

# False Rape Charges

An 18-year-old Kapuskasing girl has been sent to jail for one month definite and six months indefinite for wrongfully accusing four boys of raping her. The charge she faced in court was one of public mischief.

When one considers that rape is one of the most serious charges a court can decide (it used to be a crime punishable by death) the sentence given to the girl seems out of line. Had the boys been found guilty (in other

a girl, who unsuccessfully tried to ruin the reputations of four innocent boys, should have been let off with such a slight sentence. Surely no more damaging charge can be laid than one concerning criminal sex behavior. That is why those who fabricate such charges, either for purposes of blackmail, notoriety or revenge, should be made to suffer almost as much as their victims would have been forced to suffer if their innocence had not been established.

Take a look at this particular case: Evidence showed that the girl tore her own clothes to help prove that the four boys had raped her. Only after six hours' intensive questioning by the police did she finally admit that her story was a complete hoax.

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## Editorial from The Spectator (Hamilton)

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words, if her story hadn't been found to be a fabrication) they would undoubtedly have been sentenced to five or six years at least behind bars.

Fortunately the police and the courts know that rape is a charge that is occasionally quite unfounded. They are therefore usually extremely careful in their treatment of the accused. It can be said, in fact, that no charge, except that of murder, receives closer and more concerned attention from the courts than rape.

It is because of this very well-known care given to rape cases by our courts that we can't understand why

Supposing the police had not suspected her of making up the story? Imagine what could have happened to the boys.

Is one month definite and six months indefinite in prison the only punishment a girl capable of such viciousness should receive? It seems to us that it isn't the sort of punishment that might deter another girl in another place at another time from fabricating a rape charge.