defenders. "He is dangerous," Prindle said in an interview with the *Anchorage Daily News* outside the courthouse. "He's victimized girls since I was a girl, 39 years ago. People like him don't change."

Indeed, when the details of Boehm's life before a December 13, 2003 bust with 15 grams of crack cocaine at the Anchorage Marriott and subsequent December 22 arrest after his home was searched were revealed at trial, Prindle's brave words at the courthouse were proven right many times over. Boehm's Oceanview house was rumored to be a good place for a young runaways to lay low. Bolling, Williams and Boehm's third co-defendant, a former prostituted child named Bambi Tyree would lure girls to Boehm's house in return for drugs and money. And like Cathie Prindle in 1965, Boehm preyed on young girls—some as young as 13.



Allen K. Bolling a.k.a. Foul Al

A total of eight girls were named in the suit against Boehm, but we know that there were others—Boehm's own lawyers admitted to a "dozen girls aged 13-19." One of them, a girl we'll call S.P., told senior AIH executive Terry Shurtleff, who was acting as a "private investigator," that she had been sold to Boehm for crack at age 15, and expressed fear that that her abuser might have her and her mother killed for talking to authorities. S.P. describes Boehm as a man looking to "get high and get off," and tells Shurtleff that she used to pretend to be as young as 12 because Boehm "liked it."

Even after his arrest, Boehm attempted to control the lives of the young girls and women he exploited. Court documents show that Leonidas Jones (known as Redman) received "large sums of money from Boehm." The payoffs seem to be part of a scheme to keep the girls from testifying. The court record goes on to state that Jones and Boehm's friend Kirk Grandstaff were bringing girls over to Boehm's condo to get them high, and that one girl in particular had been given over to none other than Don Arthur Webster, Jr. himself to watch—Sierra Roberts, **who would disappear in 2008** (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160415205526/https://unsilencedak.wordpress.com/2015/11/15/the-disappearance-of-sierra-raye-roberts/>). In addition to this connection with Sierra, Kirk Grandstaff is connected through a girlfriend to another missing sex worker, **Kelly Sue Dunn** (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160415205526/https://unsilencedak.wordpress.com/2015/10/14/the-disappearance-of-kelly-sue-dunn/>), who lived with the couple not long before she disappeared in 1998.



Don Arthur Webster, Jr. a.k.a. Jerry Starr

Despite Boehm's lawyers maintaining that he had no connection with any of these women, we know that isn't true. Sierra Roberts, who disappeared after Boehm was already incarcerated, lived with Michelle Rothe at 1706 Thunderbird

Place, one of Don Arthur Webster, Jr.'s houses—the house, in fact, where the crawlspace known as “the box” was located. And given Kelly Sue Dunn’s roommate connection to Kirk Grandstaff, a man who was the primary caretaker of Boehm’s estate, it seems clear there was a connection there, too.

But the main connection comes from Boehm himself. During his time in custody with the Anchorage Police Department, he told an officer during a bathroom break that he had information about the bodies of Michelle Rothe and Desiree Lekanoff. The APD officer immediately alerted detectives, who promptly took Boehm to the local FBI office for a statement, where the matter seems to have ended with no further progress. There was no follow-up investigation that we are aware of, and the substance of what Boehm might have told federal investigators has never been revealed.



1706 Thunderbird Place

Josef Boehm was **convicted of drug and sex trafficking charges** ([https://web.archive.org/web/20160415205526/http://www.unodc.org/cld/case-law-doc/traffickingpersonscrimetype/usa/united states v. josef f. boehm.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20160415205526/http://www.unodc.org/cld/case-law-doc/traffickingpersonscrimetype/usa/united%20states%20v.%20josef%20f.%20boehm.html)) in 2004 and served 11 years of a 13 year prison sentence. He died in 2014, but the destruction he caused in the lives of so many lives on. These are the “vultures” that Dan Coffey spoke of, the ones he thought didn’t matter because they had not “built anything” or “made any contributions to our community.” Should the 13-year-old victim known as M.D. (who says Boehm got her pregnant) have been building things? Or 15-year-old S.P., sold to Boehm for crack cocaine by her own mother, have been contributing to charity? Perhaps Bambi Tyree, who first smoked crack with Boehm at age 13, should have been expanding a large company? Any contribution to society that Josef Boehm can be said to have made is more than countered by his pathological destruction of young teens—girls who never had a chance to flourish in Coffey and Boehm’s “society.”

*Connecting convicted rapist Josef Boehm to former VECO head Bill Allen is as simple as one name: **Bambi Tyree** (<https://web.archive.org/web/20160415205526/https://unsilencedak.wordpress.com/2016/03/20/deconstructing-bambi/>), a prostituted child who became a predator herself in order to survive.*

Posted on **February 26, 2016****March 20, 2016** by **Alaska Unsilenced**Posted in **Criminals, Unsolved Cases**Tagged **AIH, Alaska, Alaska Industrial Hardware, Alaska Serial Killer, Alaska Torso Murders, Alaska Unsolved Cases, Alaska Unsolved Crimes, Allen K. Bolling, Anchorage, Anchorage Police Department, Bambi Tyree, Bill Allen, Crime, Desiree Lekanoff, Don Arthur Webster, Don Arthur Webster Jr., Jerry Starr, Josef Boehm, Kelly Sue Dunn, Leslie J. Williams Jr., Michelle Rothe, Missing Persons, Murder, Prostitution, Rape, Sex Trafficking, Sexual Assault, Terry Shurtleff, Unsolved Alaska Murder, Unsolved Crimes, Unsolved Mystery, VECO**