

## ' 21st century pimp ' convicted in Port Huron

Detroit News, The (MI) - Tuesday, October 28, 2008

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By Paul Egan

The Detroit News

A Detroit man faces at least 20 years **in** prison after a federal jury **in Port Huron convicted** him Monday of all eight counts relating to running an interstate prostitution ring that exploited under-age girls.

Prosecutors said Robert C. Daniels, 28 also known as "Motor City Mink," is believed to be the first person **in** the nation **convicted** of running a child exploitation enterprise under an amendment to federal criminal law that took effect **in** 2006. That charge carries a 20 year mandatory minimum.

Daniels is to be sentenced Jan. 27 by U.S. District Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff.

A jury of eight women and four men deliberated a little over two hours following a one-week trial.

The trial heard evidence that Daniels used Web sites such as Craigslist and MySpace to promote his prostitution ring, involving girls as young as 15.

He rented hotel rooms **in** Southfield and elsewhere, where he recruited prostitutes, photographed them and provided them rooms where they exchanged sex for money, according to documents filed **in** the case. He also transported adults and minors between the Detroit area and places such as Indianapolis, Florida, Ohio, Illinois, and Maryland.

"He was a **21st century pimp** , advertising through the Internet to a national marketplace," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Leonid Feller, who prosecuted the case with Assistant U.S. Attorney John O'Brien.

Co-defendant Stephanie Head, who pleaded guilty **in** July, was a key witness at the trial. Six former prostitutes, including five minors, also testified.

Attorney Carl Jordan called no defense witnesses but said he wanted the government to prove its case. Daniels admitted he knew some of the people involved but denied the crimes he was accused of, Jordan said.

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Edition: Online

Section: Metro

Record Number: det29646592

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