

WIMMIN'S ROOM
BY LIZ LAUTARD

You say this is justice?

Just when I thought it was going to be a quiet (although wet) Sunday, I happened to read in the Weekend Edition of the Gleaner (Oct. 2nd & 3rd): "Militia Corporal Sentenced to 30 Days". After reading this article, I no longer felt like eating my breakfast and I had not even touched it yet.

Mr. Justice Ronald Stevenson gave Dallas Preston Carr 30 days in provincial jail for sexually assaulting a 19-year-old female private while the two (along with four other males) were sharing a tent during the 1992 annual militia concentration exercise. 30 DAYS! How could this be? Then again, Carr was "a victim of circumstance." Justice Stevenson explained that: "If the armed forces are going to put men and women in the same tent, there will be, on occasion, consensual heterosexual activity and occasional assaults." He also stated he did not think the sentence should stand in the way of the accused's education, therefore Carr would be allowed to serve his time on weekends.

If I sound cynical or perhaps sarcastic, I am. Can you blame me?

Stevenson was in the perfect position to make a statement, both in words and actions, about how wrong Carr's attitude and actions were towards the young

woman in question. And what did he do? Stevenson merely gave Carr a slap on the wrist (or should I say tap on the wrist?) and 30 days in provincial jail. Then again, why should he do anymore? Letters written on behalf of Carr suggest he is an "honest, intellectual, hardworking and consistent young man." I'm just afraid that Stevenson's 'tap on the wrist' and Carr's "consistent" manner will mean other women will have to go through what the 19-year-old female private already has gone through.

I further disagree with Stevenson's statement that Carr (a corporal) was not in a position of authority over the female private. I was not aware that authority and the power imbalance which exists between the sexes automatically disappeared when the lights went out. This is news to me. If I sound cynical or perhaps sarcastic, I am.

Can you blame me?

There is a 19-year-old young woman who has gone through any woman's worst nightmare and her attacker is getting away with it. Can you blame women for not wanting to go to the police in the first place? On the one hand, we are told that this kind of behavior (sexual assault) is unacceptable and wrong, therefore we should report it. On the other hand, we go ahead and

do something about what happened to us and look what happens. The accused is given a ridiculously low sentence. And we (the victims) are then left

wondering why we even bothered doing anything about it in the first place. As well, we may also wonder why the courts even bothered (in this case) giving the

accused 30 days? I would very much like to hear other women's reactions to this case reported in the Weekend Edition of the Gleaner (Oct. 2nd & 3rd).

SEE SHERRY SPEAK
BY SHERRY MORIN

Calling systems

See Og and Grug. See Og and Grug outside their cave. See Og and Grug grunt. See Og and Grug gesticulate. Then see Og stop and think. See Og suggest, "What you say we develop language?" See Grug stare dazedly, grunt and hobble off.

The roots of our verbal communication are still veiled in ambiguity. It is hard to imagine what humankind's world was like 40000-odd years ago when "modern" language is guessed to have evolved, when the communication system of rough, guttural noises was gradually displaced by refined, mutually understood codes of sound. These days, the closest we come to the chaos of a world without coherent language are those Friday-night rituals where alcohol is present.

When not accompanied by the wafting after-stench of stale beer, there can be nothing more

soothing than the sound of another human voice. When any creature is separated from another of its kind by impenetrable darkness or some other obstacle, it will often cry out instinctively, providing it is endowed with the proper faculties. Carol and Melvin Ember suggest that human languages evolved from this same kind of "calling system". Various crude sounds used to convey emotions were gradually shaped into a complex, coded system of "words". Many animals use "primitive" calling systems, but in most cases, these systems could not be defined as language. The case of apes is rare.

As Francine Patterson demonstrated, they are capable of mastering American Sign Languages, in exceptional cases achieving vocabularies of up to 200 signs. Regardless of these "animal talents", anthropologists argue that three characteristics set the human language apart from those

of other animals: these are phonology (our "library" of sounds), syntax (ways of combining words), and semantics (meanings attached to words/sounds). Guided by these criteria, Ember & Ember place the total number of languages in the world between 4000 and 5000.

Our language is indispensable. It is a tool for getting what we want, from both our friends and our enemies. It is a means of deceiving or enlightening, of relaying or betraying emotion, of expressing affection toward a loved one. To withhold speech is to withhold our affection, cordiality, and cooperation, or to attract suspicion and hostility. Although we are labelled as "visual" creatures, for the first two months of life eyesight is on the "back burner" as a means of collecting information, while hearing seems to claim the forefront.

continued on page 28

BEST PRICE



on UNB & STU

Melton/Leather and Leather Jackets

AVAILABLE AT:

UNB BOOKSTORE Next to Bank of Montreal 453-4664	COASTAL GRAPHICS THE OUTLET Kings Place Mall 451-1771
---	--

VICTORY MEAT

10% STUDENT DISCOUNT MONDAYS

Your One Stop Quality Meat Shop

Tuesday (Oct 12th) and Wednesday (Oct 13th)

GET 1 FREE DOZEN LARGE EGGS with every \$15.⁰⁰ purchase

ONLY AVAILABLE WITH THIS COUPON

Open:

Monday	8:00A.M. – 6:00P.M.
Tues-Sat	8:00A.M. – 9:00P.M.
Sunday	12:00P.M. – 6:00P.M.

334 KING STREET
458-8480