

Rape or Consensual Sex

After reading a published summary of the charges made against two Ottawa University hockey players who were accused of raping a young woman, a blog was prepared that cast the university students as modern Benthamites in their actions. The intention was to post the blog as soon as the presiding judge declared her verdict. Based on the reading of a summary of the young woman's testimony under oath, and the nature of the situation that she described, it was obvious that the two men were guilty as sin, or so it appeared.

One could not but be utterly astounded when the judge ruled -- as reported in the *Ottawa Citizen* of June 26, 2018 -- that the two defendants were 'not guilty', and that 'there was no criminal behaviour during that night'. It requires but a little thought to envisage the rationalizing that must have been in play for the judge to reach such a verdict: viz. 'Everyone concerned was drinking heavily that evening'; and, perhaps, that 'We can't undo what happened to the young woman, but we don't want to ruin the lives of the two young men'. Does anyone truly believe that a 21-year-old young woman who met an Ottawa University student through an online dating app, who was drinking and dancing with him when his team came to Thunder Bay, and who was willing to sleep with him in a new 'friends with benefits' relationship, would have consented to his roommate and another hockey player -- total strangers to her -- entering the room and joining in to have sex with her. It boggles the mind. For the judge to declare that that the young women's testimony was not 'credible or even reliable' because she hadn't told the whole story initially to the police, while the judge accepted the self-serving testimony of the two defendants without question, is quite disturbing.

The original blog was produced in anticipation of the two hockey players being found guilty. It read:

In Ottawa, two university students of the former University of Ottawa varsity hockey team have been convicted of the rape of a young woman. The court case focused on what was alleged to have transpired in February 2014 during a road game trip to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay: viz. that the two players entered the hotel room of a teammate who was having consensual sex with a young woman who had been drinking, and that they proceeded to force themselves on her in a sexual assault. What were they thinking?

Now, we know that most of the students at our secular universities are not Christians, and do not possess the moral values that the Christian religion ingrains in the faithful. Where morality is concerned, many university students appear to operate on a simplistic utilitarian moral calculus: 'Can I get away with it, and will the pleasure outweigh any potential pain?' However, there is a new factor that needs to be added to that moral calculus. Today, women who are raped no longer withdraw from society, blame themselves, and suffer in silence. Women are showing the courage to come forward to report such criminal acts to the police, and the police and the criminal justice system are committed to investigating all such allegations and to charging and prosecuting the perpetrators where the evidence supports the credence of the testimony of the woman concerned.

Now, these two young men need to ask themselves: Was the brief physical pleasure of enjoying sex with a young woman, and any sadistic pleasure experienced in dominating and forcing their

will upon the helpless woman, worth the pain of spending years in jail, the ruin of their education and future career plans, and their possession of a criminal record? From a strictly pragmatic point of view, it would be far better that male university students with raging hormones would pause for a moment to add a critical new factor to their utilitarian moral calculus before deciding whether to 'just do it'.

The whole argument of that original blog is now academic, and totally undermined. The young woman had the courage to come forward and to testify about her ordeal only to have her moral character, honesty and integrity impugned by a Justice of the Ontario Court. Where is the public outrage? Why was this case not tried long ago before a jury in Thunder Bay, the community where the sexual assaults allegedly occurred, rather than 1500 kilometres away in Ottawa before a judge? The verdict in this case has made it even less likely that sexually-liberated young women will report being raped. It constitutes a devastating setback to the Women's Movement in seeking justice for female rape victims. As to young males with raging hormones, apparently you can 'just do it'. You don't need to add a new factor to your moral calculus compass.

The intent of the original blog was to highlight the danger posed to young women by the lack of traditional Christian moral values among our male youth, and the price that both men and women pay in neglecting to live by those values. Now, given the 'not guilty' verdict, this current blog is but another sad testament to the terrible price that young women are paying, all too often, for their participation in our modern sexually-liberated society.

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