The Anna Raccoon Archives



Busted! -The NSPCC and That Rolf Harris Video.

by Anna Raccoon on July 2, 2014



Kids can say 'No'!

Who'd have believed it? Have you, as a figure of authority – parent, teacher, relative – ever heard of a child saying 'No'? When you want them to go to bed, eat their greens, stop persecuting their brother, sister, classmate? I'll leave that to you to decide.

Q

The topic arises because this was the title of a video made in 1985 where Rolf Harris, in the vanguard of a cultural obsession, gave children advice on how to detect, repel and report child sex abusers. I could have said 'molesters' but that was old talk about stranger danger. This was new wave and cutting edge – the enemy within – family, friends and figures of authority.

Since Rolf has now, 29 years later, been convicted of various alleged similar offences himself, the issue of the video and its provenance has assumed a minor role of curiosity in terms of why he was allowed to do this, and why he might have done it in the first place, since his own career of alleged similar offending predated and straddled his campaign.

Unfortunately for the powers that be, this was not some kind of cottage industry by the Jekyll-and-Hyde we now know the former-national-immigrant-treasure to be, but a widely praised and distributed educational package carrying the imprimatur of the NSPCC. It was still in active circulation and being discussed and fondly remembered by 30 somethings on Mumsnet as recently as 2011.

But since its existence was revealed at the trial (not before the jury) the director, Jessica Skippon, has issued a legal warning to media outlets not to broadcast it without her express permission, whilst the NSPCC has distanced itself from any direct involvement.

The video has now assumed samizdat notoriety, almost as if it were child pornography. The Guardian did show some extracts, but these only cover abuse by older kids accompanied by what is clearly a scripted response by children, whose images are deliberately blurred for the purposes of the extracts, as if any kids happily taking part at that time might be 'child abuse victims' by default.

From the Guardian text it is clear this was an entrée to more insidious and prevalent familial dangers striking closer to home:

"In the wake of the court case, some details of the video are chilling: one filmed role play portrays a young girl being improperly touched by the father of her friend, an experience mirroring what the former friend of Harris's daughter, Bindi, recounted to the court."

So what was Rolf up to? Was he compelled to re-enact his own offences in the guise of a 'protector' to deter detection? 'Grooming' children in action? Explaining his sins? Or what?

One possibility of course is that the similarity to the complainant's version of events could be a source mis-attribution 'false memory' but the question of the guilt or innocence of the octogenarian Mr Harris is not the subject of this piece.

What is puzzling is the way the NSPCC have pretended they had no organisational interest in the video.

An NSPCC spokesperson said: "The film was made independently by Rolf Harris and a film company nearly 30 years ago. We did not commission it, fund it, make it or distribute it."

There have been claims that it was made by a charity called 'Childwatch'. The only charity with such a name in the UK was run by an evangelical Christian lady called Diane Core in Humberside. She set it up in November 1986 capitalising on Esther Rant Zen's Childwatch BBC specials in October 1986 which prefaced the setting up of ChildLine. These developments were a year after the Harris video and Diane Core was an anti-cult and occult campaigner who did much to fuel the satanic abuse panic.

No, it seems that the Rolf Harris video was scripted by two writers – Anita Bennett and Carolyn Okell-Jones. Okell- Jones was a social worker at the Tavistock Clinic and had previously worked for the NSPCC in senior positions. The Tavistock Clinic, the psychotherapeutic centre in Hampstead had pioneered with Great Ormond St the new imported received wisdom on sexual abuse from North America in the early 80s. Okell-Jones had in fact been the primary importer. She had gone to the USA in the late 1970s with a colleague to report on the NSPCCs 'reparenting' project – a failing enterprise which had attempted to use psychobabble and coercion to re-educate failing mothers. When she arrived she discovered that physical abuse and neglect were passé – it was sexual abuse that was allegedly rife and the cause of societal ills.

The American experts were invited to England and worked with the NSPCC and their associates. Soon dire warnings of it being a massive hidden problem began to materialise. It wasn't that the subject was unknown to people – it was simply marginalised as molesting, interfering and nuisance crimes. Underage teen sex was seen as a moral choice – right https://annaraccoon.com/2014/07/02/busted-the-nspcc-and-that-rolf-harris-video/

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate who might be likewise, though there were fewer of them.

All this would change as the concept became homogenised and broadened with the prevalence and dangers as a problem not only hidden from the world, but often hidden from the consciousness of the victims, became promulgated.

Rolf's video package was aimed at the 5-8 year olds thought to be most vulnerable. As well as the scripted video, there was a copy of the Tavistock edited text from 1984 – 'Sexual Abuse in the Family' – and information from Kidscape, the sexual abuse charity founded by Canadian psychologist Michelle Elliot.

And on the front of the package it said '**Produced in association with the NSPCC**'. It's clear it was not just a passing collaboration with the child abuse professionals – for in 1986 he fronted a follow-up video aimed at teachers and schools in setting up child protection processes. (This appears to have Tavistock but not NSPCC input).

So what, one may ask, was there for the NSPCC to be ashamed of?

Why is this trailblazing enterprise educational package now shrouded in secrecy and misinformation? One could say, with the benefit of hindsight it makes the NSPCC and the experts associated with the videos look a little naïve – and heaven forbid that they might, as many others have been in Yewtree sagas, be tainted by association.

But I fear, on past form there's more to it than that. Because for all its proselytising as an authority on distrusting other people in authority, the NSPCC has itself an unhappy history of not merely overlooking child abuse, but in distorting and creating it where none exists, and at no time was its dominion over the issue greater and more pernicious than in the 1980s in relation to sexual abuse.

The fruits of that legacy have permeated the entire criminal justice system and led to the age of 'Savilisation'. And the NSPCC now, as then, has still not been held to account.

In a subsequent article the role of the NSPCC in spreading satanic abuse fears, hi-jacking social work and evading criticism will be explored.

Margaret Jervis is a legal and social researcher and consultant with Chris Saltrese Solicitors. She was formerly a specialist journalist in social work and social policy who has written extensively about the proliferation of false allegations of abuse through systemic flaws in the child protection and criminal justice systems.

Tagged as: Childwatch, NSPCC, Rolf Harris

{ 280 comments... read them below or add one }

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 8:27 am

"Stranger Danger" featured Jimmy Savile. The involvement of these fellows in such projects obviously relates to their popularity with children at the time. It is of course grist to the conspiranoid mill that retrospectively this is now shown to reveal their callousness-extremis – laughing at their victims even as they abused them. It's all nonsense but then that is the basis of the child abuse syndrome it seems: nonce sense.

Insofar as the sensitivity of the NSPCC is concerned you have to allow for the fact that a slight delving into the nether regions of the internet babble reveals a caucus of belief that the NSPCC itself is the core of the Paedo-Ring itself and all part of the great cover-up. Rantzen is despised by many of this caucus post-Savile (she must have known!!) No doubt these suspicions all go back to Peter Righton and the whole PIE legend so beloved of the Google Generation. It's possibly also relevant that all the people in care who were abused back in the 1970's were all victims of the state-sponsored projects such as Duncroft.

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 2, 2014 at 11:26 am

Yes I remember a GOSH psych telling me around 1988 that the pro-paedophile mantra was 'Sex before 8 before it's too late!' It hadn't occurred to me there was an ideological paedo movement at this time and I'm still not sure whether it was their 'mantra'. Haven't seen it in any of the PIEdofiles. Fringe groups such asPIE, and NAMBLA in the US,did of course fuel the flames by suggesting that sexual attraction to pre-pubescent children was normal and near-on ubiquitous. I guess the crusaders took them at their word in their projections. But the PIEdoscene menace appears to loom infinitely greater now now through publicity than was actually the case then and I've never come across a case relating to the 70s where there was PIE involvement.

Reply

Ian B

July 2, 2014 at 12:01 pm

I think I said somewhere here before that the Paedophile Rights Movement is probably the single most woefully misjudged campaign in the history of the Western World. But it must have made sense at the time to think that if gays could do it, so could they. But for all my reading and thinking about this subject, until the Harman flap it had never directly dawned on me that it was they themselves who constructed the modern folk devil of the paedophile by, indeed, implying its ubiquity and supposed "normality" as an attraction. Which unbeknownst to them would play into the hands of those eager to portray men as naturally predatory.

Reply

Moor Larkin

July 2, 2014 at 12:20 pm

There were two levels to it though. The primary "gay interest" was that gay men should be able to have sex with young men in the same way that straight men were permitted to have sex with young women. That has now been achieved. The philosophical notion that actual children were "sexual beings" and therefore sex with them was 'moral' wasdismissed by the gay lobby and Feminists because of the "power" differentials. Since they were fighting against "morals" they had to use different precepts. http://jimcannotfixthis.blogspot.co.uk/2014/02/left-behind.html

Peter Raite

July 2, 2014 at 11:50 am

Not to mention his "Learn to Swim" public information films courtesy of the Central of Information. Clearly Rolf became a champion swimmer in his younger years as part of a meticulously planned route to be close to kids in swimming costumes!

Reply

The Slog

July 2, 2014 at 9:19 am

Nice piece of sleuthing there, Raccers...none of it surprises me. Slippery shower at the NSPCC and no mistake.

Meanwhile, Rolf Harris allegedly outgroomed Savile: Sir James groomed a nation, but good old Rolf groomed THE WORLD, no less.

Personally, on that basis I think we need to start looking more closely at the case notes on Father Christmas: never trust anyone who goes to every house in the world during one 24 hr period and gains secret access via the chimney purely to leave presents for small children.

The madness gets worse, and the privileged get off:

http://hat4uk.wordpress.com/2014/07/02/the-paedofile-rolf-harris-trial-and-elm-house-enquiry/

Reply

Ian B July 2, 2014 at 10:21 am

Excellent article, Margaret. Nice to see you "above the fold".

It's hard not to be struck by the strangeness of all this. The mere association, however weak. The Telegraph today reports in sinister tones that Savile and Harris were both once on the same TV programme (ITV West) in 1992... so therefore um... er... well, the only possible reason that two light entertainment celebrities might be seen on TV together must be that they were paedophile conspirators, obviously...

It's all totally barmy.

Reply

JuliaM July 2, 2014 at 11:01 am

Yes, totally barmy. And the tabloids are lapping it up.

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 2, 2014 at 11:36 am

That's entertainment! Harris has become the living Savile-by-proxy. 'In plain sight' 'groomed the nation' 'power of celebrity status' ergo had JS faced justice he would have been convicted. but of course Rolf was prosecuted in the wake of the JS disorientation effect and also had to grapple with the damaging affair and apology letter. Watch the ping-pong effect in fuelling the antipodean celeb-crusade.

Reply

Frankie

July 2, 2014 at 1:21 pm

'totally barmy'... Yes, that about sums up the assessment of some on here.

I am quite sure that they would be delighted if all of the 'celebrities' that the much maligned Yewtree team looked at escaped without trial and conviction – they seem to think that the victims should have come forward at the time and that somehow, their failure to do so is evidence that they are either mistaken or are lying about what happened. I cannot quite bring myself to believe that they think that it was quite okay, back then to grope little girls – the 'Benny Hill' defence perhaps – I accept that it was a different time period but that doesn't make it right. It just isn't, no matter what the views of society back in the 60's.

They then ask us to believe that all of the allegations made against all of these celebrities is all lies...

That, simply, just cannot be. There is an element of 'no smoke without fire' in all the cases that have been up before the courts so far, but I would argue that this is simply unavoidable, given the passage of time and the lack of forensic evidence in support. The CPS are relying, to great extent, on evidence of similar fact, but, as they are quite able to do so then surely they should present the best case they can?

The CPS have also been ridiculed, quite unfairly, but, unfortunately for the skeptics, the Yewtree mob and the CPS are starting to zero in on those who, clearly, have a case to answer – even if it is one in which we are judging these celebrities for acts they committed in a more liberal era, by 2014 style moralities. The fact that they have been successful does not, it seems sit well with those who think that all coppers are thick, moronic and corrupt. Perhaps some are trying to do the best job they can do with the available evidence.

Rolf Harris, in particular – and I would class myself as a fan, who has been shocked by the revelations so far – was, fairly evidently, a man with deviant sexual urges, hiding in plain sight, who, like Stuart Hall, simply thought that his fame and celebrity would protect him. In this, he was wrong. He clearly (and cynically) made that programme to portray himself in a different light, a cynical manipulator.

Rolf Harris is being held responsible for the Holocaust... unless in fact it was JS – who knows, but, in his instance, on the facts, he has had his case judged by a jury of his peers and he has been found guilty. I would, however cast a very skeptical eye over the allegations of those who have come forward subsequently, on the 'me too' – as, in the case of Hall, most of these allegations were proved to be groundless, in a second trial.

We have got to have a little bit of faith in the system, even when, on a regular basis, things go wrong. It is the only one we have, and what is the alternative? Sharia??

Reply

Ian B July 2, 2014 at 1:38 pm

Sigh. There's no justification for "faith" in a system that has gone so badly wrong as this. The problem is that we're now viewing a mess that has been brewing for decades as public perceptions have been manipulated, such that people are led into category errors and accepting the implausible as the commonplace. There's been enough discussion of this history of that here that there's no point me going over it again.

Taking Rolf, the "deviant sexual urges" consist of- having a long-running affair, various acts of commonplace lechery and, er, one bizarre claim that he groped a seven year old on stage(!) after singing Two Little Boys. The last one doesn't fit, unless you buy into the irrational model that "deviance" manifests in any and all ways. There are certainly some small number of people attracted to infants, but the idea that general lechery towards women fits with a sudden urge to grope an infant makes *no sense at all*.

As to this system being "the only one we have", it's a system that has been made profoundly different from "the only one we had" just a few decades ago (when these purported offences occurred) and it is ridiculous to use "or else what, sharia?" as some kind of comparison.

It's sad to live among people who are so easily bamboozled, and sad to read one here defending this mess as you are.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 1:57 pm

Perhaps a Society that believes in nothing, can be driven to believe in anything, even the law. http://jimcannotfixthis.blogspot.co.uk/2014/02/masters-of-universe.html

"... I'm driven to wonder if we are not just repeating the same old mistakes with another group of our Elites, in the matter of the Jimmy Savile Revelations. The Legal Profession might really be the oldest profession in the world for all I know. However long they've been around, the western world has not always been the better for their presence. At their best though, they can be part of a system of values that can stop us destroying ourselves. But they are only as good as we make them, and we are not perfect. So no matter whatever some clever men and women (it's usually men I have to say) in suits might believe on any one day, in any one set of circumstances, that does not make them eternally right. They should never be deemed Masters of the Universe. One day they may look like Jimmy Savile and the next day they may look like Skeletor. But in reality, every day, they are just people and as clever as they can seem to look one day, they can look really stupid the next. But they are still the same people inside."

Reply

Frankie July 2, 2014 at 3:41 pm

"...various acts of commonplace lechery". So... that makes it all okay does it?

If you were either (a). the victim (b). a parent of the victim I doubt if you would hold that view.

The system IS the only one we have – and as I hear a deafening silence – as regards what could realistically replace it, I need say no more, other than is an evolution of 'what we had' but perhaps that reflects the society we now have and there is no turning back, no matter what.

As someone who works within it, I cannot say I like it, but I (unlike some) am a realist.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 3:57 pm

@Frankie

The legal system and our obligation to comply with it is not the issue; it is the simplistic belief that if the legal system says it is so, then we must be silent that is the issue. On that basis we'd still be sending folk to Australia for poaching. There is good reason to believe there are hundreds, possibly thousands of people falsely imprisoned. Because of the behaviour of journalists who support the idea of paedo's everywhere most folks habe no clue that the way the law is operating is so wrong. I had no idea of this problem until the Savile thing made me take a closer look. The value of the open court system is that at least we can see how nebulous all this is. You can see how the Muthorities are misrepresenting things with these explanations and questioning. You can see how the Authorities are behaving by reading the NHS Report analysis Anna Raccoon has just done in relation to the Yewtree

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Try this Link for a start about the real truth of what is happening, and has been for years: http://www.factuk.org/

Reply

Fat Steve July 2, 2014 at 4:45 pm

@ Frankie –You make a fair point of principal about the merit of prosecuting pervs however far back their actions —in the main the debate here appears to centre on the safety of convictions in the light of evidence —but true righteous indignation at past wrongdoings is something I and I suspect many who post here find an admirable trait. But you raise an interesting point when you state — even if it is one in which we are judging these celebrities for acts they committed in a more liberal era, by 2014 style moralities.

The Allan Turing pardon for what was at the time of his conviction for (admitted) 'kiddie fiddling' and Child Prostitution (the age of majority was 21 at the time) really does sit uncomfortably with the notion that you espouse —in fact the Touring pardon appears an almost complete inversion of principal when set against notions that the past should be judged by present day mores. Orwell comes to mind with his comments about those in power in the present control History and therefore dictate the future.

What has amazed me in this little saga is how the likes of Savile and Harris achieved the icon status they did —sure some intellectual snobbery on my part I admit —but a rather less serious charge than idolising as you put it individuals that are suspect because there is no smoke without fire.

Reply

Ian B

July 2, 2014 at 5:59 pm

Righteous indignation is usually the first refuge of the scoundrel.

There are numerous issues involved in this, all discussed here at length, and I'm sure you've read them in the articles and comments. But to address one of your points-

"They then ask us to believe that all of the allegations made against all of these celebrities is all lies... That, simply, just cannot be. "

Firstly, nobody is saying that. In fact, considerable discussion has been had about the problems of false memories, reinterpretations of acts after gaps of years and decades, and so on. But secondly, you have a major problem with this line of argument in that we *do* have a precedent situation in which large flurries of accusations of sexual and perversely violent crimes were made and *all of them were false*– Satanic Ritual Abuse. Considering the obviously close links between that and this, we are left saying that whether or not it is true in this case, it is certainly, in the real world *possible* for such a thing to occur, and that is fortified by us having a demonstrable mechanism of how such a situation can occur.

But for most people, onanistic wallowing in righteous indignation is sufficient consideration.

Reply

Fat Steve

July 2, 2014 at 6:52 pm

@ianb Righteous indignation is usually the first refuge of the scoundrel —I suggest its SELF righteous indignation —otherwise all who feltt anger at injustice would be scoundrels

Frankie July 2, 2014 at 7:24 pm

> "Righteous indignation is usually the first refuge of the scoundrel." Eh? "Onanistic wallowing"... Really?

It is generally held that when one has to resort to ad hominem remarks, the speaker has lost the argument...

I think I'll get my coat.

Lucozade

July 4, 2014 at 9:25 am

Fat Steve,

Re: "What has amazed me in this little saga is how the likes of Savile and Harris achieved the icon status they did"

Talent I guess....

Reply

Fat Steve July 2, 2014 at 5:13 pm

@Frankie As someone who works within it, I cannot say I like it, but I (unlike some) am a realist — I am sure a German with conscience and conviction to his country in the 1930s might have opined the same —there does though come a time when a system fails and the only moral response is to fight it or walk away from it —No don't jump down my throat and accuse me of comparing 1940s Germany and 2014 UK coz I am not —the issue is whether a system is failing not the degree of damage caused when it does

Reply

Ian B July 2, 2014 at 6:04 pm

There is actually a rather apt parallel to 1930s Germany. Most people blame the horror there on "racism" or "anti-semitism" and don't think any further. But racism isn't really an explanation. It's just a description of a feeling, not of how the feeling came to be. The key point to me is that German society- at the highest levels and en masse- became convinced of a conspiracy theory, to whit that the Jews as an entire (racial) class were a conspiracy against the German volk. And thus Germany fell down the rabbit hole into a terrible mass insanity.

The theory powering this phenomenon is a similar *class conspiracy* theory, except that it's men, rather than Jews, who are the named class. This is the aspect I find the most terrifying.

Reply

Fat Steve

July 2, 2014 at 7:20 pm

@Iamb a rather apt parallel to 1930s Germany -I suspect as far as I would wish to go on a parallel is that history is being rewritten whereby the aspirant establishment wish to recast recent history (say 1960s and 1970s but any era will do) as oppressive in some terrible form or another from which the aspirant establishment will proudly proclaim that they and only they had a satisfactory remedy for ---paint the past as black as you can if you want to be a saviour. All tsarist Russia was oppressive under Communism, all pre 1930s troubles in Germany could be attributed to Jews, Homosexuals and Communists under National Socialism-in both cases anyone who looked like a Tsarist or looked like a Jew a homosexual or had some sympathy for left wing politics was a culprit. I tend to think that were murky sides of light entertainment in post war Britain though I am far from sure of the extent but I would argue that much of light entertainment lies in manipulation of emotion and concomitant abandonment of reason -just seems its working its way up to more serious matters now ---anyone recollect Anna saying Williams Thomas wanted to introduce a tele show where the audience voted on what steps a criminal investigation should take? Makes everyone think they have the ability to make a skilled judgement in the timeframe and parameters of evidence that a television show allows whatever the complexity -Big Brother meets Poirot in a television extravaganza of audience empowerment.

Reply

Mrs Grimble July 3, 2014 at 8:29 am

@Frankie:

As a teenage girl in the 1960s and living in London, I was regularly subjected to '…various acts of commonplace lechery'. Here's some of them:

At 18, a stranger came up to me at a party , grabbed me by the shoulders and forced his tongue down my throat (the Jimmy Savile approach to foreplay);

At 15, I was chased down a lengthy stretch of Euston Road by a surprisingly spritely old man waving a £5 note and shouting "Come with me, I pay well!" – it was 11 or so in the morning on a

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unusual in this; At various ages from puberty onwards, men in parks seemed to think it was their duty to add to my sex education by showing me their willies; Again at various ages, all sorts of men seemed to think I was their personal masturbation object, rubbing their erections against me in crowds and grabbing bits of my body. Yes, it was all very wrong at the time and I knew it (and so did the men) but it went on and society in general accepted that it went on and didn't do a lot about it. I and all my girl friends accepted that getting groped and leched at was a hazard of life for young women – just as non-white people accepted that racism was a hazard, just as gays accepted that homophobia was a hazard. As far as I know know, none of my assaulters were celebrities, so I won't be phoning up Operation Yewtree (which is a pity – I could do with with a few thou right now!) but the celebrities that indulged in that behaviour were simply doing what a lot of non-celebrity blokes were getting away with then. Why isn't Operation Yewtree hearing about any of that?

Reply

Posts by Author

Moor Larkin

July 3, 2014 at 8:42 am

@Mrs Grimble

Interesting that you stress "At various ages from puberty onwards,"

In the 60's & 70's women's bodies became a display... the mini-skirt... To men of the generations before this was a huge come-on because they had grown up in the 40's and 50's when a knee was something to behold. Suddenyl the gals were showing them everything they could; the interpretation would be inevitable without "education". The 70's feminism also emphasised how women were gonna have lots of sex too. The dangers of this were recognised in 1977 where the woman in "Looking for Mr Goodbar" is murdered as she picks up the wrong sort of guy....

That freedoms were being exploited rather than celebrated is depressing but hardly surprising. However, it is reassuring to know that men were not attempting to assault you when you were a biological child. That fits with my general experience too.

Reply

Peter Raite

July 3, 2014 at 10:42 am

Mrs Grimble's recollections certainly tally with stories I've heard from older female relatives and family friends over the years, My mother-in-law now jokes that she can't get any compensation on account of the boss who groped her in a lift, but the slap she gave him more than makes up for it.

Even so, I think there is generally a huge gulf now between those who experienced that sort of thing, and even people of my age (too close to 50!) now, let alone those younger. These days, the lechery and groping is 'Carry On' films look like some sort of exagerrated extreme, yet the same sort of thing often appeared in contemporary mainstream films, as well.

I was recently watching the 1968 comedy spy thriller 'Otley' recently (for an ongoing book project), and there's a scene where Tom Courtney wakes up next to the runway at Gatwick airport. It then cuts to inside the terminal, where two members of uniformed airline staff – a man and a woman – are standing a desk. He's to one side of her, slightly behind, and slowly reaches round her back, under her arm, and cups her breast. She looks surprised and embarrassed, but also a bit pleased. The camera then pans up to a sign: "GATWICK HANDLING." So basically it's a visual joke – in no way connected to the main plot – predicated on the sort of behaviour that now being persued through the courts decades after the fact.

Reply

Ian B July 3, 2014 at 2:39 pm

Mrs Grimble-

The point being that if such behaviour was indeed commonplace, it makes no sense to declare it to be indicative of some special evil, especially if it is supposed to be proof of a conspiracy of staggering magnitude. In the same way that, if we accept that speech now considered racist was routine in the 1960s, it makes no sense to single out particular examples ("Curry And Chips", anyone) for prosecution.

But more than that, nobody ever really analyses why people behave as they do. In moral issues, it's straight to collective condemnation without any analysis. And I think it's worth considering; in a society where girls are expected as a part of the social contract to

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on". Who dares wins, and all that. This is the social environment these old men grew up in. Effectively, trying it on was a means of testing whether a girl was up for it or not, since she wasn't going to come out and say so, because that would be too tarty.

By the time I was a lad, in the 70s, things were rapidly changing, though sadly conservative forces are trying to push us backwards again.

Please note, I am not *approving* of any of that set of behaviours. Merely trying to understand them. If we fail to account for radically different behavioural patterns in different eras, we come to the wrong conclusions.

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 3, 2014 at 3:12 pm

Yes, indeed. It was called "making a pass". Personally I was not bold enough in those days to make physical passes at strange females, preferring to talk them into bed, a strange precursor to the current vogue for informed consent. But making passes, often after a few drinks, was pretty much the norm for most blokes. In fact there was even a saying "men rarely make passes at girls who wear glasses."

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 5:54 pm

There's a strange dichotomy here though because I can remember when a man would stand up and offer his seat to a lady, on a bus or a train. She didn't have to be pregnant or old either... Children like me were told to do so by our responsible adult. A bit similar to opening doors maybe. The habit stopped as women were increasingly "out and about" I guess. and for men to stand every time became ridiculous. I gre up in the northern provinces however and I guess "The Smoke" would have been different.

"Take Three Girls" was made in the early 1970's about young, independent women and it's tag line is telling: http://georgesjournal.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/liza_goddard_a ngela_down_and_susan_jameson_in_take_three_girls.jpg

Peter Raite

July 3, 2014 at 9:41 pm

I've been watching some episodes of 'T3W' lately. It's like a glimpse into another world.

Frankie

July 3, 2014 at 6:45 pm

"...I and all my girl friends accepted that getting groped and leched at was a hazard of life for young women – just as non-white people accepted that racism was a hazard, just as gays accepted that homophobia was a hazard."

... but does the fact that it went on make it right? I would argue, not.

As for whether Yewtree should investigate, I would offer to suggest that this particular

operation seems to focus initially on a particular person, one Sir James 'Jimmy' Savile KCB etc., (deceased) and therefrom to connecting persons.

We cannot say who they may investigate next, but if you truly feel that there is an issue that remains unaddressed from your childhood, and you can identify a person who subjected you to this kind of behaviour I suggest you approach the authorities. If you have managed to put it behind you then good for you, but for some, I would argue that what happened to them – abuse by clearly defined childhood celebrity has haunted them for years and they now have the opportunity to do something about it, whatever their motives for not doing something before.

Hopefully, it isn't just the money or the potential promise of money that is motivating them now (although I note the slightly mercenary sub-text within the body of your reply '... none of my assaulter s were celebrities... a pity... I could do with a few thou').

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 3, 2014 at 8:48 pm

@Frankie: Thank you for your concern. However, the assaults of my teenage years never caused me any trauma at all and have not "haunted" me. I have no "issues"; I was narrating my experiences in order to show that such behaviour was largely accepted in those time. (And did you miss the bit where I stated that it was wrong at the time?)

Thank you also for advising me to contact the police, but I find it a little puzzling that you expect me to know the names of complete strangers who groped me 40 - 50 years ago.

Also, I now realise I should have put [JOKE! HONEST!] after my "mercenary" remark.

Reply

Ian B

July 4, 2014 at 4:05 pm

I'd just like to point out at this juncture that despite being a well brought up lad who has never groped anybody in his life, I have myself been groped and assaulted a number of times. Cue the Jo Brand style, "Yes, even me". For instance, we are all horrified by the idea of some sleazy middle aged bloke in a dodgy jumper, fake tan and combover physically assaulting a young lady, but pretty much the precise gender inverse happened to me involving a woman who hadn't come to grips with the fact that she was a bit past it, when I was a presumably somewhat desirable young fellow. My bottle blond mullet was a babe magnet, even if the babes were the age of my mum, and all that.

Or, there was that barmaid in the works local who made my life a misery, much to the amusement of my cow-orkers. No, not some pulchritudinous young thing busting out of her top, we're talking near granny material with particularly appalling teeth here.

And so on. Nobody seems to much care about such incidents though. Is it becos I is male?

What we might make of such things could be that there is just a certain cohort of people who push their luck, and that they are an annoyance and sometimes at the time quite upsetting for the individual they target. Whether I actually deserve any compensation for a tipsy middle aged lady pinning me against a wall and fumbling at my genitalia while I felt- being male- that I had some kind of moral duty to get out of it without embarrassing *her* too much, I will leave Frankie to explain. I suspect that under current thinking, it was my fault because she was drunk, or something.

Peter Raite

July 2, 2014 at 2:09 pm

In fact, the Cambridge event raises the most questions. The accuser claimed that Harris hugged and groped her when she was aged 14 in 1975, while working as a waitress during a "celebrity" edition of 'It's Knockout' in Cambridge. 'The Guardian' reported: "The detective sergeant said that the alleged victim had not been entirely sure of the date, but "1975 was clearly she felt the most certain"." This was probably reinforced by them discovering that one edition of 'It's a Knockout' did indeed take place in Cambridge in 1974, although they could find no trace of Harris being at it. This was

presumably the broadcast of 4 July 1975, featuring the (non-celebrity) teams Cambridge v Oxford v Peterborough. Notably, it was the last of the series, with a celebrity edition the following week.

It was only after this "evidence" had been heard in court (when Harris said he couldn't recall ever having been to Cambridge until fairly recently) that their attention was drawn to the real programme, which was in fact broadcast on 26 September 1978, when the accused would obviously have been 17. I would actually say that it would have been trivially easy to identify both this programme and Harris's participation in it in maybe a couple of hours work with access to the right broadcasters' databases, or indeed this searchable PDF-only standard reference work:

http://www.kaleidoscopepublishing.co.uk/books-ledownload2012-11.html

So what exactly is going on here? Was it the case that Rolf tried it on with a 17-year-old in 1978, or was it that the accuser was really assaulted when aged 14 in 1975 by someone who was not actually Harris? Did the police/CPS in fact know about the 1978 programme, but – knowing it blew holes in the accuser's account – instead go into court with the original 1975 story, so that by the time 1978 programme was produced, the damage of accusing Rolf of groping a 14 year old was done?

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 2, 2014 at 3:33 pm

Good points, it only took me a couple of minutes yesterday to find the information that Harris appeared in 5 episodes of Star Games in 1978 via the IMDb. How could the multimillion pound prosecution or defense not do this?

http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1858257/fullcredits?ref_=tt_ql_1

Reply

Peter Raite July 2, 2014 at 4:05 pm

While it's possible that it wasn't in IMDB at the time. The most recent cached copy on archive.org is from 3 December 2012, and 'Star Games' does not appear in the "Self" section between 'Star Turn' and 'The Rolf Harris Show':

https://web.archive.org/web/20121203180606/http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0365271/?

Even so, the Kaleidoscope book came out in November 2012 – well before the trial, if not the actual arrest. The BBC's INFAX system would have categorically ruled out it being one of their programmes – and certainly the 1975 Cambridge 'It's a Knockout' – so it would then have been a given that it was actually an ITV programme they should be looking for. Then again, would they have gone into court with the charge with the date and age anomalies in the first place?

Reply

johnS July 2, 2014 at 4:17 pm

For younger readers:

In the 1970s there were only two UK broadcasters, the BBC and the ITV network. Unlike now, there were very few independent productions and probably none making the sort of light entertainment programmes in which Harris appeared. A search of only two archives, the BBC and Anglia TV would probably have found any broadcast TV programmes shot in Cambridge featuring Harris. Alternatively, The Radio Times and TV Times for the relevant years would also suffice, not least because they each only covered one broadcaster each so their descriptions for each programme were much more detailed and would certainly have listed such a prominent figure as Rolf Harris.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 2:32 pm

@Frankie
Presumably your faith in Rebekah Brookes has been restored?....

Reply

winston smith July 2, 2014 at 3:36 pm

Does anyone know on which of the years, 1975 or 1978, did the jury decide that the alleged assault occur?

Reply

Frankie July 2, 2014 at 7:27 pm

Not really... I still can't get my head around that one, but that is what the jury thought and they sat through the entire trial and presumably listened to all the evidence.

I didn't.

Reply

Peter Raite July 2, 2014 at 8:45 pm

It's a real paradox. The accuser and the police were utterly convinced it was the 1975 'It's a Knockout', despite the fact that Harris never took part in in. If the jury believed it was the 1978 'Stars Games', then they also had to accept that the accuser was out by three years, the other side of the age of consent. One would have thought that the defence should have recalled her as a witness and tried resolve that contradiction. In 1975 at 15 she would have still been at school, and would surely have remember the waitressing job in that context. At 1978 at 17 she would either have left school and very probably working, or been in the 6th form. I would be absolutely staggered if anyone could mix up those two ages/circumstances

Home

About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 2, 2014 at 4:08 pm

The truth is that Harris (or Savile if he were alive) should not have been prosecuted in the first place. Statutes of Limitations have been in place since Roman times for the reason it is almost impossible for a defendant to prove themselves innocent after such a passage of time and it comes down to- who tells the best story in court. Now that the CPS & police actively trawl for "witnesses", for what is now accepted as 'evidence'- hearsay (she told me he abused her 20 years ago) Harris had no chance.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 2, 2014 at 4:18 pm

Harris had no chance.

I don't know. I was surprised at the verdict. I thought the subsidiary groping charges had little substance and were just a sideshow, but it would not have surprised me (prior to the verdict) if the jury had found that the relationship with the friend of Bindi started before she was 16, especially if they found her to be a credible witness, which in retrospect clearly they did.

One thing we don't know much about, or I don't, is the makeup of the jury. I imagine that London juries these days are very likely to contain a multiracial makeup, so bringing different experiences and perceptions to the courtroom. Probably few jurors will have what I take to be a similar demographic to those who comment on the blog, i.e. white, over 50, middle class, professional or retired, grew up in middle England, sceptical about media reports in general, neither an ardent fan nor a hater of Jimmy Savile or Rolf Harris.

Reply

Peter Raite July 2, 2014 at 4:28 pm

IIRC, the Old Bailey is unusual in that juries are selected from around the capital, rather than being restricted to the City of London, where it is.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 2, 2014 at 4:38 pm

Wasn't he tried at Southwark Crown Court?

Reply

Peter Raite July 2, 2014 at 4:43 pm

D'oh. It was the preliminary hearing that were at the Bailey.

However, in the spirit of the trial, the point still stands, even though the location is completly different!

Too soon...?

Reply

Chris July 2, 2014 at 6:42 pm

The DLT jury appeared to all under 40 (bar one woman) – which is important given this mythical beastly "1970s BBC" they are trying to sell people (and they were – hard not to laugh out loud at the crap Miranda Moore was coming out with). Most of the jury wouldn't have a clue who he was. Although he was acquitted on all the charges from that era, that they couldn't see the obvious with the other three suggested they weren't quite with it. I have been told that Southwark juries are traditionally thick, and thus will buy into this myth making nonsense;. Which might be the reason the CPS pick that particular court for these show trials.

Mudplugger July 2, 2014 at 7:07 pm

> But it is often said that juries consist of 12 people, none of whom were bright enough to get out of jury service. You pay peanuts, you get monkeys.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 8:37 pm

when it became apparent the CPS had forgotten to give the Defence copies of their most important police statements, and the judge abandoned the case and apologised to us for wasting a week of our lives. I felt like saying he should be apologising for wasting about £50k of our money...

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 4:43 pm

Harris had the best chance actually. Even after news of his charging broke, he fulfilled a couple of gigs and was supported by the audience. His admitted affair with the teenager was a clear surprise and game-changer. His "nice-guy" image and personal immorality seems to have hit the zeitgeist. Stuart Hall was similar and his pleachange was a shock too. I doubt there were any internet rumours about either of these two prior to all of this, unlike Jimmy Savile for instance.

Reply

Gil

July 4, 2014 at 1:20 pm

News of him being questioned, together with the words "Savile" and "sexual offences", was broken no 29 November 2012(retweets 873):

https://twitter.com/mwilliamsthomas/status/274181776283406337

The ITV Savile documentaries had been broadcast on 3 October and 21 November 2012 in the UK, and on 19/20 November 2012 in Australia (with an apparent schedule change). http://www.itv.com/news/2012-09-30/bbc-jimmy-savile-accused-of-sexually-abusing-girls-in-itv-exposure-documentary/

http://www.itv.com/news/update/2012-11-09/new-itv1-exposure-documentary-on-jimmy-savile/ http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/stories/2012/11/15/3633714.htm

"Twitter was abuzz with messages expressing surprise that Harris was a suspect in the Scotland Yard investigation set up in the wake of allegations against the late BBC Radio 1 DJ Jimmy Savile." http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-27121278

Reply

Anna Raccoon

July 4, 2014 at 1:36 pm

Gil,

In case you hadn't realised – any more than one link in a comment and the system automatically holds the comment up in 'moderation' – and I am not here sometimes for hours on end, to let you out again.

Your comments are very, very welcome and informative – but one link or less, and they will appear straight away. More than one link and they could be in 'clink' for several hours!

Reply

Lucozade July 3, 2014 at 4:15 pm

Ian B,

Re: "so therefore um... er... well, the only possible reason that two light entertainment celebrities might be seen on TV together must be that they were paedophile conspirators, obviously..."

Lmao, and most of the readers at home don't seem to notice the ridiculousness of some of it....

Reply

GildasTheMonk July 2, 2014 at 11:30 am

A fascinating exposure of humbug, Margaret. Meanwhile, I may have a job for you...

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 2, 2014 at 11:39 am

... thank you Gildas. I do hope it will not involve working with children or animals...

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 2, 2014 at 7:44 pm

I have been in touch with your boss and asked him to pass on my best regards. If anyone can help, he can. G the M

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 3, 2014 at 10:20 pm

What boss?

Reply

Fat Steve July 2, 2014 at 11:39 am

Solid piece of research Margaret —one senses a sort of infective and self serving hysteria by some individuals indulged by the MSM in what is or has become a veritable industry centred around child protection—mind you not the first time in my life I have seen something akin to hysteria in relation to 'victims' where there is the gloss of celebrity or an institution to make the story worthy of publicity –what is heart breaking is that attention and resources are directed away from what I suspect is a something of a real problem in some sectors of Society.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 11:45 am

@ a veritable industry centred around child protection @Without a child in sight so far as I can see.

Reply

Peter Raite July 2, 2014 at 11:56 am

Considering how the NSPCC is inextricably bound to Yewtree, it's understandable that they would now want to deny any precious association with one of it's few scalps. It's rather glaring that the same section of the media that tried to smear vary Labour politician via a NCCL/PIE join-the-dots exercise arn't interested in doing the same with Rolf and the NSPCC.

Reply

Chris

July 2, 2014 at 12:06 pm

Apparently, there is no link between fundraising & campaigning for the NSPCC back in 'the olden days' and becoming a branch of the poisonous Yewtree.

Just as there is no truth in the rumour that The Met are paying Piers Morgan to line up more almost-dead sacrifices by inviting to feature on his critically unacclaimed ITV 'Life Stories'

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piers_Morgan's_Life_Stories

Reply

Carol42

July 2, 2014 at 12:51 pm

What puzzles me is that the vast majority of the complaints are relatively trivial and most of us who grew up at that time could have dealt with them without our lives being 'ruined'. I wonder how many would have come forward if there was no compensation or stories to sell. Not to excuse the serious cases in the Harris and Hall trials but much of it seems to be inappropriate touching, not uncommon at the time. There seems to be no difference between taking advantage of young girls and touching grown women as far as the media is concerned.

Chris July 2, 2014 at 1:07 pm

That utterly idiotic accusation from the 7 year old in 1969, where there is no record anywhere of one of the nations top entertainers appearing in a Portsmouth community centre with bearded hairy hands, is proof the jury were absolute wingnuts. (or on the payroll – one or the other)

If that can equate to a safe conviction for 'child sex abuse', every male in the UK needs to board the nearest flight and get away from this silly shithole as soon as physically possible. It could be You-tree, next.

Reply

Ian B

July 2, 2014 at 1:10 pm

It's the abuse model that the therapist movement contributed. The idea is that (a) all trauma is devastating and (b) all abuse is traumatic and (c) any contact that can be defined as sexual is abuse. So, having your leg briefly touched is abuse, which is trauma, which is devastating. Therapists are primarily incentivised to maximise the perception of illness in their patients; this is in a sense the basic business model. Telling somebody they're cured and don't

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate rather that they are incentivised to pathologise their patients.

The same of course would be true of ordinary doctors; but physical illness is in general easier to quantify and thus patients themselves can generally tell if they are ill or not. Covered in spots? You're ill. No more spots? Probably cured, then. Leg broken? Ill. Leg fixed, cured.

Therapy doesn't have any objective measures; who is ill is in the mind of the therapist, effectively. Hence, their tendency to exaggerate and extend their patients' perceived mental conditions. So, once traumatised, you're ill forever. All trauma is a lifetime ruined. And all abuse is traumatic, so, round and round it goes.

Reply

johnS

July 2, 2014 at 3:50 pm

Agreed.

Some of the accusations seem to involve touching which would have barely troubled the stereotypical fainting-prone Victorian spinster. Much of it seems to be a case of redefining the behaviour in the past in the light of the, in some ways, more puritanical present.

Of course, once you are told that a half-forgotten minor-irritation-at-worst was a sexual assault by a serial abuser then the imagination goes to work along with the memory – with or without the incentive of compensation and/or victimhood status.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 2, 2014 at 4:02 pm

Perhaps one of the reasons most of the complaint are of inappropriate touching is that the complaints were inspired by movies or videos like the Harris one, which for obvious reasons would not give detailed examples of child sexual abuse, and would give a child a childish notion of what inappropriate "touching" was. The allegators, perhaps, did not have enough imagination to come up with more realistic descriptions of adult sexual activity with children such as those which courts normally have to deal with and which the evidence is never reported in full in UK media. If the minor touching was only the tip of the iceberg, then where are the complaints of real sexual activity? Stuart Hall tickled a girl to wake her up when she was pretending to be asleep, and touched her thigh near her genital area, but if the same thing had been done by her father, it is unlikely he would have ended up in prison for incestuous touching.

Reply

Little Black Sambo July 4, 2014 at 12:29 pm

"Allegators" Love it.

Reply

Anna Raccoon July 4, 2014 at 12:41 pm

That and 'Savilisation' were terms coined by Ms Raccoon, who whilst flattered that they have been so comprehensively taken up by everyone, still smarts at having her utter brilliance overlooked now and then....

Just my ego rising up and demanding to be credited...!!!!

Reply

AdrianS July 2, 2014 at 7:18 pm

A lot of the older women where I work (50s) and my wife think it's all way over the top and a total waste of money. Hauling an old man before Crown Court for minor things that happened 40yrs ago. When I was at school in the 60s we used to get the living day lights beaten out of us by a few teachers, nothing will ever be done about that however and these were deliberate, violent assaults, far worse than inappropriate touching. The law is not equal in its handling of matters

D 1...



IlovetheBBC July 6, 2014 at 10:56 pm

Of course we could, and did deal with them without it ruining us. I feel a couple of incidents actually strengthened me. I had to deal with crass, nasty behaviour from people older than me and I did. And I felt good about that, not bad. However they were not in a work situation, which is undoubtedly more difficult.

I dont know if you are all aware, but it's actually now being reported that girls were SUPPLIED to Savile and others from Duncroft. As a reader here, and knowing what I know, I can scoff at that. Others will believe it.

Reply

johnS July 2, 2014 at 12:52 pm Busted! -The NSPCC and That Rolf Harris Video. - The Anna Raccoon Archives

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It has become a mantra in some circles that there is widespread silence about child abuse (a silence which can barely be heard above the clamour.). In this fantasy, while it may not be possible to accuse all men of child abuse, it is possible to accuse all of us of colluding in silence about the abuse we have all observed and not reported. Speaking for myself, I haven't observed any and I doubt most people have, but it's an impossible accusation to factually refute. As facts are the enemy of these kinds of Comment Is Free-friendly notions it's an ideal situation for the enemies of old white men.

Given that it's now impossible to have once passed Rolf Harris in a corridor without being accused of covering up something or other it would look bad if the NSPCC had made a whole short video with him!

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 2, 2014 at 3:47 pm

Since there are some interesting parallels between the Harris sex education film and the allegations against him, is it not possible that some of his allegators may actually have seen the film when they were children and somehow associated Harris with sexual abuse, or even have manufactured testimony inspired by the film?

As others have said, most of the allegation have been totally trivial cases of inappropriate touching, not the kind of offenses that paedophiles I have known professionally have been in prison for, which is basically re-enacting scenes from porno videos with children, not necessarily full intercourse, but activities leading to orgasm and ejaculation. But if the court hands down the maximum sentences for these minor offences, where does that leave them when it comes to the really serious ones?

I remember something from about 1965 when I was 14. It was at a small party or post-church reception at the home of my local MP. He had a daughter, R**a who was an occasional playmate of mine in the child sense, not the magazine, and she and I were about the same age. Rita was wearing a long, rather diaphenous dress probably made of Indian cotton and my father (age similar to Savile and Harris) remarked rather gauchely: "We ought to make R**a stand in front of a sun tan lamp so that we can seen her lovely figure." I remember that at the time I cringed and all who heard the remark tried to ignore it and move the conversation on.. I still cringe with embarrassment when I think about it. But that is how men of that generation were. However I don't think it would be right to prosecute him for crimethought at this point in time. Interestingly, if I was to raise the matter with him again, which I never would as I am sure I am the only living person who recalls this incident, I am sure he would just dismiss it and say that it was harmless banter between adults.

Reply

Chris July 2, 2014 at 7:02 pm

In all of this Yewtree bollocks, there are some incredible coincidences – almost every case is littered with them. I've seen enough to convince me this is all ready- scripted – down to the judicial statements and jury selection.

Think of it like 'The Restoration' - TV & popular culture being the religions, the old intelligent model being slain by the new idiotic philistines.

Reply

Peter Raite

July 2, 2014 at 4:41 pm

There's a certain irony that half the time people are wringing their hands over 13-15 year old getting up to naughties with each other, and for the rest of the time denying that anyone of that age can be perceived as having a sexual identity by anyone older other than an obvious pervert.

Reply

Oi you

July 2, 2014 at 5:13 pm

At the Queen's Jublice evening rave-up, Rolf Harris began to sing Two Little Boys, but half-way through, the compere (can't remember his name now) suddenly got all embarrassed and drew the song to a halt. Another singer duly took over, almost in indecent haste. I remember thinking how odd this was, as if Rolf had suddenly been pushed off stage. Did someone not like him? But he hadn't been investigated then or even arrested. So how come that compere hurriedly hushed him up with that song? Did he know something we didn't? Or am I reading something into this that just wasn't there....

Reply

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 5:57 pm

> Only the "post-modern" perverted mind of a 21st Century truly schizoid man could make filth out of that song. I recall knowing every word of that song as a kid and finding it quite inspiring, expecially when as the verses segue to, "up went the shout... a horse dashes out"... Maybe they felt it was glorifying war or summat.

Reply

Michael Massey

July 2, 2014 at 8:08 pm

I seem to remember the I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again team did make filth out of that song: "two little boys had two little [buzzer]. each had a wooden [buzzer]. Just as they had the Julie Andrews dirty songbook: "I could have [buzzer] all night etc

Reply

Ian B July 2, 2014 at 6:13 pm

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate keep praying something will happen as a distraction to get you off the hook.

Reply

Chris July 2, 2014 at 6:55 pm

Probably all part of the act – circa 1980 Kenny Everett had a running gag with Cliff over a whole series which involved him trying to sing Living Doll and being stopped every time. Sounds a bit like that – Two Little Boys wasn't popular with cool people and it was Number One for 6 weeks which will have seemed like an eternity, so there may well be a gag there.

Another interesting aside: remember the MP's Expenses Scandal? That week, Have I Got News For You went to town on politicians, the gloves were off. And can yew guess who the host was yet? (and he was bloody good too – great comic timing with no punches pulled. Don't suppose the BBC will show that one again! (I have it on DVD if anyone wants a copy)

Reply

Moor Larkin July 2, 2014 at 8:26 pm

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-FSxGkko1c

Reply

Fat Steve July 2, 2014 at 8:57 pm

Can't say I always agree with your opinion Mr Larkin but I do take my hat off to you for your ability to source evidence!!!!!!

Reply

Chris

July 2, 2014 at 9:56 pm

They don't hold grudges these people do they? I'd completely forgotten that Billy Bunter got a mention. I wonder if Slater & Moron pay him well – pies or brown envelopes?

Reply

Rightwinggit

July 3, 2014 at 8:19 am

Wasn't the compere Lenny Henry?

If the Queen knew back then about him, may be the reason for him being hooked off.

Reply

Woman on a Raft

July 3, 2014 at 9:34 am

Timing is the simpler explanation. Henry was handling a short interlude between acts and Harris had already been on once. He was not the star of the show. There were at least another 3 acts queued up, plus interludes, plus the speeches, plus the lighting of the beacon and the firework display to get through. All of this has to run to international timings as there are performance links all over the world.

Harris should have stopped as soon as Henry signaled, not shown-off as if he was more important than the schedule.

Reply

I can't help wondering about a few of things concerning the verdict at the trial.

First up is the absolute need for the CPS and yewtree to secure a conviction or all their credibility would be lost. Second, it appears that the jury couldn't reach agreement and were sent home for the weekend. Third is the fact that after the weekend the jury returned guilty verdicts on all charges.

Now my engineers brain looks at the above and starts wondering if there is any connection between all three. Yes, I know that is the way conspiracy theories start but that does not stop me wondering if anything was said to anyone over the weekend or if they read something in the MSM that caused them to change their mind – something we will never know.

Reply

Ian B July 2, 2014 at 7:23 pm

I doubt that anyone knobbled the jury. The risks of it coming out and total ruin resulting would be too great.

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 2, 2014 at 7:40 pm

Anyone got a ball-park idea of the normal length of time that a jury is out in such cases? The Clifford one took an inordinate amount of time I thought but I was out of the country over a week and was amazed to find that this verdict had yet to be delivered when I came back. I was even moor amazed when I discovered that a journalist who had told Parliament a decade agao that she paid off coppers had already been vindicated as completely innocent, even though that trial was of the notorious "Fraud" sort that are supposed to so bewilder juries that the Judiciary think they should get to judge them on their own.

Reply

Gil

July 4, 2014 at 1:04 pm

Possibly relevant: "Factors Affecting the Length of Time a Jury Deliberates: Case Characteristics and Jury Composition" http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Thomas_Brunell/publication/46556298_Factors_Affecting_the_Length_of_Time_a_Jury_Deliber ates_Case_Characteristics_and_Jury_Composition/file/79e4150e18892d1e76.pdf

"Second, it appears that the jury couldn't reach agreement and were sent home for the weekend. Third is the fact that after the weekend the jury returned guilty verdicts on all charges."

I was wondering about that too. Also why, if the defence barrister fell ill before the prosecution summation, both summations weren't postponed until the same day. But perhaps she fell ill afterwards, or maybe a gap between the two makes no difference.

Reply

ivan July 3, 2014 at 2:54 pm

Actually Ian I was thinking more of the influence of the garbage that appeared in the MSM rather than direct knobbling.

Reply

Mr Ecks

July 3, 2014 at 6:34 pm

Juries can be nobbled indirectly. In the US "voir dire" is often used to ensure that juries of nitwits who will vote as wanted. There have been many specialists who made a living accurately predicting which way juries will jump. In this country it is not as easy but not impossible.

Reply

Bandini

July 3, 2014 at 4:14 pm

Maybe they'd just managed to get their heads around the answers to their own incomprehensible questions raised during the sixth day of deliberations?

http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/rolf-harris-trial-recap-updates-3766860#ixzz35qQseyUT

The jury passed the judge a note with five questions about the case. Here they are:

1) can we discuss the legal directions given, as there seems some confusion. A juror is making behavioural assumptions which is taken into account as evidence on many counts?

2) we are to judge each count independently, please clarify?

3) is it allowed to stereotype what the victim should have done prior to an alleged offence taking place in more than one count and using it against them?

4) as opposed to using patterns within counts to help an outcome of one count, surely it is non advisable to take evidence from one count in the future to judge the count in the here and now, NB counts three to nine, please clarify?

5) can the voracity of a witness statement in one count be taken into account when judging the voracity of a witness statement in another count?

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 4:46 pm

voracious journalism but is it veracious I wonder?...

Reply

Peter Raite July 3, 2014 at 9:39 pm

Well, that explains a lot....

Reply

Daisy Ray July 2, 2014 at 6:21 pm

> a story of how Harris and Savile hung around ogling semi-dressed women at Broadmoor. How strange he didn't tell this useful tale to the NHS researchers as they were drawing up their report, when it might have aided prosecution of Harris.

Reply

Moor Larkin

July 2, 2014 at 6:40 pm

"This is where the story unravels into a tangle of unknowing. If Steven George is 60, as reported, then when she was 17, it would have been 1969 when she was sent to Broadmoor. So when exactly were these assaults supposed to have happened? Patrick McGrath's father ran the place until 1981 and his son makes it clear about the nature of the regime. After 1981 Alison/Steven would have been 30. Was she even still in Broadmoor by then? She had gender reassignment in 1984 after she had left, we are told, but no deeper information than that." http://jimcannotfixthis.blogspot.co.uk/2013/05/the-lunatic-fringe.html

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 12:03 am

Just been reading the actual Broadmoor Report and Harris visited the place once, in 1972.

Reply

Peter Raite July 3, 2014 at 1:19 pm

Yes, and yet 'The Sun' translates "accompanied by staff at all times" as, "oogled female patients in the showers."

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 3, 2014 at 3:05 pm

Shouldn't that be Googled patients in the showers?

Reply

erichardcastle

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July 3, 2014 at 5:12 am
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people seem to forget you didn't end up in Broadmoor unless there was something seriously wrong in the thinking dept.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 9:49 am

Alison Pink/Steven George was said to have been sent there as an arsonist. It's fairly clear that historically there were many folks who just ended up institutionalised and had nowhere else to go anyway; forgotten or rejected by their families etc. The rapid emptying of the asylums in the '80's and '90's demonstrates that the majority were actually pretty harmless. Of course back then there was no such thing as the internet...

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 3, 2014 at 3:16 pm

Actually, you didn't end up in Broadmoor unless you had committed a crime and been found unfit to plead, or else found by the court to be guilty but insane, or possibly if you were transferred there from a prison for psychiatric treatment. I don't remember the relevant sections of the Mental Health Act (1968) after all these years, but no doubt Google or Bing can find the information.

Reply

Moor Larkin

July 3, 2014 at 3:25 pm

Not according to the official report:

There has been a significant change in the patient population at Broadmoor. The hospital has always provided care and treatment for mentally disordered people who have either been convicted or are facing prosecution for serious criminal offences, but until the 1990s it also provided care and treatment for other men and women who presented significantly less risk. page 23

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/323458/Broadmoor_report.pdf

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 3, 2014 at 4:59 pm

That's news to me, but if Broadmoor had civil psychiatric treatment wings for the Berkshire population apart from the forensic (Home Office) part of the hospital, it is pretty much guaranteed that the two populations would not have been allowed to mix. It is pretty clear that Savile was in the forensic part of the hospital, because he was meeting people like the Yorkshire Ripper.

erichardcastle

July 3, 2014 at 5:14 am

And why didn't she mention it before in her "explosive" Savile 'revelations" seeing Frank Bruno got a run ? Sad for the press Rolf didn't meet the Yorkshire Ripper then they would have had the Trifecta.

Reply

Norman Brand

July 2, 2014 at 7:22 pm

Sadly I think a lot of innocent folk could be caught up in this. 'Smoke' may, in many situations, in fact, be mist, and not the product of fire at all.

Reply

sally stevens July 2, 2014 at 9:05 pm

Yes, Norman. Scotch mist.

Reply

Strange World July 2, 2014 at 9:37 pm

Here's an interesting but strange story. In trying to show that Rolf Harris gave some clues about his dark side in his autobiography, The Independent takes the following quote.

Throughout the book – 'Can you tell what it is Yet?' – Harris pokes fun at himself and his apparently flirtatious naivety with women. He tells of how he travelled with Sandie Shaw and her backing singers, the Ladybirds, while hosting the BBC's coverage of A Song for Europe.

Wearied by his constant over-the-top professions of admiration at her beauty, one of the singers, Gloria, tugged down Harris's flies and pulled out his penis. "Are you gonna do something about this, or are you just gonna keep talking about it?" she asked him, according to his book.

"I couldn't think of a single thing to say. Instead I wanted to dissolve into a grease spot and soak into the carpet," he wrote.

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/rolf-harris-guilty-female-singer-gave-him-taste-of-his-own-medicine-in-response-to-flirting-9574284.html

So, if true he was sexually assaulted. After all, if Harris or any man had done something similar to a woman they would rightly be up on assault charges wouldn't they. Clearly he didn't report it at the time.

A web search does throw up the name of a Gloria in the Ladybirds.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Ladybirds

Reply

erichardcastle July 3, 2014 at 5:08 am

several former "tv personalities" and "glamorous singers" coming out of the woodwork-none I have ever heard of, or have my friends with wild tales of the infamous Harris Grope. It's a wonder anyone worked with him up to age 85 if he was that known.

The latest lady was in a some sort of group to work with Harris and Rolf arrived and went up to the singers and pecked each one on the cheek. (with J.Savile I suppose it would have been tongues). She thought that very strange (can't have been around many show-biz folk then)

A tale followed of a weeping assistant found slumped in a corner who told this lady of Something Dreadful Rolf had done whereupon a cellist (?) was dispatched to give Rolf a good telling off etc.

Needless to say weeping assistant & cellist are not around to confirm the story but that's OK- hearsay is all the go these days.

Perhaps these folk were never members of Actor's Equity which has very serious rules/regulations about work conditions in Australia- and I presume the UK, are as tough as nails in enforcement, Struggling actors etc have been known to make more from claims against theaters and venues when things go

wrong considering the low rates of pay.

Meanwhile on the ABC 'Drum' website has a compelling piece by someone I've never heard off proclaiming "art lovers must take down their Rolf Harris paintings as a demonstration that child abuse will never be accepted " (no direct mention of the Queen.) Problem being she couldn't find anyone who claims to own a Harris work of art- and that was before all this drama. I note the last time this was tried was on a famous recently deceased Australian artist Donald Friend who lived for decades in Bali long before it was fashionable and painted much collected paintings of the locals. A diary donated to the National Gallery contains his scribblings idolising Balinese boys.

Outrage ensued and one collector I know was rubbing his hands in glee hoping the price would plummet so he could buy up Donald Friend paintings at rock bottom prices. The price just kept increasing as normal.

theatre luvvies will need to be very careful from now on and perfect that air-kiss.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 3, 2014 at 5:19 am

good opportunity now for an enterprising gallery to pick up some Harris art on the cheap and put them away for a rainy day.

Reply

Moor Larkin

July 3, 2014 at 8:36 am

"google "cello teachers' abuse" and the only relevant thing that comes up is an article on the NSPCC's new campaign." http://thethirdestate.net/2010/11/the-madness-of-the-nspcc/

Reply

Mrs Grimble

July 3, 2014 at 9:00 am

And while art-lovers are burning their Harris artworks, will art-print shops be required to withdraw from sale all those copies of Boucher's 'Mademoiselle O'Murphy'?

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 8:58 am

Sandie Shaw did a little-noticed piece on her sexual exploitation a while after the dawning of savilisation but she never mentioned Rolf... There's still time I guess.

Reply

Chris

July 3, 2014 at 10:39 am

I have a Radio 1 documentary on Top Of The Pops from 1983 in which Sandie chortles about how people used to try and crack on to her and she didn't realise until much later as she was so naive. She perhaps reviews her narrative annually.

Said documentary has been removed from t'interweb in order for history to be rewritten, but is safely in my collection (plus a lot more besides) if anyone ever wants a copy (Ditto the Expenses 'Have I Got (More) News For You')

Reply

Peter Raite

July 3, 2014 at 10:54 am

It's the modern version of damnatio memoriae – damnation of memory. Savile, Harris, etc., can now never be seen on our TV screens unless slowed down to unnatural speed and backed with discordent scary music.

I found my LP of Harris's 'Seamus O'Sean the Leprachaun' yesterday. I do love 'And the Cat Came Back', but obviously can only listen to it through headphones with the curtains drawn now....

Reply

thedude

July 3, 2014 at 12:03 am

The world is going insane. I have nothing else to say and can only shake my head at the lunatic nature of modern society. That cave on a desert island is starting to look damn attractive at this point.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 9:03 am

(a) The world is going insane (a)

Nah, just the UK dude...

Reply

Chris July 3, 2014 at 11:00 am

The madness seems to have gripped English-speaking nations.

It's all imported from the Yanks, 21st Century Britain is modelled on the USA (though filtered of the good aspects of their culture), and Australia is also now clearly a poisoned well.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 11:05 am

> New Zealand gets a lot of stick from the paedo-hunters on the web I've noticed. There's some caucus obsessed with the St Johns Ambulance in that country. Barry McKenzie probably caused the reaction, and I seem to recall Crocodile Dundee feeling up a transgender in New York in the 80's and everyone thought it was FUNNY!!. Antipaedian problems perhaps.....

Bill Sticker

July 3, 2014 at 12:18 am

If I might add my own experience of Jury service to the pot. While not being allowed under law to speak of specific deliberations within the Jury room, I can personally vouch for one occasion where a single strong personality swayed a verdict away from majority guilty to not guilty. Maybe that's all it takes sometimes.

Reply

erichardcastle

July 3, 2014 at 4:45 am

FOR THE RECORD :

To avoid this website being attacked on accuracy or accused of sensationalism (unlike our media of course) # I posted on the other thread a claim that the "whsitleblower" in the Express was none other than my old family friend and convicted scammer Chris Fay. The Express informs me that it is NOT Fay but another former (hopefully more credible) civil servant. So there: they do read these things.

Reply

erichardcastle July 3, 2014 at 4:46 am

..cont : in too much of a rush.. ## that was in an Express story about Elm Guest House & MI5 etc etc.

Reply

IlovetheBBC

July 7, 2014 at 6:51 am

Eric: the 'whistleblower' on Elm definitely IS Fay as he has been named dozens of times as the actual source of the 'documents' – which are a list of stuff he claims to remember Carole Kasir showing him.

None of the press appear to have done any research whatsoever into him. His organisation is his shield. That he's done an 'explosive interview' with that crazy old scroat Bill Maloney is enough for me. I've been laughing at stuff on the web for years; now it's being lapped up as 'FACT' by supposedly sound media.

And the Dickens dossier – as one awake MP has pointed out, he lived for another 11 years after he passed it to the Home Office and never made any more fuss. Could it (horror!) have been because it was investigated and found to be largely unsubstantiated rumour, fantasy or calculated political smears?

Reply

Anna Raccoon July 7, 2014 at 7:00 am

Quite, quite so, IlovetheBBC.

Somebody told me the other day that the reason Panorama was now in 'special measures' wasn't just because Meirion was working for them (!) – but because the BBC was now 'trying to compete with the tabloids' – since the tabloids are trying to compete with the darker recesses of the internet, that didn't seem like a good plan to me.....

Reply

Furor Teutonicus

July 3, 2014 at 8:41 am

Has anyone ever stopes to ask, if the NSPCC is so good, why has it not recieved the "Royal" title?

Does the Palace know somthing they are not telling us?

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 9:01 am

NSPCC has a statutory position within the UK State unlike ANY other charity... I recall the landlady pointing this out in one of her educational pieces. I guess if it is affiliated to Parliament it would be inappropriate for it to be simultaneously "Royal". Some kind of throwback to the settlements between the Roundheads and the Cavaliers perhaps.

Reply

Furor Teutonicus July 3, 2014 at 5:22 pm

Thanks for the answer.

Reply

Chris July 3, 2014 at 10:56 am

of freelance work for the BBC and silly third rate celebrity game shows for ITV – with the occasional novelty glam rock sacrifice thrown in for good measure. The antics of the 'wild men of rock' (both dead and alive) are still the stuff of chest-beating legend, Rock & Roll folklore just like the associated drugs and drink abuse that claimed so many of these flawed individuals at a young age.

Not that want to burn any books or records – far too much of that going on as it is.

I wonder if this is anything to do with these 'legends' generating millions of dollars for large multinationals in image rights, royalties, merchandise, etc etc. This surely cannot be the case, as this would be mean we are in the midst of a conspiracy that is indeed picking and choosing the witches to burn. I mean, with all this talk of online rumours about gurning DJ's (deceased) or octogenarian beloved entertainers, surely the well documented sexual proclivities of so many 'rock legends' (not to mention substance-induced domestic abuse in many cases) wouldn't be ignored solely due to their ability to fill 21st Century coffers?

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 11:08 am

I still think the funniest thing was the Greater Manchester Police issuing a Fatwah about EMO's only to discover within days almost that one of their preeminent EMO heroes was disporting himself on the web in a way Alice Cooper never dreamed of......

Reply

Chris July 3, 2014 at 11:22 am

21st Century Morality at work, there. Stand back and watch ('megalolz!') whilst some ego-crazed nouveau rock idol, immersed in the Nu-Media of Celebrity Juice, Fearne Cotton and T4, takes 5 long years to drive himself mad with celebrity-endorsed bad drugs and MWT-endorsed bad women. His band, whilst unaware of 'the crime' he went down for, had been ringing alarm bells with management for years that he was becoming dangerously unstable and a drug-crazed liability. ITV, T4 & Radio 1 weren't so concerned. In fact, Mr Watkins was taking photographs of himself with 'Keith Lemon' in the ITV 'Green Room' just two days before his 2nd – and final – arrest. That was the ITV 'Green Room', mid-December 2012. 10 weeks after that wonderful broadcaster had so fearlessly "exposed" dead Sir Jimmy Savile. http://www.rocksound.tv/news/read/ex-lostprophets-members-open-up-in-sunday-times-interview

Morality is so high these days that going off the rails is encouraged by the same forces who'll lock you up for the rest of your life if you do. Wood, trees, smoke, mirrors, headlines.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 11:24 am

Billion Dollar Babies.....

Reply

Lucozade July 3, 2014 at 11:42 am

Chris,

Re: "Morality is so high these days that going off the rails is encouraged by the same forces who'll lock you up for the rest of your life if you do"

Ian Watkins and child abuse aside, this statement is so true. The amount of hypocrisy I encounter on a daily basis from pretty much everyone beggers belief. Most people are just sheeple....

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 11:54 am

Most people are quite sensible once they are told the facts I find, even the very uneducated can still reason quite well. It's somehting to do with the large brains Nature gave us. There are facts about several of these cases that we are not allowed

to speak of because the law in this country insists only the lawyers are wise enough to deal with the truth. If you gag folks then they generally all you can hear them say is Mmmf and Bwaaa...

Reply

Chris July 3, 2014 at 12:31 pm

> A more 'provincial' example of such silly reasoning is going on round my way – a local case of a 'lost soul' victim (being female) who apparently has turned into a kinky sex maniac because of anti-depressants. She's also smoked Crack and ingested various other illegal recreation substances, but that's alright innit? http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/Mark-Pickford-trial-Pills-changed-Dawn-Warburton/story-21267802-detail/story.html

Reply

Peter Raite July 3, 2014 at 1:14 pm

Reply

Gil

July 3, 2014 at 3:53 pm

Couldn't the targeting of elderly TV star have to do with the thinking behind the allegations? i.e. if the Savile abuse stories had prompted a "that reminds me, I met a TV star just like him and he destroyed my life" reaction, that wouldn't make much sense given the other abuse victims who haven't had to wait for TV allegations about abusive dead dustmen/electricians/teachers, etc to give them permission to contact the police about people in those occupations who have abused them; it would make a lot more sense if the reaction was "that reminds me, I met a celeb just like him (or not, as the case may be, as they get around and probably can't remember little old me); let's check online to see what I can say based on the Savile reports (and all the related reports on the subject)". Especially good if the actual programme maker points your way to which celeb you can remember meeting months before he's charged with any crime.

Reply

IlovetheBBC July 7, 2014 at 7:17 am

Gawd almighty, that's a strange tale.

Reply

Daisy Ray July 3, 2014 at 12:50 pm

The selection of suspects is odd. Note that it's not just people who were famous in the 70s but people famous in the 70s who are *still famous now*. I mean, it's not, say, the bass player from Showaddywaddy (whom I'm sure is a gent of impeccable morals). What's odder is that we're told about the huge power these people enjoyed over their fans and yet none of them (with the tepid exception of Roache) were sex symbols. I mean, some of my schoolfriends would have happily had David Cassidy's babies, but Jimmy Savile – naaaa!

Reply

Chris July 3, 2014 at 12:54 pm

As it happens, the former bass player of multi-racial pop-soul troupe The Foundations turned out to be a real paedophile later in life – nobody minds hearing Build Me Up Buttercup or Baby Now That I've Found Yew though, do they. Clearly not famous enough.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 3, 2014 at 4:45 pm

Blimey. What a weird tale. All the events are in the 21st Century I notice. http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/7297495.stm

Reply

Oi you July 3, 2014 at 11:37 am

It is very odd that certain famous people are being targeted, whilst others who have done far worse are being ignored.

Reply

Moor Larkin

July 3, 2014 at 11:48 am

When it started they were targeting a paedophile ring at BBC Light Entertainment, centred on Savile. They arrested or otherwise questioned his close associates and then when they discovered the whole thing was just a bizarre fantasy of Meirion Jones, they just started lashing out in similar areas of showbiz. The Satanic Abuse thing dragged on for years and years and it tokk a Scottish Sheriff or summat to finally stop it – the English system was a like some kind of worm that just re-grew no matter how many heads you chopped off.

Reply

Gil July 3, 2014 at 2:49 pm

They're all getting in on the "dark side", "hiding in plain site" thing now, even The Guardian!

"I saw Rolf Harris's dark side when I questioned his portrait of the Queen ...

I asked him if he seriously believed that his portrait was a good work of art. Anger suddenly crossed his previously beaming face. ..." http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/shortcuts/2014/jul/02/i-saw-rolf-harris-dark-side-portrait-queen-art

And that's it!

Although I interviewed all three and saw signs of inappropriate behaviour, there were no clues to the truth about their dark sides

All three hid in plain sight.

•••

I have never felt so strongly the presence of two contrasting characters as when I interviewed Harris. For much of the interview he performed, just as he did in court – he sang, he laughed in that exaggerated way, he whispered in that exaggerated way, he drew me a miniature flick cartoon book. Then, when he wasn't performing, he was miserable as sin.

••

At the time he came across as a man with humility, in touch with his flaws. But in retrospect, I think even here he was indulging himself – only this time, it was his guilt rather than his libido...."

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jul/03/rolf-harris-max-clifford-jimmy-savile-interviewed-dark-sides

Have they call gone insane?!

No, some still have their marbles (though elderly celebs, so clearly dubious!): http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/video/2014/jul/01/ronnie-corbett-cilla-black-harvey-goldsmith-rolf-harris-verdict-video

Those programmes have a lot to answer for. It's just astounding journalists haven't examined them or explored further the implications of the timing/circumstances of the release of Harris's name.

Reply

hugh fowler July 3, 2014 at 7:21 pm

The Guardian has got its head stuck so far up its backside nowadays it can not tell night from day.

No wonder no one buys it any more.

Of course, under its faux left wing persona it has always been a stooge for the establishment as I am sure that Sarah Tisdall can attest

Reply

Duncan Disorderly

July 3, 2014 at 8:18 pm

You're right, particularly about the first article. This paragraph caught my eye:

"Perhaps it all goes to show that the middlebrow is inherently corrupt. What goes on in Tracey Emin's bed is far more honest, far more decent, than what has gone on in the name of bland entertainment and mild art, it turns out. Chocolate box art is a lie."

What an arrogant, smug, pretentious load of shite that was. Were comments ever allowed on that article, or have they been taken down on grounds that commenters saw through his crap?

Reply

Ms Mildred

July 3, 2014 at 5:10 pm

I wonder if was sitting in court on a jury looking at a very old man of 84...could I drag my mind back to when he was much more attractive 30 odd years before or more. At the same time I' m thinking of a younger woman who is alleging this old man standing in front of me indecently assaulted her all those years ago. However vague she may be about the year she was touched up. Maybe there was a bad time in the marriage and he found it hard to avoid temptation. Another thought is ...how can he now have a fair trial if another jury know all the muck raked up about a man who has already been exposed to a tabloid frenzy? Very strange that persons who are accused of horrendous crimes and have a record of serious convictions are allowed secrecy. These old men are not to be allowed such secrecy in another trial for copy cat allegations. Is that any sort of justice?

Reply

.. 1 .. 1

A very timely article

As some one who was a child in the 1960s and teenager in the 1970s my a biding memory is not of fear of sexual molestation but suffering physical violence at the hands of adults. My brother was so terrified of some of his teachers, one of who went under the lovely nickname of 'Thumper", that he would be physically sick every Monday before school. Of course, battering kids to the point of physical damage in that era was quite legal particularly if they were male t. It was only those poor benighted souls who indulged in a bit of gentle bottom fondling or squeezed a girls tits who can be held to account 40 years later. This country is so full of crap it is no wonder the rest of the world laughs at us.

Reply

Moor Larkin

July 3, 2014 at 7:58 pm

A family legend is that my Grandfather was subjected to tough physical beatings by one particular teacher (he wasn't the only one). Anyhow, the legend is that one day he retaliated, kicking the teacher so hard in the shin with the hob-nailed boots kids wore in those days, that the teacher went down with a broken leg. Amazing what you can achieve with a leg end.

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 3, 2014 at 8:35 pm

Quite. I remember the headmaster of my secondary modern school in the 60s had a line of boys outside his study every Friday afternoon, waiting to be caned. He only caned on the palm of the hand, but hard enough to cause huge welts. The boys were all very proud of these marks and would walk out of his office grinning, waving their reddened and swelling hands at the others. Girls were never caned, though – the head had Victorian sensibilities and the fairer sex received detention and the like. Some of us girls thought that was rather unfair; the first beginnings of feminism were just getting through to us and we wanted the chance to show that we were just as hard as the boys!

Reply

Johnny Monroe July 3, 2014 at 8:57 pm

Sounds like I wasn't the only pupil enrolled at the school of hard knocks! I remember once drawing 'an obscene illustration' and it ending up in the hands of a teacher who administered a slipper to my backside in a darkened room and gave me detention. I found out a few years later that he'd posed naked in a porn mag in a kind of 'reader's husbands' feature. If only I'd known! What fun I could have had with that. And what a juicy story it'd be for a law firm today.

Reply

Mrs Grimble

July 3, 2014 at 9:10 pm

And while I'm skipping merrily down memory lane, here's another one from that 60s London secondary modern. We had communal changing rooms; every weeks when we girls stripped down together for PE, there were always two or three girls who had marks – bruising, welts – of beatings on their arms, shoulders, backs or legs. Sometimes I could make out the imprints of hands and belt-ends.

The teachers would have seen some of these marks. But nobody ever said anything (as far as I knew). Then, violence towards children was as normal as violence towards women.

Oh well, now that I've cheered you all up, I'll say goodnight.....

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 3, 2014 at 9:36 pm

Thank you for the kind comments about the article, and of course to Anna for publishing it. While the discussion has veered from the article in many interesting and spirited ways I'd just like to add a couple of afterthoughts

1. Nobody has challenged me re importation of received wisdom as to the feminist aspect. This is important but has its own interesting history as to 'revelations' and will be addressed subsequently.

2.Could it be that the NSPCC was embarrassed by the message on the tin? Kids can say 'No'? It seems now the presumption is they couldn't – were groomed etc. Maybe the video is embarrassing for being too rooted in 'backward' thinking of 'common sense'?

Without sight of the full video we can't know - but I think we ought.

Reply

Peter Raite July 3, 2014 at 9:58 pm

It may have something to do with the new call to arms:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-28134181

I caught the chilling Ms Berelowitz on BBC Breakfast this morning. It's notable that the above article quotes her saying:

"Some studies suggest as many as one in 20 children and young people experience sexual abuse, the majority of it perpetrated by people within the family or family circle.

"We know that at any one time, around 43,000 children have child protection plans, only around 5% of whom are on a plan for sexual abuse. These figures do not add up."

The first sentence was actually in response to the presenter saying that while some studies gave that figure, other said it was one in four, which when viewed objectively sounds astounding and unbelievable. Unless, of course, it's using a very loose definition of "sexual abuse," presumably in the "at any time" standard, which of course could be a single isolated incident.

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 3, 2014 at 10:16 pm

Well here she is making other claims at

the epicentre of the Rochdale convictions and Savile

claims Oct 2012 http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-20409229aa

Thought 'children's commissioner' was supposed to be direct input not adults pontificating.

Reply

hugh fowler July 4, 2014 at 4:03 am Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate research contradicts some of the things it is saying now.

This point may be seen in this spiked article from 2001

http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/11824

One of the key points the author makes is that

"The NSPCC, an organisation whose mission is attempting to prevent cruelty to children, seems to have lost sight of what cruelty is. Child cruelty – a malicious, dehumanising, sadistic act – should not be acceptable to society. But whether an act is cruel or not can often only be fully understood by examining the intention of the adult"

The problems are further compounded by the fact that society has historically sent out mixed messages about adults physically touching children. For example it has never been acceptable for a teacher to fondle a child's bottom but for a long time it was legal for one to hit a child on that part of their anatomy with a cane, slipper or strap. This was the point I was trying to make about the prevalence of not only formal corporal punishment but also more casual forms of physical discipline in schools back in the 1960s and 1970s. Some of the method used were justified as a means of keeping order and some were not. I am pretty sure that most kids from the past could cite examples of adults who were strict but fair and also of those who were simply cruel and enjoyed exercising power over those smaller and weaker than themselves. The fact is that children generally have a pretty good reasoned understanding about what is acceptable and what is not. This means that when it comes to sexual advances from strangers most children are pretty good at spotting the danger and avoiding the risks. They have rarely been passive victims as currently portrayed particularly when they have had a means of escaping the threat. Even in the past they were much more likely to have blown the whistle on inappropriate behaviour than we are now being led to believe. The problems have tended to occur when no escape route is available.

This is why I am so sceptical of so many of the historic claims of casual sexual abuse currently being made against the celebrities at the moment. I am pretty sure that if this sort of activity was as widespread as alleged then far from there being a conspiracy of silence and shame kids would have talked as soon as they had distanced themselves from the threat. Moreover, I think they would have believed by many of the other adults around them. To suggest that society in the 1960s and 1970s would just ignored child sex abuse is pretty much a calumny on that era which for all its faults had a society that was no more cruel than the one we have today whose members smack their lips with delight at the sight of old men being jailed and their families pilloried.

Reply

Peter Raite July 4, 2014 at 9:38 am

Sadly, the 'Spiked' article on the NSPCC's own reserach confirms what I feared:

"Having found relatively low levels of child abuse (especially sexual abuse) by adults, an NSPCC press release explained that, in fact, the main sexual abusers were children themselves.

"When examining 'sexual abuse' among other children, the definition for sexual abuse not only includes intercourse, but also includes touching, hugging or kissing in a sexual way, the exposure of sexual organs, and being shown pornography. Parents might be concerned about all this behaviour among their children, but there is a clear difference between siblings having sex and siblings showing each other pornography."

Sigh! So now I know that when, in a "den" in the fields behind out house, my older (by 11 months) brother showed me and and some friends a grubby torn copy of 'Mayfair', it was sexual abuse. Also the time when, at the age of 9 or 10 (no later than the latter, as it was before my parents' split/divorce), a girl who lived across the road slept over at our one night (her parents had to go away unexpectedly), and we indulged in the classic, "show me mine and I'll show you yours," given that it was her idea and she was a year older than me.

As I hinted at before, there seems to be this denial that children have any sort of sexual identy and/or curiosity, and that any manifestation of either must now be evidence of abuse somewhere or other. It's like the mantra in child protection guidelines that false accusations shouldn't be punished, because they're probably a veiled cry for help about someone other than the accused teacher, carer, or whoever.

Reply

corevalue

July 3, 2014 at 11:52 pm

I didn't know until I saw this http://www.leftfootforward.org/2014/06/child-protection-services-saved-from-privatisation-lets-build-on-this-victory/ that the government were about to sell off child protection services to the likes of G4S and Serco. Is this whole thing being orchestrated to exaggerate the dangers to children, to ensure a sturdy profit to these companies in the event of privatisation? I don't mean orchestrated in the sense of an overt conspiracy, but more the "let it happen on purpose"

inaction.

Jus' wondering, is all.

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 4, 2014 at 12:14 am

The market is certainly fluid for good or for ill. Take ARK for instance who run many academy/free schools. ARK headed by celbebencrusted playboy/ tear jerker Arki Busson,(who lost megabucks for his clients in the Madoff fallout) have their own alternative social work/child protection teams in action/waiting.

They are part of the new 'entrepreneurial philanthropy' based on leverage and hedge funds with the bottom line per capita income from the state. Something needs to be done but is this it? Who trains/ mentors these people and in what way are they accountable? And what if they go bust?

And the global corporatisation of statutory services is a bit mind boggling.

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 4, 2014 at 9:41 am

@Margaret Jervis — Arki Busson —course never heard of him till I read your post —but gosh what an interesting character to have come to wield such influence and power—I can buy into notions of business efficiency in relation to 'good' works (though one doesn't need a celeb financier to impose financial discipline –actually I can't think of a worse person than a celeb financier to impose financial discipline to impose financial discipline since presumably celeb status and the time and money needed to cultivate it rather precludes day to day financial discipline) but I struggle that business ethics should be applied to 'good' works. Its quite fascinating how a transient interest in the Savile case led to this site and on from it I have discovered the reasons and the people who seem to be moving society in the direction it is taking. Can't say I have great faith in the immediate future but I do have a feeling that the new model of Society will crash and burn —-rather similar to the crash and burn of the model adopted in the 1960s and 1970s though at the time I thought it was less transient.

Reply

Ms Mildred July 4, 2014 at 10:10 am

In 30 years home visiting working class mothers (1963-1992)I can honestly say I saw little obvious child cruelty. I saw poor parenting, poverty, sticky carpets, gross untidiness and poor house keeping. Later in the eighties I smelt pot in some dwellings and saw babies with alchohol syndrome. In one household we managed to persuade one mum not to do the same to her daughter as she had done to her by her mum...emotional neglect. My student was marvellous at guiding this mum to see how her 'little cow' blossomed when she showed love instead of indifference. I challenged one man on handling his step son's genitals and discussed it with him and his wife and said I would be reporting it, as I had to do. They did not get angry with me. I think decreasing visits by such professionals as Midwives and wise Health Visitors has downgraded a vital link in the chain for children's safety. I would guess things are far worse now for children with drink, drugs, internet porn and the bad aspects of social networking. I am glad I am out of it.

Reply

Gil

July 4, 2014 at 12:15 pm

http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28140334

Now I'm completely confused. Offences from the 1970s and 1980s are worth prosecuting but apparently concrete evidence of downloading indecent images of young teens [a perfect match for the charges] is not worth prosecuting, when it helps fuel actual modern-day abuse and is a real problem now? What would the tweeter of Harris's name say about that? http://www.getsurrey.co.uk/news/local-news/police-reassure-school-over-porn-4861013

Reply

Gil

July 4, 2014 at 12:32 pm

".. one filmed role play portrays a young girl being improperly touched by the father of her friend, an experience mirroring..."

There's another mirror-like experience in this case, though perhaps an optical illusion:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSqFD4FJwJs

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iy1OS0tKDyw, http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQVial49XwE

Both say: sits on lap, wears a skirt, legs either side of his legs, feels him moving underneath, is groped, in a room with other people, they notice nothing, gets scared, goes to the toilet. The legs-astride-legs posture is explained in the earlier interview but not the second one.

Reply

Mr Ecks July 4, 2014 at 1:21 pm

The Rolf Harris/indecent images crap is a classic.

Harris, it seems, has 80000 porno images of an ordinary type. The bluebottles claim that 33 of them are of underage girls. (This is a classic cop trick–faced with an ordinary porn stash the cops dig out the photos with the girls who look the youngest and claim that "we have evidence that these girls are under age and you will be charged with possession of child porn" to up the pressure to cop a plea etc). Rolf seems to have got the images from ordinary US porn sites–all of whom have, by law, birth certificates on file for all their performers. So his lawyers can prove that the women are over the age of majority.

There is no case to answer-but the cops put out a press release as if they are having to let him off because it is "not in the public interest" to prosecute him. It is not in the public interest because they would lose-even with a witch-hunt in full cry. But they use the press release as a further attack on the guy.

So here we have a supposed kiddie-fiddler–who has 80000 porn images (so he is interested in sex–him and the rest of the human race) for his own use and accumulated in private over years–NONE of which are child porn. NONE. Somewhat unique for a kiddie fiddler I think.

Reply

Anna Raccoon

July 4, 2014 at 1:41 pm

Or to put it another way (thanks to my handy calculator) Rolf Harris is 99.95875% or as near to 100% as dammit, not interested in under age girls?

As you say, not your average kiddy fiddler. And that is assuming that the girls are under-age, and not just 'look as though they might be under age but lets not risk prosecuting and ruining our reputation'.

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 4, 2014 at 1:53 pm

The ratio of images is very suggestive of innocent contamination and if the Crown had evidence to suggest otherwise it would have gone to trial

http://melbournecriminallawyersblog.com/2014/06/05/pornography-lawyers/

Reply

Ian B

July 4, 2014 at 6:06 pm

There's no need to postulate "contamination". It's very hard to get real child porn images accidentally. It's almost certainly legal girls who Plod have decided look underage; if the provenance is unknown, it might be impossible for the defendant's lawyers to track down USC 2257 statements to prove the legality. It makes me wonder whether it might be worth recruiting an internet "team" of pornonerds with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the genre- "Oh right, that's Lucy Lapussy, she did some sets for Bonkalot.com in around 2003" kind of thing. Every media genre has nerd experts, porn is no exception. I'm no expert, but I'm a member of one vintage forum where considerable discussion goes into matching up obscure performers from 1970s 8mm loops, etc.

The problem of course is that this material is treated as so radioactive by the authorities (deliberately) that it goes into instant lockdown. So the obvious thing- crowdsourcing identification of a mystery photo on the internet- is impossible. Which is a pity, because my guess is that virtually all of these mysteriously small numbers of "child porn" pictures found on computers are nothing of the kind.

Reply

Peter Raite July 4, 2014 at 1:57 pm

http://www.news.com.au/national/rolf-harris-jury-not-told-about-other-harassment-claims/story-fncynjr2-1226973105143

Includes, "...a 20-year-old woman who looked younger..."

Reply

Anna Raccoon July 4, 2014 at 2:01 pm

What's this? The CPS revealing all the claims they didn't decide to prosecute?

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 4, 2014 at 3:43 pm

Seems odd, but perhaps a way of reinforcing the idea of his guilty, seeing that the claims that were adjudicated in court do not seem to have been very convincing. However this might because the usual newspaper restrictions on reporting evidence that might be considered to be of a salacious nature mean that consumers of journalism have not heard the same verbatim testimony as the jury, which was probably a great deal more detailed as regards the actual mechanics and physiology of the alleged indecent assaults—the result being that to the press report reader they sounded very trivial.

Strange that they did not prosecute the charges of possession of pornographic photos of underage children, as the evidence would have been so much more clear cut and justice seen to be done.

So Harris gets about three times the sentence of Coulson. Yet again the UK system of the judge having total and arbitary discretion as to whether the sentences on different counts should be consecutive or concurrent makes a mockery of sentencing. Coulson had hundreds of victims whose lives or careers were ruined and could conceivably have been charged with hundreds of counts of conspiracy to hack phones. But he wasn't.

The restrictions on reporting and discussing the case before a verdict so as not to prejudice a jury is a sensible one, but what about the possible prejudicial effect on the judge of being privy to details about charges that were excluded from the trial for legal reasons or occurred overseas outside the jurisdiction of the court?

Interesting that the judge's conclusion there was no doubt that the alcoholism of the friend of Bindi was directly caused by Harris having sex with her will now become part of the law of the land, but those adults who allowed her access to alcohol–which surely she could not have purchased alone at the age of about 14–are off scot free.

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 4, 2014 at 4:00 pm

@Jonathan 'strange did not prosecute re possession etc

Not strange at all Jonathan see http://www.insidetime.co.uk/articleview.asp?

a=1779&c=child_pornography_computer_convictions

If there had been a shred of reliable evidence supporting possession they would have prosecuted or used it as bad character 'propensity' (no conviction necessary) See Anna's comment re the ratio of images. As it was the fact of the arrest on this charge was potent pre-trial poison.

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 5, 2014 at 11:32 am

With regard to the porn images issue, I came across this article, which shows how incredibly easy it is to unknowingly download iffy images. The comments underneath are also interesting.

Reply

Moley July 5, 2014 at 3:27 pm

I was buying a DVD on line (not porn, honest!) when I noticed a peculiar expression on my colleague's face. There were lots of tiny porn films playing down both sides of the monitor and I hadn't even noticed them.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 5, 2014 at 3:44 pm

They all say that. Don't be surprised if you get your collar felt.

Reply

CF July 4, 2014 at 4:13 pm

"but what about the possible prejudicial effect on the judge of being privy to details about charges that were excluded from the trial for legal reasons or occurred overseas"

It wasn't just the judge. I'd certainly read about them before the trial, because someone told the press, and I assume it was part of a programme to set him up as having form with the underage. That was important because proving the under-age aspect with his daughter's friend would be helped by showing a pattern. To touch on the NSPCC/child-care aspect slightly, as well as not noticing and controlling access to alcohol, the parents do not seem to have enquired deeply about Harris's turning up to spend time alone with their daughter (if what I read was accurate), and how that time was spent. It seemed a little vague in the reports I read. Mind you, lots about this case seemed vague or generic.

I also thought it was a bit odd to say that Harris showed no remorse when he bluntly refuted the charges as being untrue or inaccurate (and his apology letter did show a real horror at his having apparently misunderstood the basis for the later relationship). I see I am drifting well off-topic again, so I'll stop!

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 4, 2014 at 4:32 pm

No remorse – once the verdict has been decided the court proceeds accordingly. He's guilty so the denial is simply a 'lack of remorse'. Sometimes there are shifts between verdict and sentencing where some kind of admission and 'remorse' is mitigated, though rarely in these types of cases. Mitigation therefore generally rests on prior good character in other walks of life, absence of recent offending , age, state of health etc If you think the accused is innocent it can often sound stilted. Sentencing is not a forum where the protestation of innocence entertained.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 4, 2014 at 5:16 pm

Thank for the link above, Margaret. Very interesting. Of course I did suspect that perhaps the case for possession of kiddie porn was not as strong as it might be.

So "lack of remorse" is actually the same thing as pleading not guilty. Since one receives

a discount for pleading guilty, then surely "lack of remorse" cannot be considered an aggravating factor if you plead not guilty–just a neutral factor, considering that you cannot change your plea to guilty in order to receive a discount after a jury trial, or indeed, I am sure, while the jury is still deliberating. "I can't take any more, your honour. Yes, I am guilty of all charges and have just remembered that I was in Portsmouth after all. Please be merciful, because I am a miserable sinner and there is no good in me."

Reply

Ian B

July 4, 2014 at 5:56 pm

I think it's all become very American, in that anyone who dares to actually want a trial is seen as not playing the game. The US system is mostly plea bargaining these days, by which means it achieves an unfeasible conviction rate. While we're not the same (yet) in that regard, the basic idea that everything should be politely sorted out by lawyers and judges and the gaining ground.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 4, 2014 at 6:09 pm

The way the plea bargain system works is that the defendant agrees to plead guilty to a lesser charge, with the threat of more serious charges if it goes to trial. Perhaps Harris could have pled guilty to supplying a minor with alcohol. That way he could have avoided prison, and she could still have sued him for causing her alcoholism and been pensioned off at his expense, perhaps in a secret settlement. See Geimer vs Polanski.

Incidentally, it has just struck me that Bindi certainly had a strong ulterior motive for speaking in defense of her father, given that his estate might be considerably diminished or wiped out by civil suits following a criminal conviction.

Moor Larkin July 4, 2014 at 6:15 pm

@Jonathan Mason

At least in the American system the defendant does get a bargain... rather than the bum's rush. There is no merit to pleading guilty to these sorts of charges, unless you are actually guilty. I'd rather rot in Dartmoor (which is where many of them go - so dangerous are they) than admit to anything I hadn't done in this regard. It's also the only way the corruption of the law that has occurred in "historical abuse law" will ever be righted. No pain, no gain.

Ian B

July 4, 2014 at 7:14 pm

Moor- in the American system the defendant doesn't really get a bargain. The charge he pleads guilty to is the one that he would have been convicted of anyway without a plea bargaining system; the higher charge he's threatened with is over-egged.

If the crime you're charged with would be, in a fair system, manslaughter, they'll threaten you with murder and you then "bargain down" to manslaughter.

sally stevens

July 4, 2014 at 9:50 pm

Just jumping in here as someone who works in law in the U.S. The system is far from "mostly plea bargaining" except in cases where the defendants are represented by the Public Defender at the public expense. Plea bargaining can also involve pleading to a lesser charge, because the prisons are over-crowded and the authorities need to move prisoners out as soon as possible, especially for non-violent crimes. A lot more convicts of that nature, not repeat offenders, are wearing ankle bracelets and staying at home. Much cheaper to monitor them there, than house and feed them at further expense to the tax payer.

Anyone who can afford a lawyer is certainly going to demand and receive due process, that's the Constitution. In fact, all alleged defenders are entitled to due process.

And if Rolf Harris had been tried here with this result, his lawyers would already be filing an appeal.

CF July 4, 2014 at 1:57 pm

And they threw in a mention of girls from "East European countries associated through trafficking", just for good measure.

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 4, 2014 at 2:20 pm

I know a Romanian GP who would have something to say about such a leaning statement!

Reply

Mr Ecks

July 4, 2014 at 3:29 pm

I have no doubt that the US birth certificate requirements for performers on adult sites would be the iceberg to the CPS Titanic.

Reply

Peter Raite July 4, 2014 at 3:33 pm

I'm pretty certain their was one Operation Ore-related case where they ended up having to produce in court the only contentious actress in the photographs/videos in question to actually confirm that she remembered the shoots, and yes, she was definitely over 18 at the time.

Reply

Anna Raccoon July 4, 2014 at 3:50 pm

Wasn't that the Graham Ovenden case?

Reply

Anna Raccoon July 4, 2014 at 3:51 pm

Peter, Check your e-mail – have e-mailed you!

Reply

Frankie July 4, 2014 at 10:25 pm

@Mr. Ecks.

"...bluebottles claim that 33 of them are of underage girls... This is a classic cop trick-faced with an ordinary porn stash."

So... clearly not a fan!

Would it not be appropriate to declare an interest – as you evidently have a great deal of knowledge about pictures of under age looking girls ("…ordinary US porn sites–all of whom have, by law, birth certificates on file for all their performers"). Perhaps the 'bluebottles' need to knock on your door as well!

Reply

Peter Raite

July 4, 2014 at 11:35 pm

I think that's a little uncalled for. There have been systems in place in the US porn industry for years to ensure that all performers are over 18, and in fact it's standard – if not mandatory – for films to start with clear caption showing the declaration to the effect that they are, and exactly who is holding the appropriate records and where to contact them. Even British works comply to these standards, such as for example the – wait for it – "Young Harlots" series produced by Harmony (as per the sex shop chain), but of course appropriately rated (R18) by the British Board of Film Classification.

Reply

hugh fowler

July 5, 2014 at 12:19 am

Young Harlots Learn The Rules is apparently freely available for everyones delectation on Amazon.co.uk though as it only has a 2 Star Review I would imagine it is not worth wasting your money buying. It does, however, raise the moot point that supposed 'teen' porn videos full of 20 somethings porn starlets masquerading as young girls (suitably toned down for TV broadcast) are widely available on adult pay per view television on cable and satellite. In addition much of the mainstream media exploits the idea of teenage sexuality for profit. This is perhaps best displayed in the notorious Daily Mail internet side bar on its web site which over the years has contained a few photos of youngish girls that can only be described as deliberate 'bait'. Are the viewers of such items now equally at risk of having their pecadillos displayed for public condemnation should they have the misfortune to get caught up in the next round of Yewtree investigations.

Reply

Ian B July 5, 2014 at 5:10 am

It's mandatory; USC 2257.

sally stevens July 5, 2014 at 4:19 pm

Well, that's all very well on paper, but in reality you can forge i.d. documents – happens all the time – and the producers of porn, those fine upstanding citizens, can simply say they proceeded in good faith with the information provided to them, bla bla bla.

Reply

Ian B

July 5, 2014 at 4:25 pm

...and take the risk of going to jail for producing child porn. The Traci Lords fiasco (she was underage and used a forged ID) was before the paedohysteria, but nonetheless caused enormous financial losses as her material was deleted, and panic in the industry.

There is simply no incentive for porn businesses to use underage persons with faked ID. There is an ample pool of legal performers. Besides all else, there is simply no benefit to using a 17 year old, since she has to be marketed as 18+ anyway. In an environment in which the authorities would be delighted to find somebody to make an example of, no porn business wants to be ruined by an underage girl with fake ID and will go out of their way to avoid that happening. They certainly won't deliberately use one either. There is simply no point.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 5, 2014 at 4:41 pm

I think you are right Ian, although it seems to be that there is some potential for slightly underage would-be porn actresses to practice deceit using false documentation for financial gain. The most obvious example, perhaps, would be a teenage girl using the ID (nearly always a driver's license in the US) that belongs to an older sister or cousin of very similar appearance.

It is reasonable to assume that many of the young (over 18) "models" for pornography are young women who move in underclass or criminal subcultures, have experience of prostitution, have boyfriends or pimps who are criminals, etc. The reason I say this is that few respectable young women will take part who are students in respectable professions, or who have full-time employment, or who have family members in respectable or responsible positions, because the risk of exposure would outweigh the cash received for performing, so those who do volunteer to perform are likely to be living on the fringes or outside respectable society. In fact there was a story very recently, I think in the Daily Mail, about a young woman who took part in a porno shoot for "newcomers" or "fresh meat" or whatever the term is and committed suicide soon afterwards.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2636345/Student-19-shoots-dead-weeks-dabbling-amateur-porn.html

Reply

Peter Raite

July 5, 2014 at 5:19 pm

That's about a valid as characterising every job in retail as being selling counterfeit clothes on a market stall.

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 5, 2014 at 6:06 pm

Not really, because while there are a few mainstream porn performers in the US like Nina Hartley who is a Registered Nurse, or used to be one (I have no idea if she has kept her license current) and whose names are known to the media almost as if they are a brand like Liz Claiborne, numerically the vast majority of porn performers are bit part temporary help who make a video or two and disappear. I don't think the structure of the porn industry (in the USA) bears much resemblance to the structure of the retail clothing industry, because she is the only female porn star whose name I can think of off the top of my head, whereas although I hardly ever pay more than \$1 for a shirt, I still know the names of several of the expensive brands.

However, I am no expert on the pornography industry and am prepared to consider a more detailed explanation if you have one.

Reply

Ian B July 5, 2014 at 7:31 pm No it isn't. They're just ordinary women. Some are seeking a career, others just want a bit of quick cash and do a few image sets and videos; there's a very high throughput in fact, especially these days.

Reply

sally stevens July 6, 2014 at 7:59 pm

Ian, you seem such an authority on what goes on in the States. Do you live here?

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 6, 2014 at 10:11 pm

Not sure if Ian was referring to the porno industry in the UK or here in the US.

I wasn't really going to reply on this point, because I have no first hand expertise in the porno industry, but I did have a bit of experience of dealing with female juvenile delinquents who had substance abuse problems. All of them to a woman had records of exchanging sex for drugs and many had boyfriend/pimps who managed the business side of things. I could almost guarantee that as soon as they turned 18 and were released many of them would be doing a sex tape or two simply to pick up a thousand dollars or more of easy money.

On the other hand, the US is still a very religious country and the vast majority of families of older teens would absolutely not condone making porno videos as a summer job or gap-year experience for female high-school graduates. Although there have been one or two very public revelations such as the Duke student who uses the name Belle Knox and has made a number of porn movies, with the idea of paying her \$60,000 per year tuition without going into debt, I think she is much more likely to be the exception who proves the rule.

She states in the interview below that she has received numerous death threats which would be off-putting to most average or normal women, and she would of course, based on a quick mental arithmetic calculation, have to make well over 200 porn movies to pay for a four-year degree, not to mention the income taxes and self employment tax (15% of gross earnings) payable on that amount. And then she may need a vaginoplasty to get herself in shape for graduate school. Of course it would help if she could get a major corporate sponsor or athletic scholarship.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vklR9KV-THM

The Daily Mail also carries this story which suggests that collecting pennies from porn is hazardous in certain occupations.

Porn star-turned-biology teacher who was fired after students downloaded her films onto their smartphones LOSES court bid to return to the classroom

Stacie Halas, 32, appeared in adult movies under the name Tiffany Six Sacked after students showed teachers clips of her on their smartphones Claimed she only acted for a nine-month period due to financial problems But three judge-panel decided porn past meant she was unfit to teach.

Student claims that their teacher was moonlighting as a porn star were initially dismissed after school officials said they couldn't find any images of her on the Internet – but they were using the school's computers, which don't allow access to porn. [Duh!]

Reply

Mr Ecks July 5, 2014 at 11:08 am

Frankie:

Classic Salem tactics-whoever defends a witch must be a follower of Satan.

You are Frankie, a troll of the "astroturfing" type-who goes on a website and says "Yes-I agree you are (sort of) right-but you are wrong". You clearly are on the side of the Yewtree gang.

Lets hope Frankie-that since you are such a big fan of the cops, that you someday have a chance to learn first-hand about some of their tricks – assuming you are not a bluebottle already.

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 6, 2014 at 10:07 pm

"Classic Salem tactics-whoever defends a witch must be a follower of Satan."

https://twitter.com/mwilliamsthomas/status/483473071060574208

The word "convince" is interesting:

"24 February 2013... There's one thing convincing the public, but convincing the family and those closest to him was huge," he explains. "When you start to see streets changed and any semblance of Savile being wiped out ... I can't think of anyone in history who has risen to such heights and fallen so quickly." The TV presenter, known to millions in his lifetime as Saint Jimmy, now lies in an unmarked grave on the north Yorkshire coast, his public persona finally exposed as a myth. What next for the man who exposed the myth? Williams-Thomas says he is working on four big projects..." http://www.theguardian.com/media/2013/feb/24/mark-williams-thomas-jimmy-savile

https://twitter.com/mwilliamsthomas/status/274181776283406337 http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/latest_news/operation_yewtree__rolf_harris_charged_with_13_offences/

Reply

Ian B July 4, 2014 at 6:09 pm

I see the "double the sentence" red telephone rang as soon as sentence was passed-

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/10944530/Rolf-Harris-jailed-for-five-years-and-nine-months.html

Reply

Mr Ecks

July 4, 2014 at 6:42 pm

The only good thing (not "good" but you know what I mean) about the mob rule law is that you can't have that AND successful plea bargaining. Whatever the scum of the state say– if mob rule doubles your sentence –just no point to plea bargaining.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 4, 2014 at 6:52 pm

Possibly a different sort of "mob" to the one you imagine. I think it's more of a Mafia, comprised of lawyers and journalists. Power of the State and Voice of "the people" are combined in a very unsettling way. Lawyers are pursuing law in a very manipulative way, using the medi to drum up trade and the media are completely ignoring all the evidence that suggest the law is being so partial as to be actually perverted. the law is perverting the law – now that is scary, and it's actually only the people that can stop it.

"The Alternative is within your circle, to do what you can starting with yourself, to resist corruption. At the end of the day, you have to be prepared to jettison those people who won't knock corruption on the head and get on with your own little thing. Conversely, you can have ceaseless, endless, pointless and stupid debates about so – called global problems when it's comfortable not to acknowledge the real problem, which is corruption."

Jimmy Savile -1992

http://rabbitaway.blogspot.co.uk/2014/06/business-as-usual.html

Reply

Ian B

July 4, 2014 at 7:16 pm

Moor, the lawyers and journalists are simply riding a wave created by the Feminist movement for reasons of ideology. People are making money- people always make money- but that's an effect, not the driver.

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 4, 2014 at 7:22 pm

Since when has ideology ever been an actual driver in a revolution?

Reply

Ian B July 4, 2014 at 9:31 pm

All the time. USSR, Nazis, French, Iranians. None of them were in it for the money, etc. Lenin, Hitler, Marat and Robespierre, Khomeini. All driven by their beliefs. Many others latched onto them for personal gain, but the driver was always making the world a better place by implementing an ideology.

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 4, 2014 at 9:51 pm Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date

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Fact is the drivers are never the ideology or ideologists – otherwise many other people would have succeeded.

Reply

Ian B

July 5, 2014 at 4:20 pm

I don't know what the elitist view of history is. I'm just pointing out that all the major true revolutions have been driven by ideologies- communism, fascism, French type liberalism, Islam.

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 5, 2014 at 4:47 pm

I see the role of ideology – but it's not what provides the energy and drive for the revolution – nor is it simple hardship – there are 'drivers' much closer to home and people's emotions – often orchestrated to effect – as with the libelles in the French Revolution and the role of Hebert. This in turn had it's roots in the 17th Century and the affair of the poisons in Louis XIV court (a a bit like the Yewtree- Fernbridge etc axis either /or – both and or neither in simplistic terms). The social and economic reasons together with the role of the political ideologues was important in shaping destiny but it was in itself toothless.

Reply

Ian B July 5, 2014 at 5:14 pm

Margaret-

Isn't this a bit like us arguing about which ingredient in a cake gives it its cake-ness? It's the eggs, no it's the flour, no it's the raisins. It's all of them.

I'm just coming from the POV that none of this would have, or could have, happened had not the coalition of Christian Right/Feminist Left/Therapists come together with the predator conspiracy/trauma model in the 1980s that had its first big splash with SRA. Lawyers and the media are an important part of this, but they would be nowhere without that ideological basis.

Mr Ecks

July 5, 2014 at 5:18 pm

The ideologues need a chance–generally–to unleash their poison. Without WW1 Lenin and the rest would have lived and died in well-deserved obscurity. Without the Depression (and the aftermath of WW1) Adolf would have got exactly nowhere. It seems to be ideologues "surfing" the circumstances created by previous events that have created so many evil and pernicious happenings.

Moor Larkin July 4, 2014 at 7:47 pm

I think Jimmy was also talking about corruption of the mind. Here's another part: "The common denominator of world problems, must be AGAIN, corruption. It is patently obvious that individual corruption has ruined many an emergent African state. It is patently obvious that corruption has ruined the country of, shall we say, Iraq. Somebody like Saddam Husssein who professes to work with God on his side but at the same time builds himself a fifty million pound palace and gasses the Kurds. Which he did. Then obviously, the guy is a con man. If he is not a con man, he is totally deluded in what he is thinking."

Reply

Gil July 4, 2014 at 8:57 pm

http://www.news.com.au/world/rolf-harris-trial-tonya-lee-uses-lawyers-to-get-court-transcript-of-her-evidence/story-fndir2ev-1226978379298

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 4, 2014 at 11:46 pm

Probably wants to double-check the details she got caught out on.

That's some reaction in the video clip...

Reply

IlovetheBBC

July 7, 2014 at 7:30 am

A very strange, almost disturbing clip.

Did no one tell her she is not supposed to react as if she won the lottery? Why are the pair of them grinning like maniacs? FWIW, I was told about 5 years ago that Rolf was a groper, never left on his own with women on his professional gigs in Australia. But then I've heard the same thing about other people too.

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 4, 2014 at 10:09 pm

@sally The US system is certainly different. But Rolf would not have been tried there because of limitation laws.

Reply

sally stevens

July 4, 2014 at 10:26 pm

Seems to vary from State to State. http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/state-civil-statutes-of-limitations-in-child-sexua.aspx – this is very comprehensive as to how each State tolls the statute. There's been some amending in the recent past.

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 4, 2014 at 10:36 pm

Thanks Sally – this is v helpful re civil suits – but it is not the criminal limitation laws – which traditionally have not allowed even for the disapplication allowed in civil suits – however some states have relaxed limitation periods such as Pennsylvania but only to a v limited degree – name a state allowing for prosecution of indecent assault (misdemeanour not felony?) 40 years after the alleged assault.

Reply

sally stevens

July 4, 2014 at 10:45 pm

I very much doubt that it would happen here in any jurisdiction. There's certainly a lot of criminal prosecution of child abusers, but not as far back as 40 years. Quite a bit of it with older child survivors of parental/guardian abuse, but older would be more like their 30s, assuming abuse started around the age of 7 or 8.

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 4, 2014 at 10:50 pm

It may be that California is in the vanguard of recent relaxation of criminal limitation laws. But the fact that the UK has no criminal limitation period has changed the entire landscape of claims and prosecution as opposed to the US over the last 30 years in this realm and also has largely precluded 'recovered/repressed memory claims (adopted in the civil courts in the US to disapply limitation periods.

Follow the buck.

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 4, 2014 at 10:57 pm

Here are California's complicated limitation rules in criminal cases as amended - it only extends to people in their 20s re sex offences

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 4, 2014 at 10:57 pm

Sorry – here's the CA limitations law link http://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/criminal-case-statute-of-limitations/CA-felonies-misdemeanors.htm

Reply

sally stevens July 4, 2014 at 11:19 pm

The obvious conclusion is that the statutes in the UK must be much tighter, so as to get the bad guys sooner rather than later, and to dissuade opportunists who may or may not have been abused 40 years ago, and who never stepped forward at the time, no matter what some complainants

Btw, what does UK jurisprudence think about lie detectors? In most states the findings can't be admitted as evidence, but they're still widely used in building a case here. The FBI is fond of them.

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 4, 2014 at 11:57 pm

There are no statutes of limitation in the UK other than for summary crimes in the magistrates courts. None of these sexual offences such as a touch on the bum (indecent assault) have any statutory limit on complaint, charge or trial.

lie detectors are not admitted as evidence in criminal cases – defendants sometimes pay for a test but can't get it admitted as evidence of innocence.

I understand the attitude to taking a li e detector test is seen by law enforcement/parole/probation as more significant than the actual test. Those who fear it are seen as as being

a) more likely to confess b) more likely to be factually guilty- but a habitual liar will easily evade the the test which is based on physical responses to emotional queries ('the tremor of forgery') while others may act guilty but be factually innocent.

The accuser can similarly not be reliably tested (and would not be anyway)- the mistaken accuser 'the honest liar' might readily pass the test as would an accomplished one – while a genuine victim might fail. ('Alien abductees' have MRI responses similar to genuine victims or those claiming ordinary PTSD)

Reply

Colette July 5, 2014 at 8:01 am

For me this is the most disturbing video to date...& the reality is, it is because of this pseudo~science that the Rolf Harris's...Jimmy Savile's...Cyril Smiths...(the list is endless)...have been able to get away with the destruction of young peoples lives...in a predatory manner for as many years as they have... https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enctLi051cU

Reply

Mr Ecks July 5, 2014 at 11:12 am

Another astroturfer?. The point of this blog (in this context) and Moor

Reply

Mr Ecks July 5, 2014 at 11:27 am

Colette: Another astroturfer?

The point of theses blog entries and Moor Larkin's blog and others is that it is very far from established fact that any of the accused (and in the case of Stuart Hall, Rolf Harris etc the supposed convicted) are guilty of anything. You talk of "destruction of young peoples ..in a predatory manner"—where's the real proof??—not the witch hunt crap served up in court by the CPS top and most expensive legal talent at behest of the Radical Feminist establishment..

If you have real evidence of what you say lets see that evidence. What has some malarkey about Kinsey go to do with the innocence or guilt of Rolf Harris?. Or is your point that all sex is evil?. Anyone interested in sex at all must be a monster?.

It seems perhaps this blog is being noticed by those feminists and other authoritarians who are behind Yewtree-or at least by friends and supporters of theirs.

Attached is a link to a piece on the Libertarian Alliance website about the Rolf Harris trial. The charges are flimsy to say the least. http://libertarianalliance.wordpress.com/2014/07/05/rolf-harris-beyond-reasonable-doubt-2-attachments/

Reply

Moor Larkin July 5, 2014 at 11:33 am

It's all part of the circle of life I imagine.

"The first sexological book Kinsey publishes, which is on the sexual habits of the male, is a large-scale success and a best seller. Kinsey's research turns to women, which is met with more controversy. With the release of the female volume, support for Kinsey declines."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinsey_(film)

"McCarthyist pressures lead the Rockefeller Foundation to withdraw its financial support, lest it be labeled "Communist" for backing the subversion of traditional American values. Kinsey feels that he has failed everyone who has ever been a victim of sexual ignorance. A customs office is tipped off to an importation of some of Kinsey's research material, which only exacerbates the financial situation of Kinsey's research organization. Kinsey suffers a heart attack, and is found to have developed an addiction to barbiturates."

It's the sort of feminism that leads to mother and grandmothers making their daughters and grand-daughters wear burkha's and have their bits chopped off, and rely all their life on the protection of big, strong, square-jawed men. men like Keir Starmer perhaps.

Reply

Ian B July 5, 2014 at 4:18 pm Busted! -The NSPCC and That Rolf Harris Video. - The Anna Raccoon Archives

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be genuinely equal, I oppose Feminism. It's not worth picking through it trying to find one or two good things to say about it. Taken as a whole, it is simply a fiercely reactionary movement based on conspiracy theories and sophistry, and it has got to go.

Reply

sally stevens July 5, 2014 at 7:10 pm

Good luck with that, Ian.

Reply

Ian B

July 6, 2014 at 12:09 am

Bearing in mind that the Feminist movement is predicated on sawing through the branch it's sitting on, it may not be so much a matter of luck as waiting patiently.

Reply

sally stevens

July 6, 2014 at 4:11 pm

I have no idea what you're on about. What do you propose? That we go back to allowing men to run everything? Fat chance. We're likely going to have a woman President here soon. Hope that doesn't send you into a hissie fit!

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 6, 2014 at 5:26 pm

Yes, it is very likely that Hillary Clinton will get to move back into her old house in Washington, this time with her name on the lease, but we will not really have a woman President, since she is simply a man who wears skirts and lipstick. I would really like to vote for a female President whose thinking was at least minimally affected by estrogen on the brain when it comes to sending our sons to wars in foreign parts, healthcare, childcare, etc. but that will not happen with the Clinton crone, so what difference does it make? Perhaps Kris Jenner could run? Or Bruce, for that matter.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 6, 2014 at 5:46 pm

I recall reading an article that said the US would have a black and female President long before it ever had a Jewish one. I think it was an article written when they still getting over the shock of electing a catholic one.

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 6, 2014 at 5:54 pm

So you have a black president who was raised by a white family, then a woman who has paid attention to Rex Harrison's impassioned plea "Why can't a woman be more like a man?" [My Fair Lady] and the next thing will either be a person of Jewish descent who has converted to Catholicism and wants to ban birth control, or else a Hispanic who has evolved into Protestantism and wants to ban the works of Darwin and re-establish the Garden of Eden as a them park between the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers managed by the Disney Corporation.

Reply

sally stevens July 6, 2014 at 6:48 pm

Obama is not a 'black' President, and the way you phrase this sounds like he was dumped on a 'white family's' doorstep for them to raise. He was raised by his mother's family, because his father had returned to Kenya, and he and Stanley were divorced.

Jonathan Mason July 6, 2014 at 7:36 pm

Obviously I know Obama was raised by his mother's family. In fact I also know that his grandmother was a banker and very influential on him. The point I was making is that while he is nominally counted as a black president, he is not a descendant of In the US, going to public schools, etc. that the majority of black Americans will have experienced in the post civil rights era.

sally stevens

July 6, 2014 at 6:46 pm

Elizabeth Warren. Are you familiar with her? But your comments on women are frankly demeaning Jonathan. And unless you are personally acquainted with Mrs. Clinton, how can you possibly make such a judgment? I have a friend (female) who has worked in the State Department through several Secretaries of State, and she was very happy to work with Hillary. And as for skirts and lipstick – didn't Hillary pretty much pioneer the black pant suit?

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 6, 2014 at 7:17 pm

Yes, I would vote for Elizabeth Warren any day over Hillary as she seems so much more intelligent, more human and much more in touch with what the lives of average working Americans is like. But Hillary has told so many lies for example claiming that the First Lady was often sent on missions where it was too dangerous for the Prez to go, for example when she came under gunfire at an airfield in Bosnia, never mind that she did not come under gunfire and that the Prez himself had visited the same air base a few months earlier. If you remember, she later apologized for this saying that she was very tired and had mis-spoken. Eight years later she is even more likely to be very tired and mis-speak. In addition, although it has nothing at all to do with her sex, she has apparently suffered from some pretty severe health problems in the interim including an episode that sounds like a transient ischemic attack or mini-stroke.

It just makes you doubt if she could really deal with making the big decisions on policy. Warren, yes, Clinton no way.

Reply

sally stevens July 6, 2014 at 11:10 pm

She fell and was in the hospital for about three days, thereafter had some eyesight problems which are now resolved. I do remember the Bosnia business. However, she has NOT so far made any statement that indicates she is going to run, despite massive public support for her if she does. I would love to see Elizabeth Warren run myself, as would many others. If Hillary does decide to run, she should put Warren on the ticket as VP.

Jonathan Mason

July 6, 2014 at 11:40 pm

With respect, Sally, there is a lot more to the health story than that line about three days to recover. One can never know the whole truth because so much information is spun by interested parties, but the remarks of her husband are decidedly odd.

http://www.politifact.com/punditfact/statements/2014/may/18/brit-

hume/brit-hume-media-overlooked-terrible-concussion-com/

Moor Larkin July 5, 2014 at 12:02 pm

@Mrs Grimble

I've always wondered about the advisability of using this google facility:

http://www.google.co.uk/landing/protectchildren/

I mean... how can I report it without *seeing* it first?...

Thankfully, I have never come across any. Perhaps what we think of as such imagery is not what the cops think it is / the law says it is? Someone in the law-biz told me that nobody but the cops are even allowed to see the images... Not even your defence brief can take a butchers to see exactly what this is all about. Weird sort of law innit.

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 5, 2014 at 12:12 pm

Just out of interest-"The Kinsey Syndrome" film is a creation of one Dr Judith Reisman-the link below gives full details

http://rationalwiki.org/wiki/Judith_Reisman

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 5, 2014 at 12:19 pm

I see it also features Tim Tate the evangelical satanic abuse scaremonger who also made a similar doc on Kinsey for Yorkshire TV.

Tate is bylined in the Sunday Express last week in connection with the Dickens dossier and Leon Brittan – this is all so, so conspiritorial history repeating itself with upgrades.

Reply

Margaret Jervis

July 5, 2014 at 5:37 pm

@Ian B – the revolutionary glue – yes i see your point and the agree that the media is fed stuff that it nudges up (and don't forget that SRA wasn't 'big' in the mainstream media and the DM was a major investigative sceptic). But no ne of the victim claims took off until compo became an ingredient in the late 80s and that influence has grown ovr the years through the civil law ACAL driven changes – so that now you could say that whereas in the 80s the claims were social worker driven they are now PI lawyer driven. Many of the kind of people who would have been social workers in the 80s – (feminist, ambitious and moral crusaders) are now likely to be the same types but lawyers (just as those who were once nurses are now doctors).

There was a tweet pic on the 'amazing' S&G dream team headed by Dux - all women - a dead ringer for Judith Dawson's all-women Team 4 back in the Nottingham Broxtowe days in 1990.

Reply

Ian B July 5, 2014 at 8:41 pm

Margaret,

Fair enough then, I think I pretty much agree with that. I'd just add though that the compo bandwagon is very much a part of the "American Style" and ran there from the start, all the way back to the The Courage To Heal era.

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 5, 2014 at 9:32 pm

Courage to heal was about personal civil claims in the US courts – limitation laws and disapplication re 'repressedmemory'. In the UK compo began with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board re reports to the police – no US equivalent and no limitation period — but linked to alleged PTSD effects. The civil stuff came later.

Reply

Alexander Baron July 5, 2014 at 5:40 pm

Diane Core is actually Dianne Core. I read her book "Chasing Satan" many years ago. I tried to find out something about her from, I think it was someone in Hull, but the response was very cagey. I think she'd been hit with some sort of court order telling her to keep her big mouth shut or else. I wrote this as a result:

http://www.infotextmanuscripts.org/satan_wants_you.html

Reply

Margaret Jervis July 5, 2014 at 6:06 pm

Thank you – yes the double N. There was an investigation into claims by Dianne Core by ?South Yorks Police I think because she made claims against the chief constable in Humberside? (memory fails) I remember speaking to someone on the investigation who said that many of her cult claims appeared to be identical to a novel – I can't remember what happened to this but think the focus went away from her claims and onto to her. David Hebditch was following it but he clocked off this field .

Core was an informant to Geoff Dickens – but of course this was after his initial 'dossiers' He made satanic claims in the House in the late 80s but I believe lost his own dossier as I remember. She was also a contributor to the claims made by Tim Tate in various outlets including his book that was pulped.

Core's sensationalist claims became a bit toxic to the mainstreamers in RAINS etc – but they used her material. She began as a community volunteer and did do some useful work I believe on child abuse that led the police to trust her – but then she went into overdrive on the satanic cult stuff and they backed off – I guess she then pointed the finger at the police (rather as happened in Nottingham)

She also had a co-worker on Childwatch in Rochdale – but she broke away and criticised the Rochdale satanic abuse claims (where Maureen Davies among others had been active).

Davies, Core and a few others were important outriders in the christian evangelical movement who fed into the mainstream symbiotically

I would expect her time has come again in some form or another.

Reply

Mrs Grimble

July 6, 2014 at 7:38 pm

Dian(n)e Core is still around – here's her latest: "I know that Alexander has other victims, I have a gut feeling," No proof, but her gut is good enough for her. She's appealing for these supposed victims to come forward, but my gut feeling is that the prospect of suing a convicted and disgraced police officer (who will have lost his police pension and asset-mined by divorce) – for compo won't bring many takers. This article gives a good thumbnail history of Core, Dickens at al worked up the panic in the Satanic Ritual Abuse heyday of the 1980s. Written by Chris Bray, the owner of the Leeds occult business that was targeted by anti-abuse campaigners, it gives a good – though depressing- idea of how the media ramped up the hysteria then. Not a lot changes....

Reply

Jonathan Mason

July 6, 2014 at 6:00 pm

Here is one massive hit song that Rolf Harris will probably not be re-recording to cover his legal expenses.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRsb9qyvofU

Reply

Frankie July 6, 2014 at 7:15 pm

I now see that Vanessa Feltz AND Linda Nolan have come forward to say that Rolf Harris groped them...

The guy sure had strange tastes... but surely the fact that these other celebrities are now prepared to come forward and publicly name Harris raises the likelihood is that the cases that have been tried are merely the tip of the iceberg... I am certain that others may do so, for less than honourable reasons, but Feltz and Nolan have no obvious financial motive to do so. Perhaps the Yewtree mob have got it right after all!

Those contributors who appear to think that all of this has somehow been made up by the police and CPS - to 'get' Rolf Harris and others, perhaps, on the back of the Yewtree investigation into Jimmy Savile cannot continue to deny the obvious facts staring them in the face – much like all those 'good' Germans in th 30's – who denied having anything to do with those dreadful Nazi's, and who, on occasion, go even further, and say that the Holocaust never happened...

Unlikely and unwholesome as it may seem, it is evident that the national icon that was Rolf Harris is. regrettably, guilty as charged.

Reply

Jonathan Mason July 6, 2014 at 7:30 pm

You are right. I am not familiar with the Feltz woman, but she seems to have some resemblance to Harris's daughter (via pictures in the Daily Mail, though she appears to have been well over the age of 16 at the time, and not at all likely to have been mistaken for a child by Harris or anyone else.

The objection to most of the counts in the trial were that, based on the evidence published in the media, there does not seem to have been any proof beyond reasonable doubt that the offenses took place at the times, places, and against the witnesses who made the allegations. This is particularly and egregiously the case in the Portsmouth allegation involving the 7-year-old, without which Harris would be serving a shorter sentence.

These new allegations are rather different, because if the Feltz allegation is true, there will very likely be video evidence and even if there isn't, there will almost certainly be surviving cameramen, producers, and studio crew who were there at the time and saw what happened, not to mention other credible witnesses whom Feltz will certainly have told after the fact.

Reply

By contrast:

http://www.ipswichstar.co.uk/news/ipswich_man_to_serve_four_years_in_prison_for_raping_17_year_old_girl_1_3600322 http://www.copfs.gov.uk/media-site/media-releases/563-edinburgh-man-jailed-for-four-years-after-being-convicted-of-rape http://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/years-jail-bricklayer-Lee-Setford-8216-lost/story-21316028-detail/story.html http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-17781842

What were the circumstances of the groping? No offences are occurring here, but there are clearly situations in which adults, even entertainers, lark around: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3idQ04g3OzA

There was a YouTube news report which is probably still there with short interviews with the Australian broadcaster who said Harris had inched his fingers across her back and around to her breast, and her male colleague who said he had witnessed it with outrage. An old clip was shown of her and the male colleague sitting close together in the recording studio. He had his arm around her and was planting kisses up her bare arm. They were both smiling. Another woman says she "laughed off" "an incident" at the time: http://www.watoday.com.au/wa-news/second-female-radio-host-says-rolf-harris-acted-inappropriately-20140526-zrotf.html

There seems to be a lot of euphemistic language that implies more than it says and leaves things to the imagination: dark side, Jekyll and Hyde, hands all over, handy, creepy, sleazy, dirty old man, etc. Guilty by facts or guilty by implication?

Home About Posts by Title Posts by Date Posts by Author Background Donate July 6, 2014 at 10:50 pm

On the job astroturfing on behalf of your Yewtree friends again are you Frankie?.

Feltz and Nolan are both fading slebs. Both desperate enough to have been on Big Brother and other self-humiliation-in-exchange-for public-attention tv fiascos. What better way to put themselves back in the public eye than come forward now?. If they were so outraged why didn't they come forward before ?.Why didn't they take part in the case if they are so outraged? They of course will have times/dates/ witnesses etc. Feltz and Nolan will certainly have been an adult woman at the time of their alleged groping so the whole child abuse crap doesn't stand. As Gil points out, real, proven rapists have got less time than Rolf.

Reply

Frankie July 7, 2014 at 12:25 am

I had to look up the term 'astroturfing'... I had never heard of the practice, but an interesting concept nonetheless.

I have no idea why the 'slebs' didn't come forward before, but they are not alone in doing that. I think will be a number of well known people who will now come forward and shed a bit more light on the darker side of Mr. Harris. I wish it were not so - I liked and admired the guy when I was younger, and, in fact, can remember my late Grandfather buying 'Two Little Boys' and playing it (on vinyl - a '45') but facts are, undeniably, facts. I think groping an adult woman is low behaviour - never mind the fact that it is an assault - nearly at the level of groping kids and the fact that these two 'victims' were adults at the time does not make the tale any more pleasant.

Reply

sally stevens July 7, 2014 at 12:30 am

As a former publicist with two major record labels here in the States, I can assure you that the motives of whoever these two are are nothing more than mercenary, i.e. any publicity is better than no publicity. The 'darker side' of Rolf Harris? Groping an adult woman?! Yeah, that never happens anywhere, and every man who ever did it should end his life kicking on the end of a rope – not. Can we please take a 'grow up' pill? Or at least Frankie, who appears to have been sipping the Kool Aid a little too frequently.

Reply

Frankie July 7, 2014 at 7:45 am

'Kool Aid??'

I really need to get out more!

Reply

Frankie

July 7, 2014 at 12:54 am

And here's the other thing... if Rolf Harris had no sexual interest in children and wasn't the sort of fellow to grope and molest unsuspecting women of all ages, what was he doing with mountains of porn on his computer, never mind the kiddie porn..?

Oh! I know!! The bluebottles must have planted it!!!

It is evident that, for some, those charged with investigating and enforcing the law can do nothing right, but the facts to me say that if you have a bloke with reportedly 80,000 (80,000!!) indecent images and that same bloke is in the frame for groping and sexually molesting people then I think the 'No Smoke Without Fire' rule tends to apply. That certainly argues a propensity to have traits in that direction.

It was a curious decision – not to throw the book at him over possessing indecent images of children but, in revealing the fact that the CPS had decided not to proceed on those matters he has effectively been tried by public opinion.

According to that reliable source The Mirror he had stashes of deviant material back in the 1970's...

http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/rolf-harris-home-raided-months-3819188

This is, apparently what put Mr. Harris on the Yewtree map – when the man who had seen this came forward years later. No idea if the Mirror have got their facts right but... you have to wonder. Has he been hiding in plain sight all these years?

Reply

IlovetheBBC

July 7, 2014 at 7:35 am

The makers of the porn films could prove the women, Ukrainians, were over 18. That's why it never went to trial, but has been printed anyway. Which is reprehensible.

If every person in the UK who has watched a lot of porn (thats what a cache is, btw, the ghost of all the stuff you've watched on your computer) were to go to jail, they would be FULL. Literally, not enough space to house them all.

Reply

Mr Ecks July 7, 2014 at 1:07 am

"I wish it were not so – I liked and admired the guy when I was younger" BUT....

"but facts are, undeniably, facts."

Lets hope Frankie, that at some point in the future, Radical Feminism gets you 5 years on the basis of facts every bit as "undeniable" as the crap they have assembled against Rolf Harris. Lets hope they can "convict" you of an alleged crime that supposedly took place at a supposed public event that they can't prove ever even happened. That is that they can't prove this supposed public gathering ever happened (outside the fantasy world of his accuser) let alone that Rolf was ever there (how can they prove he was there-they can't even prove there was ever a there for him to have been at). Let alone prove that he supposedly did what she says he did. Fancy being convicted on totally unsupported say so of someone who can't even remember where or when (1968 or 1969–thank goodness she narrowed it down eh?) a supposed assault happened?. Think that is a good idea do you Frankie?. Think is what "British Justice" should be all about do you?.

Reply

Carol42

July 7, 2014 at 1:25 am

It is truly frightening that someone can be convicted on the unproven say so of anyone, no one is safe, how can anyone prove or disprove something alleged to have happened 40 years ago? The role of the MSM in all this is very worrying since it seems that none is prepared to investigate properly and write the most lurid allegations as 'fact'. I disliked jimmy Savile -and was never impressed much by Rolf Harris but I hate the way they have been treated, unless there is something we don't know I could not have convicted on what I have heard. It seems now every faded 'celebrity' is jumping on the bandwagon, I find this whole obsession with 'child' abuse very unhealthy especially as most seem to have been in their teens not children. Meantime 12/13 year olds have babies and no one is charged with child abuse I am totally confused !

Reply

Mr Ecks July 7, 2014 at 1:35 am

So Frankie-having adult porn - and no child porn-means that you are really, secretly a child porn fan.

How curious that you–a former fan of Rolf and not at all a radfem troll –how curious that you peddle the exact same line as radical feminists–that men are polymorphously perverse–and that the sexual depravity of wicked (=all) men will lead them into all manner of perversion.

IanB has spoken to this issue far more intelligently than I but the fact is that males and females generally have a few types of sexuality that they like (in the case of men and possibly women created mostly by early imprinting experiences) and mainly don't go far beyond those types. People do sometimes expand their range by experimentation but not that often. The youth who has a rubber or plastic outfit fetish as a teenager generally will still have the same fetish as an old man.

The idea that men are beasts whose ravening, wicked sexual urges will drive them to do anything sexual to anybody that they can get away with is pure radfem hatred. As is the idea that being interested in sex (that is a heterosexual man being interested) is a sign of depravity and bad character.

You Frankie–are of course a noble fellow–assuming you are male –who either never has sex–or only with your spouse for the purposes of reproduction. No nasty dirty pictures for you eh.

As for Rolf's 80000 images—well the cops are too lazy for a fit up on that scale—although I suspect they are prob exaggerating considerably the number. And if they had put stuff on Rolf's computer they would have put actual child porn on . They haven't "thrown the book at him for child porn" cos they couldn't find any.

Reply

Frankie July 7, 2014 at 8:00 am

"...The entertainer allegedly copied 33 indecent images after trawling websites such as "Teeny Tiny Girlfriend", "Young Little Girlies" and "Little V*****". The websites show images of girls believed to be as young as 13, reports The Guardian. Police also found a note in Harris's diary, in his handwriting, of how to delete internet browser history.

Read more: http://www.theweek.co.uk/people/rolf-harris/58756/rolf-harris-jailed-for-less-than-six-years-for-sex-assaults#ixzz36ldUY700.'

Perhaps he wandered on to these websites accidentally... after all, who wouldn't? The mere fact that he went argues a depraved interest, no matter what actual age the 'models' on the sites was.

Yuk!!

Reply

Moor Larkin July 7, 2014 at 8:40 am

I am fairly incredulous that such sites exist. Are those titles perhaps a faulty translation of a Ukrainian title? To have such a site name would be akin to sending an email to CEOP's with the request to please come and nick me. There's something about all this that doesn't make common

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computer because of what had happened to Gary Glitter. I know the narrative is that Rolf Harris was in cahoots with the royals and the lizards but somebody is telling very large lies and it's probably the Guardian condoning crusading cops' exaggerations/misdirections.

Reply

Moor Larkin

July 9, 2014 at 8:47 am

@Frankie

Noticed the Independent running this similar but different claim:

"Prosecutors were due to claim that the 84-year-old entertainer, sentenced on Friday to five years and nine months in jail, accessed websites with names such as "My little nieces", "Tiny teen girlfriends" and "Russian girlfriends"."

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/rolf-harris-child-abuse-images-stash-found-under-floorboards-by-plumber-40-years-ago-9589111.html

It also appears that Rolf drifted into Yewtree following the claims of a plumber. Needless to say, there was no evidence found under the floorboards. "Looking under the floorboards" reminds me a bit of that Wall that was taken down to reveal another wall behind... in Manchester... that was mentioned a year or two back and never since.

Was it Mae West who said she'd rather have a man handy, than a handyman?...

Reply

Frankie July 7, 2014 at 7:52 am

"...a supposed public event that they can't prove ever even happened."

My understanding was that they could prove Rolf was at the event alleged – as he was on film – which is what damned him... but I think the issue is that it isn't one allegation, it was at least 12 AND the porn issue (which was common knowledge pre-trial – that material had been found in his possession and, presumably, was within the knowledge of the jury – impossible for them not to know, really, if they watched TV in the months leading up to the trial) AND there seems to be at least another 15 women who are now coming forward to say that he acted reprehensibly...

Reply

Mr Ecks July 7, 2014 at 9:43 am

I didn't say one allegation alone did for him. But the supposed crime against a 7 year old was undoubtedly the heaviest blow against him. A charge entirely without substance. What is your source please for the claim that Rolf was on film at the mystery event?

As for the porn issue –there isn't one. If the CPS crew had any evidence they would have charged on it –not in the public interest is an old trick.

Couldn't care less what the papers say-they have published so much garbage about so many people they have zero credibility. As for the fading slebs rushing to say how they have suffered- Frankie if you just got what Rolf has been handed you would be amazed by the numbers of women (and quite possibly some males as well) you never even heard of coming forward with lurid tales of how you abused them.

What is needed tho' are trial transcripts so we can all know what was actually said-not tabloid bullshit.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 7, 2014 at 9:52 am

I think Frankie is mixing up the Portsmouth claim with the "Star Games" claim in Cambridge.

Rather than the Portsmouth claim "doing" for Rolf, it's mostly accepted that Rolf's denial of ever being in Cambridge, followed by production of ITV footage of that old programme in which he appeared, was what did for him. There's a similarity between that whole shebang and what was done to Freddie Starr when he initially denied karin ward's claim about Clunk-Click. A couple of days after that Ch4 broadcast archive BBC footage of him, with karin behind him in the shot!! Freddie was crucified for the next 18 months. How did CH4 get hold of BBC footage? Interesting overlappin of strategies.... Rolf's defence research was woefully poor though. Any retrophile could probably have found that "Star games" evidence as has already been pointed out.

Reply

Mr Ecks July 7, 2014 at 10:09 am

You are correct Moor.

If Rolf had said he couldn't remember (at age 84) if he was in Cambridge or not he might have had a different result. However, if a petty matter like that is so significant it just

for being in Cambridge or not. If there had been real and abundant evidence of crime that would have been a point of little importance.

Reply

Anna Raccoon

July 7, 2014 at 10:31 am

I would add to Moor's response to Frankie:

In my opinion, the next class of people who will be affected by this 'similar fact evidence after trawling' phenomena, will be Police Officers.

Celebrities are in the frame at present because people do remember meeting them – it was a big event in their life, the day they went to a fete and 'x' stopped and gave them an autograph and kissed them.....

A similar phenomena is likely to occur regarding the 'day they got arrested' for something or other. When the law is changed and one toe rag is able to get their least favourite plod nicked for having 'put his arm round me and his hand touched my breast' as they were heaved into the paddy wagon one Friday night after brawling with Loraine on the next estate - you will be amazed how many other residents of that estate will remember the time that PC Frankie did the same thing to them, and as they were pulled into the paddy wagon 'they could tell he was sexually excited' and they were so ashamed of being arrested they never wanted to tell anyone...but now 'Ms Anonymous' has come forward to say that exactly the same thing happened to her at Sheryl's Hen Party when things got out of hand....

An encounter with the police has to be the next most memorable event – and one that is documented - after meeting a celebrity.

Just hope that none of you have any porn on your home computer.....

Reply

Moor Larkin July 7, 2014 at 10:52 am

There have been one or two reported quite recently. One woman, back when savilisation was getting into it's stride had a double-page feature in the Mail I recall. The cop had took her home. dad wasn't in. The cop threw on the bed and raped her. Then dad came home and threw him out... cue cover-up.... all 30 years before of course. Nothing more seemed to come of it though. I guess some victims are more believable than others? The CPS decides don't forget.... Another way to keep the decent bluebottles in line? The 99% probably.

Reply

Frankie

July 7, 2014 at 8:24 pm

Undoubtedly, you are correct Anna, and I apologise if I got confused by which city Rolf was in when he said he wasn't - I am spinning too many plates at the moment to catch up with the minutae.

But you are also correct in wondering which group of persons will next come under the forensic microscope... the police? individual officers ?? From what I understand, police officers are already subject to double jeopardy – the criminal law and an internal disciplinary code, but I am not aware that there is a public clamouring for the head of some no name cop, in the way that public opinion has distanced itself from Rolf Harris.

I think, following what Theresa May announced today is an even bigger target on the horizon - politicians.

A paedo ring at the heart of Govenment and... to spice things up... some dodgy dossiers on well known policitians, as yet unnamed has 'gone missing'... Rolf Harris, Jimmy Savile, Max Clifford, Stuart Hall will be 'small potatoes' in comparison with the scalp of a 'Big Beast'. - be it of either the Tory or Labour variety.

Reply

Mr Ecks July 7, 2014 at 9:23 pm

There maybe paedos in government-politics (=lording it over and stealing from others) is a trade that attracts evil scum far more strongly than show business. Politics is however also the trade of the Radical Feminist Marxist scum who make up the board of the

poisonous anti-man agenda that they have used the bullshit of Yewtree to ruthlessly advance. They will attempt to have said agenda take root in the political turmoil they hope to create.

sally stevens

July 6, 2014 at 11:17 pm

IlovetheBBC wrote: "I dont know if you are all aware, but it's actually now being reported that girls were SUPPLIED to Savile and others from Duncroft. As a reader here, and knowing what I know, I can scoff at that. Others will believe it."

Are you SERIOUS??? Can you provide a link or two?

Reply

Anna Raccoon

July 6, 2014 at 11:37 pm

I have heard that one before – it was a statement from, I believe 'Liz Francis' as she calls herself, who claimed that 'Maggie Jones pimped the girls' which first drove me into print on this subject.

Reply

Moor Larkin July 7, 2014 at 10:06 am

My own theory for why Meirion never approached his Aunt when this whole thing got going in his fevered mind (apart from the fact he was a bit scared of her probably) is that he believed this theory too. The classic paedo-ring pimping theory was always about boys and indeed folk like Peter Garsden only ever had male clients. Meirion thought he had the first heterosexual paedo-ring. Investigative Journalists have morphed from being relentless seekers of truth into believers in cult conspiracy.

Reply

sally stevens July 7, 2014 at 12:13 am

Liz Frances is, according to her godmother, the one and only Fiona, the daughter of one Beth C (I do have her complete name, but as she has remained uninvolved this entire time no need to drag her in.) Fiona told me that she had contacted Liz and asked her to knock it off a while back, but much good it did. But do bear in mind, everyone, that these women had daughters and grandchildren, who get on the internet and do whatever they please, despite being asked not to. Liz was at one time banned from Friends Reunited for violating their terms of use, don't know if they reinstated her. I can even remember her getting into a big scuffle with our friend Bebe.

Reply

Alexander Baron July 15, 2014 at 10:12 am

I've just published a series of articles about this witch-hunt. This is the latest:

http://www.allvoices.com/contributed-news/17459235-the-roots-of-the-current-paedophile-scare

I may write one or two more.

Reply

Gil July 15, 2014 at 3:23 pm

That is very interesting. Please do write more! There's a dire need for thoughtful and informative articles like that on this subject.

ER sounds rather ambiguous here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziFFdzHHvis

Gil July 15, 2014 at 11:08 am

0:31

PS "You kept this quiet for 18 years. What made you speak up?" VF "The police asked me to". http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0HKhQVJ3v0

How would the police know she had something to say if she kept it quiet for 18 years? The BBC report "Vile' reaction to Vanessa Feltz's Rolf Harris claims" also says under the accompanying video "The police came to me, I didn't go to them".

Reply

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