

RUMPOLE OF THE BAILEY

Defends

Rolf Harris And Bill Cosby

Members of the jury, you have heard the so-called evidence against both my clients, and there is a lot of it. But there is a lot of evidence for the Loch Ness Monster; we have dozens or hundreds of photographs, and numerous eyewitness testimonies, yet at the end of the day we have no physical evidence at all. I maintain that in both cases here, all we have is talk. I will begin my closing speech with the indictment against Mr Harris. First though, I would like to read to you the words of the police caution used in England:

“You do not have to say anything, but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something which you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence.”

Why do you think that is worded so, members of the jury? It is because when the police arrest someone on suspicion of an offence, they want to pin down that person there and then. Imagine they are investigating a murder, and the victim had been seen in the company of the suspect shortly before his death, and there had been angry words between them. Furthermore, they find a bloody knife near the crime scene, and they have information the suspect owned such a knife. They would want to pin him down there and then because given time he might come up with a dishonest but plausible explanation of how it got there. He might even bribe a third party to give perjured evidence to that effect. This will be especially important when I come to summing up for Mr Cosby, but in the case of Mr Harris this is just as relevant because his principal accuser made her allegations in 1997, at which point she had been his on-off mistress for some time. And she spilled the beans only because she found out that Harris had taken a second mistress on the side.

That means she had the best part of a decade and a half in which to embellish her story and invent cameos. In other words, Hell hath no fury.

Yet we are supposed to take her at her word because she says Harris came on to her when she was thirteen. When her parents found out about the affair with Harris in 1997, they did nothing. Why do you think that was? Let me put it another way, if you were a parent, as doubtless some of you are, and you were told by your daughter that she had been sexually abused as a child, what would you have done at the time? Precisely, her parents didn't believe her then, and you should not believe her now.

Regarding the other accusers, they have come forward because they are simply jumping on the bandwagon, a bandwagon created by corrupt prosecution lawyers, police officers and journalists with malicious intent. None of these accusers has any credibility. Only three of them appear on the indictments because the others were added simply to blacken the character of a man who has painted the Queen. One of the lawyers who helped prepare these charges was Nazir Afzal, who is one of the most corrupt Crown prosecutors in history.

The alleged incident from Cambridge is said to have happened out in the open at a charity event. She didn't report it at the time because it didn't happen at the time; it happened only in her tiny mind years and decades later, probably only a week or two before she contacted the police. The Crown made much of the fact that Mr Harris denied ever having visited Cambridge. He should simply have said he had no recollection of having been there, so you should not pay any attention at all to that slip of the tongue. For the record, I can't remember most of the places I visited nearly forty years ago either.

The other two non-victims were Tonya Lee and Wendy Wild. Tonya Lee claimed to have been groped by Mr Harris in a South London public house, an incident that had such a profound effect on her as a teenager that it was responsible for her train wreck of a personal life in the forthcoming decades. I put it to you that she did not become a certifiable lunatic because she was groped by Mr Harris, but she accused him of groping her because she is a certifiable lunatic, as well as an attention-seeker, and let us not forget she has been paid handsomely for her perjury.

The last non-victim is Wendy Wild. She claimed to have been sexually assaulted when she was a mere child at the Leigh Park Community Centre. This was at a time when he was riding high in the music charts. Leigh Park is a small venue, and had Mr Harris actually performed there, there would have been a paper trail. There would surely have been at least one report in the local press, perhaps in the music press. If he had performed at a charity event, there would have been publicity to that effect. If not, and even if, there would have been bills to be paid, arrangements, management. Perhaps he would even have stayed at a local hotel. Him and his entourage. Fans or ordinary people would have taken photographs, but there was and is nothing, yet the Crown decided to charge him anyway on the decades old fragmented memories and confabulations, or more likely the recent lies, of a woman who has achieved nothing in her life, and like the pathetic Tonya Lee, seeks to blame this on a famous face.

Finally, I will mention the child porn allegations which are not being considered here, but which have been added purely for the purpose of further blackening his name in the media in order to poison the minds of the jury. Your minds. Rolf Harris visited a number of websites which featured young women in various poses of undress, we are told. I say young women because all the featured models were above the age of consent. Why should a man in his eighties visit such a website? Perhaps because he is an artist? Because as stated he has painted the Queen, and has on occasion painted women in

various states of undress. That is what artists do. If you were visiting an art gallery, which of these pictures would you rather see: Tracey Emin's unmade bed, or a painting like this, which incidentally was produced by Lavinia Fontana, arguably the most famous woman artist of the Renaissance.

I come now to my second client, Mr Cosby, one of the most successful black entertainers of his or indeed any generation. If the allegations against Mr Harris are serious, those against him are grave indeed, and there are a lot more of them: serial aggravated rape over a period of decades. Yet we are here to consider his guilt or innocence in relation to one alleged victim only, and a strange one it is: a white lesbian half his age, a former professional basketball player, a superb athlete.

So why have we heard from so many other of his accusers? And indeed why are they so many? I can sum that up in two words: Gloria Allred. In 2004, Mr Cosby and his lesbian friend had what might be called a sexually ambiguous encounter. She says it was aggravated rape: he drugged her and digitally penetrated her. This was an extremely sordid affair be it consensual or otherwise. What would have been the reaction of a woman who had been subjected to the humiliation she claimed? Most women would have gone straight to the police, perhaps called them there and then. I suggest that in view of her physical stature, if he had indeed inflicted this indignity on her, she would have beaten him senseless. Instead, she continued her relationship with him, and even bought him a sweater.

The State has adduced a so-called expert witness to testify that her behaviour under these circumstances including her delayed reporting was perfectly natural; this is how rape victims behave. The truth is that Barbara Ziv is talking out of her...let me rephrase that, she's talking rubbish. In short, she is peddling the tosh of rape trauma syndrome, which says what?

That a rape victim may report at once, or she may delay reporting for an indefinite period, or she may never report. That she may scream, punch, kick and bite, or she may freeze. She may put as much distance as possible between herself and her violator. Or she may continue her relationship with him, assuming there was a relationship in the first place. In short, anything she does is consistent with her being raped. Which begs the question, what if anything is consistent with her not having been raped? Precisely!

Barbara Ziv is either a fool or a mischief-maker. Either way she is no expert witness, and her testimony has no place in a court of law.

There is though I suggest one very good reason Andrea Constand chose to continue her relationship with Mr Cosby - he is wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice. You have heard, have you not, that she went on to extract over three million dollars from him. I suggest that is compensation enough and then some for any indignity she may have suffered.

I mentioned earlier Gloria Allred. Miss Allred is a notorious shyster lawyer who has been given unparalleled and quite sensational news coverage by all the mainstream media. At one point she held a press conference in which she suggested Mr Cosby put up a hundred million dollars in a bizarre contest with his accusers. How many women do you think would come forward to accuse him or any man if they had even the slimmest chance of claiming a slice of that?

Many of these accusers who have paraded themselves in front of the media with or without the connivance of Miss Allred are disreputable in the extreme, or simply as mad as a box of frogs. Janice Dickinson is a whore by any definition: a woman who claims to have bedded a thousand men, and at least one woman - the actress Grace Jones. By her own admission she spent much of the early 1980s in a drug-filled haze. She claims Mr Cosby drugged her with Quaaludes, yet has admitted taking them herself.

One of his most bizarre accusers is Joan Tarshis - a woman who by her own admission communicated with aliens.

There is Linda Ridgeway Whitedeer. Listen to this mad hag.

Gloria Allred: As I looked up, his penis was out of his pants, and he shoved it. Into my mouth. His attack was fast, with surgical precision, and surprise was on his side.

Linda Ridgeway Whitedeer: I couldn't breathe. I was in shock. I thought of the boy possibly outside the door. When Cosby was done, there was a horrible mess of semen all over my face, my clothes, and in my hair. He took out a Kleenex to try and wipe off my face. I was bordering between vomiting and passing out. He was mumble-ing that I had been blessed with his semen.

[Canned laughter]

Miss Allred had the audacity to adduce her as a victim, one a compliant and spineless media lapped up. They didn't ask her a single question.

There are many others where these came from. These women have one thing in common: they made no complaint at the time. We are expected to believe Bill Cosby was drugging and raping women for decades, yet not one of them filed a police report or sought medical attention. Truly amazing.

The truth is that some of these women were whores who had consensual sex with him: whores like Beth Ferrier. Some are mad, like Tarshis and Whitedeer. Others are simply jumping on the bandwagon eager to grab their fifteen minutes of fame, or restore albeit briefly their long vanished careers or in some cases their non-careers.

I would point out [too] that Miss Allred has been caught literally with her hand in the till when one of her other clients, who falsely accused Judge Roy Moore of attempted rape, was caught peddling a forged document to the media.

I will say one other thing in relation to both my clients. When challenged about their behaviour, both admitted it. Rolf Harris said he was ashamed, but denied any illegality, and Bill Cosby admitted performing a sexual act on Andrea Constand.

We are often told that rape is she said/he said, and is thus extremely difficult to prove. It would have been extremely easy for both men to have denied any sexual activity, and they would very likely have been believed. Even if they hadn't been believed, what are the chances they would have faced prosecution?

I submit that both these men, giants of the entertainment industry, stand before you [today] not because they are guilty, but because they are honest and innocent. The behaviour of Rolf Harris may have been morally reprehensible, but it was not criminal. I ask you to find him not guilty.

The behaviour of Bill Cosby may have likewise been reprehensible, but there is no doubt he genuinely believed Andrea Constand consented to his sordid acts; that means reasonable doubt. I ask you to find him not guilty also.