

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." (Edmund Burke)*

**TEACHERS TO TAKE ACTION:** Members of NASUWT (the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers) have voted to call ballots for industrial action, refusing to teach children returned to the school where they made false allegations. The Union heard that a deputy head teacher was forced to leave the profession and flee the country to avoid the stigma of a false accusation against him. The claim that he sexually abused one of his pupils was investigated, and discovered to be unfounded and malicious, but the child was allowed to return to school. Such claims are "downright evil," said Bob Williams, who told how he had held his colleague's hand as he was crying on the day he broke the news to his daughters. "I was there when he had to tell his 88-year-old father why he was off school." Michael Wilson, a teacher from Nottingham, said accusers could come back as if nothing had happened. "Some sympathetic managers make arrangements for the accused not to teach the accuser, but he or she is still at liberty to make more allegations without fear as nothing happened to them the previous time. This is not acceptable."

**CHILDREN'S CHARITIES** are quite rightly expressing major concerns that children could be put at even greater risk from paedophiles if a new scheme which gives parents the right to know if sex offenders are living near them is introduced. Most right-minded people realise that such a scheme would mean paedophiles would flee out of shame or fear of vigilante attacks, making them harder to trace and therefore more of a danger to children. Those joining the fight against such a scheme include Barnardo's, the NSPCC and NCH.

SAFARI is specifically concerned that those falsely accused and convicted of sexual abuse, and victims of mistaken identity, (as well as genuine offenders and members of their family), could also become victims of violent vigilante attacks.

**LAURENCE EARDLEY**, who worked at Pets Corner in Cheadle, has been cleared of teen sex charges at Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester. He had been accused of grooming and having sex with an underage girl, and denied rape and sexual assault. He was unanimously found not guilty by a jury after five hours of deliberation. The court had heard claims that Laurence had engineered opportunities to be alone with a girl in her young teens before kissing and touching her. She then claimed he went on to have sex with her, even though she said she was not ready to do so. Prosecutor Tina Landale told the jury: "He was seen to take an unhealthy interest in girls by members of staff. One saw him call out 'sexy little minx' to a group of 13 to 15-year-olds. He was seen to pat the bottom of another young girl." Laurence denied having any sexually motivated interest in children or being alone with the girl, telling police he made every effort to protect himself from false allegations of abuse and that he had an "appropriate" relationship with the girl, whom he saw as a daughter figure. Anthony Longworth, Defending, suggested the girl had made the allegations following a row with her parents over her friendship with Laurence in order to get sympathy rather than get into trouble. The girl's version of events was challenged, as the separate alleged incidents did not fit into the time scale described, and she had happily spent time alone with Laurence after she claimed they had had sex.

**POLICE OFFICERS FALSELY ACCUSED:** Stephen Rea, 19, falsely claimed he was raped in a patrol car as police drove him home after a drunken disturbance. One full-time officer and three special constables were held for nine hours and made to have intimate swabs. One has left the force and another took sick leave for stress. Rea admitted wasting police time claiming he was "out of it" when he cried rape. He was given 18 months community service and had to pay £80 to each officer and £95 costs.

**ACPO VIGIL:** Following on from the National Springtime Awakening Day Vigils, a protest vigil for the falsely accused is to be held outside the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Conference at Manchester Central (formerly known as GMEX), Windmill Street (behind Midland Hotel) Manchester on Tuesday 19th June 2007 from 11.30am – 2pm. eMail [aafaorganisation@hotmail.com](mailto:aafaorganisation@hotmail.com) or telephone (0113) 255 0559 for more details. There will also be a protest vigil outside the ACPO HQ at 10 Victoria Street (the Parliament Square end) in London at the same time. All are welcome to attend either event. Contact Don on (01892) 530 014 or via eMail at [donbampi@btinternet.com](mailto:donbampi@btinternet.com).

**TEENAGER ADMITS FALSE RAPE CLAIM:** A teenager sparked a major police inquiry after falsely claiming she had been raped. Perth Sheriff Court heard that Sinead Robertson, aged 16, told officers she had been sexually assaulted following an argument with her male friend. She pointed out where the attack had allegedly happened and the area was cordoned off to preserve evidence. She was shown a book of photos, and she pointed out one individual and said it could have been the person responsible.

However, Robertson's tale began to unravel when detectives studied several hours of CCTV footage of the area where she claimed she had been raped, and realised that the teenager had not even been in the area during the time she claimed. When it was put to Robertson that she was not telling the truth, she admitted the story was invented and that she had had an argument with a male friend, which had led her to make the story up. Once again, lies were only admitted when irrefutable evidence was presented.

Sheriff Michael Fletcher warned Robertson the matter was "serious" and deferred sentence for social background reports, community service and restriction of liberty reports.

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*(We can accept no responsibility for errors in this newsletter as we only share information received)*

BENJAMIN BREE, a SAFARI reader, has had his conviction for rape quashed following judges' landmark decision that a woman cannot claim rape just because she is drunk at the time of intercourse. In their ruling, Sir Igor Judge, Lady Justice Hallett and Mrs Justice Gloster said the appeal had required the court to "address the effect of voluntary heavy alcohol consumption as it applies to the law of rape". Ruling on the issue of consent in such cases, Sir Igor said: "If, through drink - or for any other reason - the complainant has temporarily lost her capacity to choose whether to have intercourse on the relevant occasion, she is not consenting, and subject to questions about the defendant's state of mind, if the intercourse takes place, this would be rape. However, where the complainant has voluntarily consumed even substantial quantities of alcohol, but nevertheless remains capable of choosing whether or not to have intercourse, and in drink agrees to do so this would not be rape."

"DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES": A 17-year old girl who lied about being raped by a taxi driver was sentenced to four months imprisonment after pleading guilty to perverting the course of justice. Taxi driver Aftab Ahmed was falsely accused in January last year, after a drinking bout which ended with the girl's sister and a friend putting her in his taxi and sending her home. The judge said: "What you did had disastrous consequences so far as Mr Ahmed was concerned. He was a taxi driver who had undertaken to take you home that night because you were completely incapable of looking after yourself, and your friends and sister were concerned about it. You repaid that kindness by alleging that he had raped you. The consequences were disastrous for Mr Ahmed, who was arrested in front of his family." When she returned home the girl made the allegation of rape to the police, and took them to a location on Baildon Moor where she said it had taken place. Mr Ahmed was arrested and was subject to bail for a period of six weeks, after which police concluded that it was "simply impossible" for the rape to have taken place as described. Mr Ahmed no longer works at night for fear of further allegations, his wife is on medication for depression, and he has had to put his house on the market. Mr Ahmed said: "She has destroyed my family life, my social life, and she has destroyed me economically." Edward Renvoize, defending, said his client was deeply sorry. He said: "It was immaturity."

WRONGLY-ACCUSED PARENTS LAUNCH SUPPORT SCHEME: A foundation has been launched by the Justice for Families lobby group of parents wrongly convicted of harming their babies, to help others who face the same nightmare. The foundation will provide financial support for families without the economic means to appeal, as well as giving them emotional backing. Angela Cannings, who was jailed for 18 months after being wrongly convicted of killing her two children, has lent her name to the foundation. She said: "We've been through the system, we know what's it's like to be in the system, to be vilified for something you haven't done. There's no support for you inside or outside". At the launch there was a minute's silence for Sally Clark, who was cleared by the Court of Appeal in 2003 of killing her two sons, spent three years in prison, and died earlier this month of unknown causes. Ian and Angela Gay, who were cleared of poisoning a three-year-old boy they hoped to adopt, were among other falsely convicted parents at the launch. Ian called for changes in the law in the way expert advice was given in a trial. He said: "It's happened to us, it's happening to other people, there are people out there we don't know about, people go to court in the family courts and it's hidden."

SERIAL ACCUSER JANET D'SA accused her landlord of killing model Sally Anne Bowman; accused Derek Jenkins of benefit fraud and alleged he had exposed himself to her; targeted her postman, Gary Spackman, claiming that he had attacked her; and claimed that company director James Biley was racist. All the claims were proved false, and D'Sa has now been convicted of three charges of harassment and told she faces a jail term. She was released on conditional bail until her sentencing on April 25.

DON'T WORRY: Aristotle said: "There is either a solution to the problem and therefore it is pointless to worry about it, or there is no solution and it is pointless to worry about it." Don't waste energy 'worrying' - just look for the solution, and then act on it.

SAFARI E-PETITIONS: Please get everyone you know who is on the Internet to sign both our on-line Government ePetitions. We need 200 signatures on each to get a Government response. Please visit: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/> followed by .....DontRewardLies or ..... AnonymityAtTrial or click the links from our website.

SEIZED PROPERTY - THE LAW: We're occasionally asked by readers how they can regain possession of property seized during searches. In many instances, property having nothing to do with the commission or investigation of any offence is seized (such as innocent holiday snaps, private possessions, etc.). This is not in accordance with the Police And Criminal Evidence Act, which states that "an officer who is searching any premises under any statutory power or with the consent of the occupier may seize: (a) anything covered by a warrant; and (b) anything which he has reasonable grounds for believing is evidence of an offence or has been obtained in consequence of the commission of an offence." (Innocent family holiday snaps not included.) "Items under (b) may only be seized where this is necessary to prevent their concealment, alteration, loss, damage or destruction." The Act goes on to state: "anything which has been seized in accordance with the above provisions may be retained *only for as long as is necessary in the circumstances.*" You can apply for any and all property no longer necessary to the investigation to be returned to you - and it should be returned at the expense of the Police, not at your expense. The Act states: "Any person claiming property seized by the police may apply to a magistrates' court under the Police (Property) Act 1897 for its possession, and should, where appropriate, be advised of this procedure."

OTHER SUPPORT GROUPS: Please see our web site (or ask your family / friends to do so) to obtain details of many support groups. Unfortunately there's not enough space in the newsletter to publish them all!

Thanks to Terry McCarthy (Parole Board for England and Wales) for statistics of those granted release on Parole despite maintaining innocence.			
Figures for month of March 2007			
<i>Non-lifers:</i>			
All offences	9	of 34	26.5%
Rape	2	of 14	14.3%
Indecent Assault	1	of 6	16.7%
Other Sex	0	of 0	n/a
Violence	2	of 3	66.7%
Property	1	of 5	20.0%
Drugs	2	of 3	66.7%
Others	1	of 3	33.3%
Total Sex	3	of 20	15.0%
Total Non Sex	6	of 14	42.9%
<i>Lifers only</i>			
	0	of 2	0.0%
[ Both lifers remained in closed conditions ]			