

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

SOTP: THE OFFICIAL RULING: SAFARI would like to thank Al Reid (Head of Training, Support and Integration at the Offending Behaviour Programme Unit) for answering our query about Enhanced Status being withheld from those maintaining their innocence. We'd also like to thank Dr Ruth Mann (Sex Offender Treatment Programme) who worked hard to point us in the direction of the solution.

The result is this: Prisoners maintaining their innocence who are being refused Enhanced Status should put in a formal written application along the lines of this: "Section 5.4 of PSO 2205 clearly states that Sentence Plan targets 'must always be achievable and reflect what opportunities are actually available' and Al Reid (Head of Training, Support and Integration at the Offending Behaviour Programme Unit) has confirmed that setting an objective to attend SOTP is unachievable for those, like myself, who maintain innocence. Section 18.4.2 states: 'the only offending behaviour objective that will be considered is whether the offender will be assessed for their suitability to participate in a SOTP'. I therefore ask that the unachievable target of attending the SOTP be removed from my Sentence Plan with immediate effect so that the updated plan is actually achievable. I am complying with all aspects of my Plan except this unachievable target and I therefore also apply for Enhanced Status to be awarded." If your prison still refuses to correct the Sentence Plan and award Enhanced Status claiming you have failed to be in compliance with the Plan, you should (as advised by Al Reid) raise the issue through the normal channels of the Request and Complaint procedures. If this still fails, approach the Prison and Probation Ombudsman, Ashley House, 2 Monck Street, London, SW1P 2BQ for assistance.

SAFARI has forwarded copies of Al Reid's advice to the Ombudsman to assist them in any complaint against a prison. Please do keep SAFARI informed of any progress (or lack of progress) in your own case.

ANOTHER 13-YEAR-OLD GIRL INVENTED a sex attack because she was late getting home. She initially made the claim to her parents after she returned home after midnight, saying that she had been dragged into woodland and assaulted. Police were then called and she gave an official statement. Police sealed off the area where the girl said she had been attacked and launched an investigation costing thousands of pounds and involving forensics experts who were brought in to search for clues. After being interviewed a second time, the girl eventually admitted she had made up the story because she was worried that she would get in trouble with her parents for being late. Police said that the girl would not be punished for wasting police time. It is understood that she was warned by police officers that she could have faced charges. When, we wonder, will the police realise that by failing to punish those who intentionally make serious false allegations, they are sending out the signal that it's 'not such a bad thing' to do?

A SCHOOL PUPIL has been reprimanded by North Wales Police for making a false allegation of assault against a teacher. The teacher was suspended as a result in 2006 and has now been reinstated. The NASUWT said it was a "huge step" towards showing students that false claims against teachers were "unacceptable".

A WOMAN IN SOUTH BRENT has been cautioned for wasting police time after an allegation of rape was found to be false. A police spokesman said: "We seek to reassure the public, particularly the communities around South Brent, that there is not an offender at large. The police always treat allegations of this nature seriously. Such offences are thoroughly investigated in a sensitive manner."

DEFINITION: CRIS - Crime Report Information System - the concept of CRIS is to use information gleaned from an individual crime to help solve that or other crimes.

CAROL MORTON, who falsely accused five Spanish men of gang-raping her, has been jailed for a year. Carol Morton's lies were revealed after a camera recording of the sex session, taken by one of the men, showed her laughing and ordering them into different positions. She had agreed to go to their flat and have sex with them for £20 each, but became hysterical when one of the men took money from her bag. She could have gone to the police and reported a theft, however she made a very serious false allegation instead. Sixteen officers were involved in the case, as well as interpreters, costing about £2,500 in police hours. Having been confronted with the proof of her lies, Morton admitted making false claims and wasting police time. She also pleaded guilty to slapping a man she'd been drinking with after borrowing his phone and refusing to give it back.

SALLY PELLING has been given a four-month suspended prison sentence for making a false rape claim in a "pointless and stupid" attempt to save her relationship. Judge Jackie Davies said: "At the time the relationship with your boyfriend was under stress and in a pointless and stupid exercise designed to return his affection to you, you made this allegation."

Leeds Crown Court heard that Pelling tore her clothes with a piece of glass and cut her own legs to make it look as though she was the victim of an attack. Forensic examinations were carried out at a cost of just under £4,000 and mobile phone analysis cost in the region of £300. The judge accepted that Pelling (who pleaded guilty to tending and intending to pervert the course of justice at an earlier hearing) did not initially want police to become involved. Officers became suspicious about her story after she refused to undergo a medical examination. A Home Office pathologist found her injuries were consistent with being self-inflicted.

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

TANYA HUTCHISON, a 42-year-old mother of five and part-time carer for the elderly, has been cleared of date-raping a wealthy businessman, but said the nightmarish police investigation has left her permanently scarred. The man told police that she had spiked his drinks and had sexual intercourse with him without his consent. Despite Tanya's insistence that they had shared an afternoon of consensual sex, she was held in a police cell for four hours. Then she had to describe every explicit detail of the encounter in a two-hour interview with five officers - four of them men - who she claims treated her as if she were guilty. "I was stunned and terrified," she said. "I felt as if it was me who had been raped. They ransacked my home and took away my bed sheets, phone and, worst of all, my underwear to carry out forensic tests. I was questioned in a manner I felt was unnecessarily aggressive. I've been taking anti-depressants since it happened and I've lost more than two and a half stone because of the stress. I feel petrified when I hear police sirens and my confidence in the legal process is badly shaken. My life is in ruins, all because of a claim that was totally ridiculous and should never have been taken seriously."

Tanya was cleared when the man, a married building company owner who cannot be named for legal reasons, dropped the allegations admitting that Tanya was telling the truth. SAFARI is furious (but sadly not surprised) to hear that no action is to be taken against the man who committed this evil crime against Tanya.

DNA EVIDENCE should be treated with caution! Sir Alec Jeffreys, who invented DNA fingerprinting, says: "DNA doesn't have the words innocence or guilt in it - that is a legal concept. What it seeks to establish is connections and identifications." His caution came as a leading genetics expert also called into question the value of DNA evidence in its own right. Dr Paul Debenham, a member of the advisory body the Human Genetics Commission, says: "With the current highly sensitive DNA methodologies we can deposit DNA as a trace amount just from contact with a fabric. And that fabric can touch another surface where the DNA is passed on." What this essentially means is that a person's DNA can be transferred to places where the person themselves has never been, and a conviction based solely on the presence of someone's DNA at a crime scene is unsafe.

TEACHERS ARE FACING SOARING NUMBERS of false allegations in schools, according to new research. The National Association of Head Teachers said allegations of child abuse from parents were spurred on by "no win, no fee" compensation lawyers. Speaking at the union's conference in May, NAHT general secretary Mick Brookes said "a lottery mentality" prompted children and parents to try their luck. "If it is thought that by using a no win, no fee solicitor some payout can be got from the local authority, parents at times don't hesitate to go there. We have clear evidence that lives are being damaged and careers ruined by a failure by the law to adequately protect people who are innocent of accusations levelled against them." The union has demanded a change in the law to allow accused teachers to remain anonymous until they have been found guilty by a court. Under a Review of Public Services plan to be unveiled by the Conservatives soon, teachers accused of misconduct would retain their anonymity until the case was resolved. New measures are to be called for to protect teachers from frivolous accusations made by pupils. The Conservatives say: "More should be done to protect teachers against false allegations that do nothing but damage their professional reputation. We believe that teachers should not face public humiliation if allegations have been made against them by pupils. ... We recommend that teachers receive full anonymity until the case against them has been fully dealt with." The proposal will be welcomed by teaching unions, although one source questioned how it would be achieved. In the past 10 years, only 62 of 1,782 serious allegations against teachers have resulted in a conviction. SAFARI goes further, believing that *all* defendants accused of committing *any* crime should remain anonymous until point of conviction. If you were falsely accused as a carer or teacher, we recommend making contact with the superb support group FACT (Falsely Accused Carers and Teachers) at PO Box 3074, Cardiff, CF3 3WZ (Tel: 029 2077 7499 or email at: info@factuk.org or press@factuk.org).

"DENIERS" VERSION OF SOTP COURSE: if run properly, this should involve *only hypothetical situations* and no reference to any alleged offences. SAFARI advises that if you're offered this course, you should attend it, as a perceived 'reduced risk' is necessary for parole or re-categorisation.

**STAMPS PLEASE, NOT SAE'S!** Some SAFARI readers send us stamped and addressed envelopes to help us reduce our costs in responding to their letters. Please note that we can very rarely respond to individual letters anyway and, in any event, whilst *stamps* are useful, SAEs are not, because the amount of work involved in locating individual envelopes for a few people, compared to printing a label (we can print around 50 labels every minute!), makes using SAEs seriously counter-productive!

SAFARI E-PETITIONS: Please get everyone you know with Internet access to sign our latest on-line Government ePetition to require juries in criminal trials who find a defendant guilty to record their reasoning behind each verdict. We need at least 200 signatures on *each* of our petitions to get a Government response. Please visit:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/>  
followed by.....JuryReasoning  
[Our ePetition links are on our website]

This wonderful cartoon was sent to us by a SAFARI reader demonstrating the attitude we need ...



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 August 2007			
<i>Non-lifers:</i>			
All offences	6	of 46	13.0%
Rape	1	of 16	6.3%
Indecent Assault	1	of 10	10.0%
Other Sex	0	of 9	0.0%
Violence	0	of 3	0.0%
Property	2	of 4	50.0%
Drugs	1	of 2	50.0%
Others	1	of 2	50.0%
Total Sex	2	of 35	5.7%
Total Non Sex	4	of 11	36.4%
<i>Lifers only</i>	2	of 3	66.7%
[ The third lifer remained in closed conditions ]			