

ARTAMI Newsletter

August 10-14 2009

Word of the Week

Mendacious (mĕn-dā'shəs)
adj.

1. Lying; untruthful: *a mendacious child.*
2. False; untrue: *a mendacious statement.*

News

“Man Jailed 14 Months for Abducting his Child” Calgary Sun

Breaking into his ex-wife's home and dangerously "spiriting" away their young daughter has landed a Calgary man a 14-month jail term.

But because Michael Joseph Hibbs has already spent the equivalent of 10 months behind bars he'll only serve another four, provincial court Judge Sean Dunnigan ruled yesterday. Dunnigan also placed Hibbs on probation for two years to assist him in dealing with alcohol and drug addictions.

Dunnigan said Hibbs' conduct, while "disturbing," wasn't severe enough to warrant the four- to five-year term sought by Crown prosecutor Sarah Stewart.

Hibbs, 36, earlier pleaded guilty to 11 charges, including break and enter to commit abduction, assault and careless driving in connection with separate incidents at his ex-wife's home.

"This was a serious home invasion," Dunnigan said. But he said Hibbs' "clear and powerful expression of remorse," and his commitment to get clean warranted the term.

Edmonton House Fire Arson

Edmonton Police now say a 53-year-old man is charged with arson, after a Monday morning house fire near 114th Avenue and 91st Street. Orlando Comacho will undergo a psychological assessment. Global News has labeled this incident as domestic.

Sexual Assault + Uttering Threats = \$750

Doujin ZHOU, a 37 year old electrician was handed \$750 in fines after being convicted of sexual assault and uttering threats. ZHOU hugged the woman twice, kissed her roughly and asked her if “she wanted to die”. ZHOU has no previous criminal record. He was fined \$500 for the sexual assault and \$250 for uttering threats. He is also required to

provide a DNA sample. The judge decided against a period of community service as ZHOU lives in Calgary but works in Fort Saskatchewan.

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/news/edmonton/2009/08/11/10422556-sun.html>

Husband Charged in Murder

On 2009 FEB 02 GEHL, Nadia was shot at a bus stop near her home in Kitchener, ON. Her husband CYR, Ronald has recently been charged with first degree murder. Two other men were also arrested and charged with first degree murder.

<http://news.therecord.com/News/Local/article/582728>

“Courts Getting Tough on Violence Against Women” Sudbury Star

Madame Justice Anne Malloy sentenced Arssei Hindessa to life in prison with no chance of parole for 18 years for murdering his girlfriend Natalie Novak. Hindessa stabbed her nine times in the chest and once in the back. He cut both her carotid artery and jugular vein and slashed her face after she died. He also repeatedly broke court orders prohibiting him from seeing Novak.

<http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1692981>

“Neighbor’s ‘gut feeling’ likely saved victim’s life” Toronto Star

SODAY, Helen was beaten and slashed in an attempted decapitation. She lay unnoticed for three days in her apartment. On AUG 01 at 4:00 AM police responded to a report a woman had been assaulted. Officers couldn’t get an answer at the door so they returned 3 hours later and still received no response. SODAY’s neighbor called police AUG 02 and pestered officers nearby on AUG 03. The nearby officers forced open the door to find the victim. The victim is in critical condition. Detectives found evidence someone tried to set fire to the apartment. SODAY’s stepson and her boyfriend were arrested and face various charges, including attempted murder.

<http://www.thestar.com/gta/crime/article/678689>

NY Times Op Ed Piece on Misogyny and Mass Murder

The following are excerpts from a New York Times Op Ed Piece...

- “There would have been thunderous outrage if someone had separated potential victims by race or religion and then shot, say, only the blacks, or only the whites, or only the Jews. But if you shoot only the girls or only the women — not so much of an uproar.”
- “One of the striking things about mass killings in the U.S. is how consistently we find that the killers were riddled with shame and sexual humiliation, which they

- inevitably blamed on women and girls. The answer to their feelings of inadequacy was to get their hands on a gun (or guns) and begin blowing people away.”
- “What was unusual about Sodini was how explicit he was in his blog about his personal shame and his hatred of women. ‘Why do this?’ he asked. ‘To young girls? Just read below.’ In his gruesome, months long rant, he managed to say, among other things: ‘It seems many teenage girls have sex frequently. One 16 year old does it usually three times a day with her boyfriend. So, err, after a month of that, this little [expletive] has had more sex than ME in my LIFE, and I am 48. One more reason.’“
 - “We would become much more sane, much healthier, as a society if we could bring ourselves to acknowledge that misogyny is a serious and pervasive problem, and that the twisted way so many men feel about women, combined with the absurdly easy availability of guns, is a toxic mix of the most tragic proportions.”

The entire article can be found at...

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/08/opinion/08herbert.html?_r=1&th&emc=th

Dr J. Reid Meloy Comments on Gym Shooter

The following points are quotes from Dr J Reid Meloy in regards to the Pittsburgh gym shooter who targeted women. The entire news article can be read at

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/CRIME/08/07/gym.shooting.psychology/>

- “It also didn’t surprise me in this case that he made some derogatory comments about his mother...A lot of the times, when there’s this level of hatred against women, there’s also a very antagonistic relationship with the mother, but it gets shifted onto other women”
- Mass killers often feel that they have been victimized and that their actions are justified.
- “The concept here is really, really hard for most people to grasp, and that is the sense of entitlement, that ‘I have a right to murder all of these women because of my personal frustration’...It’s absolutely astonishing that a person can come to that mind-set”
- “His blog is a striking example of how mass murders are planned, relatively carefully planned, over the course of days, weeks or, in this case, months.”
- The hesitation in this case is unusual. “Typically as these guys are doing it, they have no ambivalence... they have made the decision to maximize casualties and to also kill themselves, as he did”
- Often some humiliating event “starts the clock” and sets long-laid plans in motion. Meloy did not see evidence of such an incident in the hours or days before Sodini’s rampage.
- “These guys are very narcissistically sensitive, meaning that the kind of insult or slight that you or I would just fluff off, these guys will ruminate and think about it and do that for long periods of time”
- Sodini was not a bad-looking man; he was intelligent and had a good job, so his failure to attract women must have had something to do with his behavior but Sodini couldn’t see that.

British Youth get Domestic Violence 101

The UK Equalities Minister has announced a new Violence Against Women and Girls program. Students as young as five will be educated about domestic violence, violence against women, and how to have healthy relationships.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1204359/In-week-Harriet-Harman-takes-charge-feminist-initiative.html>

“Targeting Serial Domestic Abusers” BBC

A police agency in West Scotland has set up a dedicated unit to target some of the region's most dangerous serial abusers. The 17 highly experienced detectives who make up the domestic abuse task force said they hoped to intervene before abuse escalates. Officers observe the movements of known abusers, visit their homes and make arrests aimed at disrupting violent behaviour before it escalates.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/glasgow_and_west/8195524.stm

Other Points of Interest

Interparental Hostility

Dr. Michael Flood (PHD in Gender and Sexuality studies at Australian National University) had an interview on a blog. The following are some highlights...

- A study of Australian fathers showed a negative association between interparental hostility and the frequency of fathers' contact and involvement with children (Hawthorne, 2005).
- Interparental conflict is a leading stressor for children after divorce, and the best predictor of child maladjustment (Braver et al, 2005).
- “Because conflict is harmful to children, conflict between parents may cancel, or even reverse any benefits associated with frequent visitation” (Marsiglio et al, 2000).

The entire blog interview is available at...

http://angelz fury.blogspot.com/2009/08/responsible-parenting-and-fathers_08.html

Custody and Child Abuse

There is an annual Battered Mothers and Custody conference in New York. Professor Garland Waller produced “Small Justice: Little Justice in America’s Family Courts” which is an independent documentary that explores the relationship between domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and custody laws in America. The following statistics are included...

- In a study of more than 300 custody cases involving allegations of sexual abuse, 70% resulted in unsupervised visitation or shared custody with the alleged sexual abuser. In 20% of the cases, the non-violent parent lost custody completely. (Journal of Child Sexual Abuse)

- Violent and abusive fathers are twice as likely to seek sole custody of their children as non-violent fathers. (American Psychological Association's Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family)
- When fathers choose to fight for custody, they win in nearly 70% of contested custody cases. (National Centre for Protective Parents)
- According to a recent national study on custody cases involving allegations of abuse, 97% of mothers reported that courts had either ignored or minimized accounts of abuse and that they were punished for trying to protect their children. (University of California's study of Judicial Abuse, 2004)
- 65% of mothers reported that they were threatened with sanctions if they talked publicly about their case (University of California's study on Judicial Abuse, 2004)

The graphic but powerful video clip can be viewed in its entirety at...

<http://ksmfj.wordpress.com/2009/08/08/ap-pa-hrefhttpwwwfacebookcomextsharephpsid134808231060refnfbattered-mothers-custody-conference-interviewsapdiv-stylepaddingbottom-0px-margin-0px-paddingleft-0px-paddingright-0px-display-inline-float-p/>

Asylum in Domestic Violence Cases

Barry Nolan is a veteran television journalist and Emmy winning Commentator. He is now a freelance writer and does occasional consulting and writing for Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. He did an opinion piece on the following story from the Battered Mothers and Custody conference in New York.

Jennifer, the survivor, tells us of the day the representative of the court came to take her away from her mother and take her to live at her dad's. How she clung desperately to her mother's leg, until they pried her fingers loose, lifted her up, carried her away, and compelled her to live with the man who would beat her. Jennifer tells us how her mother, desperate beyond all measure, kidnapped the children, spirited them away to the Netherlands, where they became the first Americans to be granted asylum. How she lived in a refugee camp, with refugees from Somalia and Sierra Leone, people who had to learn how to use toilets and forks. How this was better than "home". This was a step up. She was with her mom. Jennifer lived in exile for 14 years. She finally "aged out". The court has no jurisdiction now. And so Jennifer had the freedom to come home, to America.

The entire article can be found at...

<http://thejournal.epluribusmedia.net/index.php/component/content/article/36-opinion/228-this-is-really-hard-to-believe#>

Common Couple Violence

Common Couple Violence (CCV) is a type of intimate partner violence. "common couple violence" was coined by researcher Michael Johnson during his studies of domestic violence. "Common couple violence" is defined as the "dynamic in which conflict occasionally gets 'out of hand', leading usually to 'minor' forms of violence, and more rarely escalating into serious, sometimes even life-threatening, forms of violence" CCV is different than domestic abuse because of its nature which is milder and less severe.

CCV can occur as a result of being frustrated or when an argument gets out of hand. In CCV, acts of violence by men and women occur at fairly equal rates, with rare occurrences of injury, and are not committed in an attempt to control a partner. This term has been commonly used by Donald Dutton.

Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

- A recent study of low-income pre-school children in Michigan found that nearly half (46.7percent) of the children in the study had been exposed to at least one incident of mild or severe violence in the family. Children who had been exposed to violence suffered symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, such as bed-wetting or nightmares, and were at greater risk than their peers of having allergies, asthma, gastrointestinal problems, headaches and flu.
 - Graham-Bermann, Sandra A and Julie Seng. 2005. "Violence Exposure and Traumatic Stress Symptoms as Additional Predictors of Health Problems in High-Risk Children." *Journal of Pediatrics*. 146(3):309-10.

The Fathers' Rights Movement and the Impact on Violence Against Women

Excerpts from a presentation given by Dr. Michael Flood (PHD in Gender and Sexuality studies at Australian National University)...

- Fathers' Rights movement has resulted in fathers' *contact* with children being privileged, over children's *safety* from violence. An uncritical assumption that children's contact with both parents is necessary now pervades the courts and the media.
- Fathers' Rights Groups talk of 'conflict' rather than violence, neglect violence as a legitimate issue for the courts and family services to address, emphasize mediation and counseling as solutions, and focus on punishing women for making false allegations or breaching contact orders.
- Fathers' rights groups tell the lie that women routinely make false accusations of child abuse to gain advantage in family law proceedings and to arbitrarily deny their ex-partners' access to the children. Also, fathers' rights groups tell the lie that women routinely make up allegations of domestic violence to gain advantage in family law cases and use protection orders to remove men from their homes or deny contact with children rather than out of any real experience or fear of violence. Flood has written detailed critiques of these for the Australian journal *Women Against Violence*.
- Fathers' Rights Groups the lie that domestic violence is gender-equal or gender-neutral. To support the claim that domestic violence is gender-symmetrical, advocates draw almost exclusively on studies using a measurement tool called the Conflict Tactics Scale. It asks one partner in a relationship whether, in the last year, they or their spouse have ever committed any of a range of violent acts. The

CTS is widely criticized for not gathering information about the intensity, context, consequences or meaning of the action. The CTS ignores who initiates the violence (when women are more likely to use violence in self-defense), assumes that violence is used expressively (e.g. in anger) and not instrumentally (to 'do' power or control), omits violent acts such as sexual abuse, stalking and intimate homicide, ignores the history of violence in the relationship, neglects the question of who is injured, relies on only one partner's reports despite poor interspousal reliability, and omits incidents after separation and divorce, which is a time of increased danger for women.

- crime victimization studies based on large-scale aggregate data, household and crime surveys, police statistics, and hospital data all show that men assault their partners and ex-partners at rates several times the rate at which women assault theirs and that female victims greatly outnumber male victims (Tjaden & Thoennes 2000).
- Women are far more likely than men to be subjected to frequent, prolonged, and extreme violence, to sustain injuries, to fear for their lives, and to be sexually assaulted (Kimmel 2001; Bagshaw *et al.* 2000). Female perpetrators of domestic violence are less likely and less able than male perpetrators to use nonphysical tactics to maintain control over their partners (Swan & Snow 2002).
- Women's physical violence towards intimate male partners is often in self-defense (DeKeseredy *et al.* 1997; Hamberger *et al.* 1994; Swan & Snow 2002; Muelleman & Burgess 1998).
- Men tend to over-estimate their partner's violence and under-estimate their own, while women do the reverse (Kimmel 2001).
- Australian crime victimisation surveys find that less than one percent of violent incidents among men is by partners or ex-partners, compared to one-third of incidents among women (Ferrante *et al.* 1996).
- Fathers' rights groups purport to advocate on behalf of male victims of domestic violence, they seek to undermine the policies and services that would protect and gain justice for these same men.

<http://ksmfj.wordpress.com/2009/08/11/h3fathers-rights-violence-womenh3h4michael-floodh4ppresentation-panel-myths-misconceptions-mens-movement-conference-irefocusing-womens-experiences-violencei-sydney-1416-september-psee-document-resourc/>