

# WATCH Post

Volume 12, Issue 1

Winter 2004

## EVERYBODY'S ENTITLED TO MY OPINION

### Forging ahead

By Susan Lenfestey

Compared to the life-shattering events of the war in Iraq, 2003 was a quiet year for WATCH. All right perhaps that's an audacious contrast. But we did uproot from our longtime office on the tenth floor of the Northstar building (due to asbestos abatement) and into a bigger one on the fourth floor. We also reconfigured the top level of our staff and hired a new executive director, all the while increasing our volunteer and intern pool and maintaining a discerning eye on the courts.

The new office not only doubles our space, allowing for private offices and in-house volunteer training, it has windows! Many thanks to Trizec Properties for its enormous generosity in continuing to cut us a rock-bottom deal on rent, as it has for the past ten years. Obviously we need to be near the courthouse and we simply could not afford to pay downtown rents without its quiet support.

The new office came "as is," meaning our staff, Priya Outar, Emily Sandgren, Libby Wyrum, and Suzanne Elwell, plus Suzanne's husband and several board

members, worked late on several nights to spackle and paint over the Prince-purple walls. They managed the move as well as the disconnect and reconnect of telephone and computer systems. It was a huge job but, as always, we operate on a shoestring budget.

The other big change is at the top. Suzanne Elwell, our former executive director, has shifted her title and workload in order to spend more time with her family. She is now the part-time administrative director, responsible for keeping the basic administrative and development operations humming. She is also a repository of knowledge on all matters of domestic violence, with her finger on the pulse, locally and nationally. We're delighted she will continue to keep WATCHing.

We're equally thrilled to announce that our new executive director is Marna Anderson. Marna started at WATCH on January 20 and has hit the ground running by launching a special project monitoring order for protection hearings, delving into the thorny debate about what to do with level three sex offenders, and testifying at the legislature.

*continued on page 2*

## VOLUNTEER NOTES

✍ The defendant asked not to be present when the victim read her victim impact statement during the sentencing hearing and the judge permitted him to leave.

✍ The defendant had sent numerous emails to the victim and since the order for protection did not specifically mention electronic communication the judge said the order wasn't violated.

✍ The defense attorney had trouble directing his questions to the witness instead of the interpreter, making questioning difficult. The judge asked the

defense attorney to speak directly to the witness. The prosecutor used questions that were too long and complex for the interpreter to remember and had to restate the questions a lot.

✍ The judge was quite upset that no one read the complaint in Spanish to the defendant (who spoke only Spanish) before the hearing.

✍ When I got to the domestic violence court, there was no judge and much frivolity! After someone came into the

*continued on page 3*

## WHAT'S NEW

**WATCH moves six floors down:** WATCH relocated its offices last fall from the tenth floor of the Northstar Center (East) building to the fourth floor of the same building. All address and contact information remains the same except we are now suite 465.

**WATCH receives Minnesota Women's Consortium 2003 Organization Award:** WATCH was honored at the *Celebration 24* event on January 28<sup>th</sup> along with other amazing women who work for justice including: Rosita Balch (Resource Center of the Americas), Mary Gaines (Federal FORUM), Linda Riddle (Houston County Women's Resources), and State Senator Linda Berglin.

**WATCH launches new and improved website:** WATCH recently gave its website a much-needed facelift. Click for a look at: [www.watchmn.org](http://www.watchmn.org)

**WATCH hires new executive director:** In January, Marna Anderson took over the helm of WATCH as the new executive director. ♦

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**2 From the executive director**  
A new beginning for WATCH

**3 From the bench**  
An open letter from the Chief Judge

**4 2003 WATCH supporters**  
Thank you to our generous donors

**6 Chronology of a pimp**  
A lifetime of victimizing young girls

**11 Thumbs up/Thumbs down**  
WATCH looks at the news

***The mission of WATCH is to make the justice system more effective and responsive in handling cases of violence, particularly against women and children, and to create a more informed and involved public.***



*continued from page 1*

Marna comes to WATCH from the Nature Conservancy in Minnesota where she was responsible for raising corporate and foundation support. Prior to the Nature Conservancy, Marna was a program director at Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights focusing on human rights education and training. But women's rights have been a constant thread of her working life and she's had her eye on WATCH for a long time, having attended the first training in 1992. Instead of picking up a red clipboard, she chose to work in Central America (El Salvador) where she helped create a women's center in the countryside focusing on issues of violence and economic justice. In the late 80s Marna worked as a victim advocate and in the early 90s was on staff at the Sexual Violence Center, working primarily in Carver County. Marna is currently on the board of directors of the Resource Center of the Americas and a student at the College of St. Catherine working on a masters in organizational leadership.

Please stop in to meet Marna, or to check out the new, improved office. Or join us for a morning in court. Don't believe what you

see on Court TV, experience it firsthand with a staff member or seasoned volunteer.

Amidst the housekeeping, we have continued our daily work of monitoring and interacting with the court system with an eye on improving the delivery of justice for all, but primarily for women and children who are victims of violent crime. There are still glitches and gaps and attitudes that need our attention. Witness the judge in Florida who commented that he didn't see why anyone would rape the alleged victim as she didn't "look like a day at the beach."

In the year ahead, we'll be taking a good look at the swirl of thorny issues regarding sex offenders—treatment, prison sentences, supervision, and civil commitments. With the tragic disappearance of Dru Sjodin thrusting this complicated debate front and center, watch for some wacky ideas to surface in the legislature. Or are they? What do we do with a patterned sex offender who is as certain to re-offend as the rest of us are to cheat on a diet? It's abhorrent to most Americans to think of keeping people locked up on the grounds of what they might do—and yet this is the direction

we've also gone since 9/11 with presumptive terrorists. I think there's a distinction between detaining a sex offender with a long history of assaults and detaining a Muslim with no history other than curious travel patterns, but then again . . . The whole thing makes most people queasy and uneasy and requires close scrutiny. We'll be WATCHing.

We'll also be looking at how budget cuts impact the quality of justice. What is the cost of protection? Of services for offenders? Of the death penalty? If people are willing to pony up big bucks for a top-of-the-line car, believing that they're getting a safer, better product, why do they believe that a flinty, low-budget court system is going to deliver a safer, better result? No one wants a sloppy, bloated system, but there's a balance and we need to find it.

Finally, speaking of money, WATCH relies solely on the kindness of strangers, and many friends like you. We do not receive any government funding, so we are comparatively fortunate not to be feeling the axe of funding cuts that has fallen on many of our nonprofit colleagues. That makes us all the more dependent on your ongoing support. If you forgot to make a year-end gift, it's not too late, as our fiscal year-end isn't until June 30! And if the up-tick in the market is making you feel flush and generous, don't hesitate to give again. Call the office to talk to Marna about matching gifts, stock gifts or other ways you can help keep a keen eye on the courts. Or even easier, you can donate online through our new and improved website.

Our deep thanks to all of you listed in this issue as donors in 2003. Despite our best efforts, sometimes our old computer gets the best of us and we make mistakes. Please call the office with any omissions or errors and know that the gaffe bears no reflection on our gratitude.

Please stay with us as we continue to monitor the remarkable and fragile American justice system. Over the years we've been graced with donors who are both generous and curious. It's easy to ignore the things that may not pertain directly to your life, but WATCH donors seem to have a more worldly scope. And they live by the simple tenet that we all do better when we all do better. At least in my opinion. ♦

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Getting started

**By Marna Anderson**

In 1992 I attended the first WATCH volunteer training. At the time, I worked for a victims' rights organization, and, though I was impressed by the goals of WATCH, I was more comfortable complaining about the system than energized to change it. But thankfully, there were others who had the vision, resolve and knowledge to forge ahead in the face of cynicism and doubt. Instead of wringing their hands about the problems within the criminal justice system, WATCH's staff, board members and volunteers took action and created an organization that has successfully worked to improve the outcome for women seeking justice in Hennepin County.

The week WATCH started monitoring, I moved to El Salvador where I worked with a feminist organization on issues of human rights, violence against women and economic justice. While there, I realized that

one of the most effective ways to create long-term social change is to build collaborations and push for change from the inside. WATCH successfully does this. Now, over ten years later, I have recently participated in my second WATCH volunteer training and am excited to be part of that group of individuals working daily for positive change.

As I step up to the helm of WATCH I am reminded, once again, that transformation takes time. WATCH is here for the long haul, working to recreate a system that historically ignored, dismissed or minimized domestic and sexual violence. And I am energized to fight the good fight, and keep reminding the public that we should not sit by and blame, complain, and wring our hands. As I've learned since 1992, taking action is much more empowering.

I look forward to empowering others as we carry on the vision of those early leaders and supporters of WATCH. ♦



## A letter from Hennepin County Chief Judge Kevin Burke

*This open letter was recently distributed by email to individuals in the advocacy and criminal justice communities.*

Dear Friend:

Over ninety years ago a young woman was beaten the evening of her wedding. She lived at a time when there was shame in being the victim of domestic violence. Shortly thereafter the young woman became pregnant, but sadly the domestic violence continued. She left her husband, returned home, and her family moved her to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her son, Gerald Ford, went on to become President of the United States.

Domestic violence is a major issue in our society. While there is much talk about the criminal justice system responding more effectively to livability crimes, if you are the victim of domestic violence, the most important place where a livability crime occurs is in your home. Too often the victims of domestic violence find it hard to speak up. While it is understandable if you are a victim, those of us who are not victims can help. I ask you to join with me in the next ten minutes to raise the visibility of this issue and to advocate for a safer society for the victims of domestic abuse.

In Hennepin County for the first time in eleven years there is more domestic violence in the suburbs than in Minneapolis. Domestic violence is not a crime that just affects the poor or communities of color. Last year there were more than 30,000 calls to 911 regarding domestic violence in Hennepin County alone. Nearly 3,000 people applied for civil orders for protection and 4,300 people were criminally charged. Although I am the Chief Judge in Hennepin, the issue of domestic violence is not solely a Hennepin County issue. Domestic violence may well be the number one issue of public safety in this state. In the last five years 132 women and 68 children under the age of 13 died because of domestic violence.

The long term effect of domestic violence is in many respects what makes it so insidious. Children who grow up in an environment for domestic violence far too often repeat the behavior as adults. We

need to break the cycle. That is why I ask you to join with me in that effort.

Legislators need to hear from their constituents that domestic violence is an issue that the public expects them to address now. It is simply not good enough to deal with the worst sex offenders in the state. County Commissioners, Mayors, and City Councils need to hear that domestic violence needs to be addressed now.

I asked you at the outset to spend ten minutes devoted to the safety of victims and, so now let me get specific.

Please take the time to forward this message to your friends with a note that you have joined the campaign for the safety of victims of domestic violence. I know that it is not easy to step out publicly to friends. My hope is that this message can begin a grass roots discussion that we all want a safer society. Please tell your friends that you have decided to take action by writing or emailing your elected officials with a message that domestic violence is an issue of public safety that all of us expect to be addressed now.

I am not so naïve to think that there is a simple solution to this complex issue. No one legislative act will miraculously make this issue go away. First and foremost, the message must go forth that if you are a victim of domestic violence and you decide to leave the abuse, there will be a safe environment (shelters, for example) and support for that decision to leave. 30% of the women in homeless shelters are there because they were fleeing an abusive partner. The decision to leave was not easy for President Ford's mother. Even in her time, there was recognition that there are risks to leaving. It is estimated that a woman is 75% more likely to be the victim of a homicide if she flees the violence than if she stays in the home. Second, there needs to be adequate supervision of offenders with meaningful probation service and treatment. The caseloads for probation need to be reduced. Without adequate supervision of

offenders, we are never going to fulfill our commitment to victims. Both of these initiatives take money. Domestic violence is homeland security if you or your children are victims. We can afford homeland security. Finally and most important, we must send a loud and clear message to our elected officials that we are committed to a meaningful long-term program of reducing the level of domestic violence in our community.

I hope you will join me in this effort.

Sincerely,

**Kevin S. Burke**  
**Chief Judge, Hennepin County**

†

**For an electronic version of this letter that you can forward to others, please go to the WATCH website: [www.watchmn.org](http://www.watchmn.org)**

## NOTES, CONTINUED

*continued from page 1*

courtroom and put the judge's nameplate on the bench, court personnel had a loud discussion about whether they liked or disliked the judge. The gallery was full of people who could hear this conversation. Court personnel went on to have a discussion about the "Survivor" pool they are involved in and one person collected money from a new member of the pool.

✍ In sentencing the defendant for promotion of prostitution, the judge made a downward departure from the sentencing guidelines, stating that the offense is less serious than the normal solicitation case because the prostitute was 17 years old and 11 months and adding that she thinks the guidelines are exaggerated.

✍ The judge stated during the sentencing hearing: "Although I give the defendant credit for coming forward and pleading guilty, I am more concerned with the stress the victim has gone through all these years knowing that [the defendant] was on the streets and not being punished." ♦



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## CHRONOLOGY OF A PIMP: JOHNNIE BLOODSAW JR.

### INTRODUCTION

On December 11, 2000, Johnnie Bloodsaw, Jr. (DOB 3/28/61) was sentenced as a career offender to serve a minimum of six and a half years in prison for his most recent felony conviction of solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution. Bloodsaw's criminal history in Hennepin County dates to the late 1970s. The vast majority of his crimes have involved sexually assaulting and prostituting juvenile females. Twenty-four of the 25 crimes charged against Bloodsaw in Hennepin County were felonies, and he pled or was found guilty in nine of those cases. Included in this chronology are police reports indicating numerous separate acts of violence that did not lead to criminal charges.

Nearly all of Bloodsaw's Hennepin County criminal charges involved juvenile girls who had run away from home. Bloodsaw preyed upon their vulnerabilities, offering them a place to stay, food, and the promise of money if they agreed to prostitute for him. Once they did, he controlled them by using threats, physical violence, rape, and confiscating all of their earnings.

Such cases have proved difficult to prosecute. The victims are often homeless and on the move, and, as with other victims of intimate violence, they frequently are not able to fully cooperate with the prosecution for fear of retaliation. These are major obstacles for prosecutors whose cases typically rest on the victims' testimony.

Prosecuting pimps like Bloodsaw is an important step toward ending juvenile prostitution. However, it only addresses one side of the equation. Prosecuting customers or "johns" is also a

necessary, but less popular, strategy in ending this type of victimization.

Alarming as the following chronology is, what's even more disturbing is that we are documenting only those cases involving *known* juvenile victims. Given the defendant's propensity for exploiting young girls, we know there are many others out there who suffered under his victimization.

The following chronology is one attempt to raise awareness of the facts surrounding juvenile prostitution and to encourage further discussion and action.

### CHRONOLOGY

*7/6/79 Minneapolis Police Report:* Johnnie Bloodsaw Jr. was arrested in downtown Minneapolis for felony level aggravated assault. Victims DAO and DTJ reported that Bloodsaw asked them to go to a party with him as they were leaving a restaurant. He continued "making passes" at them and became irate when they rebuffed him. He threatened to cut their eyeballs out if he ever saw them on Hennepin Avenue again and pulled out a knife. He put the knife away when the victims told him the police were coming. Both victims said they feared for their lives. SIP<sup>1</sup>, the Hennepin County database, shows no record of this case, indicating that no further action was taken.

*9/21/79 Minneapolis Police Report:* Police were called to a restaurant by a woman reporting that a man in the restaurant had assaulted her in the past week. After officers identified him as Bloodsaw, he was placed under citizen's arrest by the victim and transported to the Hennepin County jail by a police officer. Again, this case does not appear on SIP, indicating that no further action was taken.

*continued on page 7*

## LOOKING AT JUVENILE PROSTITUTION

In recent years, the promotion of prostitution, particularly involving juveniles, has garnered increased attention from makers and enforcers of policy and law. Much of Minnesota's attention to this issue can be traced to the 1999 federal conviction of the Evans family, who ran a Minneapolis-based international juvenile prostitution ring. In 1998, the Minnesota state legislature passed a law increasing the penalty for a defendant convicted of solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution of individuals less than 18 years of age. And in 1999, then Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton commissioned a report on juvenile prostitution. The report, entitled *The Hofstede Committee Report: Juvenile Prostitution in Minnesota*, detailed the extent of the problem and efforts to combat it. The report, alarming in many respects, unequivocally states, "Juvenile prostitution can and does exist in Minnesota, and the targets are virtually anyone's child."

The results and recommendations of the *Hofstede Report* prompted the state legislature to give a grant to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to better investigate pimping cases involving juveniles.

Last year, WATCH decided to focus research and education efforts on the issues surrounding juvenile prostitution. In April, WATCH sponsored an educational program on juvenile prostitution in the Hennepin County criminal justice system. WATCH research intern Susan Robertson (a senior at Macalester College) compiled this chronology of Johnnie Bloodsaw, a career pimp. This chronology confirms what current research has demonstrated: prostitution is an exploitation of women and children and it is a clear form of violence. ♦

<sup>1</sup> Most of the data we have on Johnnie Bloodsaw comes from Hennepin County; we also have limited information from Anoka and Ramsey counties, but do not have information from any other jurisdictions.

<sup>2</sup> SIP stands for "subject in process."



*continued from page 6*

**9/29/79 Minneapolis Police Report:** Victims JAY and EAC summoned a police squad car to assist them near a bus stop in downtown Minneapolis. They stated that Bloodsaw had attempted to talk to them and started to yell at them when they ignored him, calling them fucking whores, stuck-up bitches, and fucking sluts. He told one of the victims he was "going to kick those brown ass glasses off her face." JAY told police that a month and a half earlier, a similar incident had occurred at the Radisson. Bloodsaw had attempted to talk to her, then yelled obscenities at her and choked her. The victims asked police what they could do to prevent such events in the future. Police advised them that they could place Bloodsaw under citizen's arrest for disorderly conduct, which they did. The officer then transported Bloodsaw to the Hennepin County jail. No further action is noted for this case.

## **Case One: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony) (Hennepin County)**

**3/30/80 Minneapolis Police Report:** Police officers found Bloodsaw in bed with 14-year-old HMW after entering his apartment to look for two runaway juveniles, sisters HMW and VAW. Officers also found VAW in bed with another man. HMW stated that she had told Bloodsaw she was 15 years old. Bloodsaw was arrested and charged with 3<sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct for having sexual intercourse with HMW, a minor at least 24 months younger than he.

**4/30/80 First Appearance:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Susanne Sedgwick and was conditionally released without bail. The conditions of release were not noted on SIP.

**5/28/80 Probable Cause Pretrial Hearing:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Chester Durda, who found probable cause. Bloodsaw pled not guilty, and a date was set for a jury trial.

**5/29/80 Minneapolis Police Report:** Bloodsaw was placed under arrest by security personnel in the IDS building in downtown Minneapolis after they observed him "harassing white females walking through" the building and adjoining skyways. Security personnel stated that they had warned Bloodsaw he would be arrested for trespassing if he entered the building again, and that they had previously arrested him on four other occasions, including once for aggravated assault. No further action is noted for this case.

**7/1/80 Outcome:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Patrick Fitzgerald for trial. On the first day of the trial, the prosecutor dismissed the charge because the victim and her sister said that HMW had told Bloodsaw she was 16 years old.<sup>3</sup>

**8/20/83 Minneapolis Police Report:** A male victim told police that Bloodsaw pointed a gun at him and said he was going to kill him. Bloodsaw was arrested for aggravated assault after a short chase on foot. He was released on 8/24/83 pending a complaint. No further action is noted for this case.

**2/28/86 Minneapolis Police Report:** Victim MB called the police because her ex-boyfriend, Bloodsaw, was causing a disturbance outside her house. MB and her sister reported that Bloodsaw had assaulted MB in the past. MB stated that at least one of those assaults involved a knife, which police found in Bloodsaw's car. Bloodsaw was arrested on an outstanding traffic warrant, but no further action is noted for the incidents involving MB.

**3/21/86 Minneapolis Police Report:** Police received information that Bloodsaw was prostituting juveniles out of the Imperial 400 Motel. Bloodsaw was arrested and charged with operating a disorderly house in his hotel room with two juveniles and one adult female. He

<sup>3</sup> The subdivision of the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct statute that applies in this case requires that the defendant knew or could reasonably have been expected to know that the victim was under 16.

was later released pending a complaint. No further action is noted for this case.

## **Case Two: 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony) (two counts) (Hennepin County)**

**9/6/86 Minneapolis Police Report:** Police officers stopped Ronnie Lee Nelson, a man they knew from prior experience to be a pimp and who was with two very young girls, for questioning. One of the girls, later identified as being 15, stated that on 9/2/86 she met a man named Johnnie and went to a condemned building with him, where he attempted to touch her between her legs. She told him to stop, but he pulled her into another room, put her in a headlock, threatening to break her neck if she moved. He then forced her to have oral and vaginal intercourse. The victim stated that she cried and did as she was told for fear of harm. When shown a photo lineup, she picked out Bloodsaw as the person who sexually assaulted her. Police investigating the case also learned that earlier in the year another 15-year-old girl reported being sexually assaulted by a "Johnnie" matching the physical description of Bloodsaw.

## **Case Three: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony) (Hennepin County)**

**9/11/86 Minneapolis Police Report:** Police officers interviewed the 13-year-old girl, who stated that she often stayed with Bloodsaw from June through early September. She said that at first she had sexual intercourse with him voluntarily, but that later he began to force sex upon her. Officers also learned that on several occasions she worked as a prostitute for him.

**9/15/86 First Appearance for Case Two and Case Three:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Robert Bowen and bail was set at \$5,000 for both cases.

**9/29/86 Probable Cause Pretrial Hearing for Case One and Case Two:** Judge Bowen found probable cause for both cases. Bloodsaw pled not guilty in

*continued on page 4*



*continued from page 7*

both cases, and a time extension was granted.

*10/29/86 Appearance for Case Three:* Judge Roberta Levy conditionally released Bloodsaw and granted an extension on the next appearance.

*1/30/87 Case Two Outcome:* After a three-day trial before Judge Peter Lindberg, a jury found Bloodsaw not guilty on both counts of 1<sup>st</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct.

*8/18/87 Case Three Outcome:* Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Daniel Hart, pled guilty to a lesser charge of 4<sup>th</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct (felony), and was given a sentence of one year and one day in jail with credit for 52 days, stayed for three years.<sup>4</sup>

*8/22/87 Minneapolis Police Report:* A 13-year-old girl told police officers that a man she knew as Johnnie Blood had raped her. She identified Johnnie Bloodsaw out of a photo lineup as the man who raped her. Bloodsaw was arrested for criminal sexual conduct. No further action is noted for this case.

*11/21/87 Minneapolis Police Report:* Police received information that two men, Bloodsaw and Chico Patterson, might be prostituting young girls from an apartment in south Minneapolis. When officers entered the apartment, they found a young girl hiding in the bathroom. She was identified as a 16-year-old runaway from Rochester, Minnesota. Bloodsaw was arrested on charges of contributing to the neglect or delinquency of a minor. No further action is noted for this case.

*7/16/88 Minneapolis Police Report:* Police received a call from a 20-year-old man who said he had just received a call from his 14-year-old girlfriend stating that she had been raped by Bloodsaw

and was being held against her will. While the police were talking with the man, Bloodsaw pulled up in his car with the victim. After a brief chase, Bloodsaw was apprehended, and arrested on charges of criminal sexual conduct. No further action is noted for this case.

## **Case Four: Promoting Prostitution of a Person less than 18 Years of Age (Felony), Receiving Profit Derived From Prostitution of a Person Less Than 18 Years of Age (Felony) (Anoka County)**

*9/6/88 Anoka County Sheriff's Department Report:* Columbia Heights Police responded to a report of a juvenile runaway at the Starlite Motel. A 15-year-old girl, TMH, told police that she and a 17-year-old girl, MHS, were both runaways and that a man named Johnnie Bloodsaw had been prostituting them. TMH said that she met Bloodsaw and another man, Freddie Lopez, on 8/20/88 in Minneapolis and began "working for them." She told them she was 16 years old. Since then, she had been transported to motels and apartments in Minneapolis and the Columbia Heights area, where she was paid "\$50-\$75 for sexual intercourse with Caucasians and \$15-\$25 for sexual intercourse with non-Caucasians." She stated that Bloodsaw and Lopez arranged the customers and that Lopez and his girlfriend took all the money she earned and Bloodsaw took all the money MHS earned. Out of the money TMH surrendered to Lopez, Lopez reimbursed Bloodsaw for the motel and other expenses. TMH stated that she had sex in exchange for money with approximately 30 men while staying at the Starlite Motel. TMH further stated that Lopez and Bloodsaw had threatened her and MHS.

MHS reported that she met Bloodsaw on 8/18/88 after running away from home and that he forced her to have sex with him on several occasions. She stated that he had physically assaulted her to force her to have sex, threatened her with a knife, threatened to electrocute her, and threatened to keep her in the trunk of his car.

Bloodsaw was arrested with MHS in Minneapolis. In a post-Miranda statement given to police, Bloodsaw said that he was at the Starlite Motel to visit a friend and pay the rent on the room. He denied any knowledge of TMH being at the hotel, but admitted that he knew MHS, although he said he had never had sex with nor prostituted her.

## **Case Five: Promotion of Prostitution (Felony), 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony) (5 counts), 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony), 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony), Prostitution (Felony) (Hennepin County)**

*10/27/88 Minneapolis Police Report:* An investigation by police indicated that between March and August 1988, Johnnie Bloodsaw had sexual contact with four juvenile females and had promoted some in prostitution. One girl stated that she met Bloodsaw in March 1988, and told him that she was 13 years old. Later that month, she saw Bloodsaw again and told him that she needed money. He said that she could get money if she prostituted for him and that she would only have to do it one time. She agreed, and Bloodsaw took her to a residence in south Minneapolis where she had sex with a man for \$30, which Bloodsaw then took. That same evening, he took her to a motel in Minneapolis where he had sexual intercourse with her several times. The juvenile also told police that after she ran away from home in June, she called Bloodsaw, and he took her to the same motel where she stayed for two weeks. During this time, Bloodsaw arranged sexual encounters with men for money. Bloodsaw then moved her to another motel for two and a half weeks, where these activities continued. She turned over all of the money she earned to Bloodsaw.

A second girl stated that on 7/15/88 she was with three other girls when she met Bloodsaw. He put something in her mouth that he later said was LSD and

<sup>4</sup> When a jail sentence is stayed, it means the defendant does not have to serve the specified time unless he violates the conditions of probation. If the defendant does violate his probation, he may then be required to serve some or all of the original sentence.

*continued on page 9*



*continued from page 8*

gave her alcoholic beverages. The three girls then went with Bloodsaw to his apartment, where he told the juvenile girl that he wanted to have sex with her. She tried to leave the room, but he blocked her exit and sexually assaulted her.

The third girl stated that she was another of the girls Bloodsaw brought to his apartment on 7/15/88. Bloodsaw gave her alcoholic beverages, and the girl became intoxicated and stayed overnight in his apartment. The next day, he told her that he wanted to have sex with her. She refused, and Bloodsaw told her that if she did not have sex with him, something bad would happen to her. He then forcibly removed her pants and tried unsuccessfully to penetrate her. The girl telephoned a friend for help.

A fourth girl<sup>5</sup> stated that on 8/18/88 she had run away from home. She met Bloodsaw, and he took her to a movie and told her that a girl who used to work for him as a prostitute now had a penthouse and was very rich. He asked her if she wanted nice things as well and told her he would arrange everything and that she could earn money and only work when she wanted to work. Later that evening, he took her to his apartment and told her that he wanted to have sex with her. She refused, but Bloodsaw pushed her down, pulled off her pants, and raped her. Afterwards, he took her to three separate residences where she had sex with men for money. That evening, he took her back to his apartment, and she told him that she wanted to leave. He yelled at her, grabbed her arm, and told her that she wasn't going anywhere. The next day and for a time thereafter she worked as a prostitute for Bloodsaw. On 9/6/88 she was with Bloodsaw when he was arrested on **Case Four**.

**11/4/88 Case Four Outcome:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Lynn Olson for

<sup>5</sup>Although the names of the victims in this case were not provided in this police report, this girl was with Bloodsaw when he was arrested for Case Four. Thus, she is probably TMH.

sentencing. Under a plea agreement, Bloodsaw pled guilty to the first charge and the second was dismissed. Judge Olson sentenced Bloodsaw to 15 months in prison stayed for five years subject to the conditions that he follow all rules of probation, remain law abiding, and have no contact whatsoever with either victim or their families. He was also ordered to serve 120 days in the Anoka County Jail with credit for 60 days and to pay a fine of \$330. The judge acknowledged that Bloodsaw would be returning to Hennepin County to face felony charges (see **Case Five**) and remarked:

Well, Mr. Bloodsaw, you come before this Court as a 27-year-old man who is about the most irresponsible, the most disgusting person I've seen in a long time. You're a pimp. That's what you are. You call yourself what you want. You're a pimp. That's the way you make your living and the worst part of it is that you don't even deal with adult women, you deal with little kids. You're really disgusting. You prey on people that really can't help themselves very much. They're on the run. They need money and you use them.

**11/21/88 First Appearance for Case Five:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Peter Albrecht. Bail was set at \$50,000. The prosecutor dismissed eight of the nine counts, leaving only one count of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct.

**11/21/88 Revocation Hearing for Case Three:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Daniel Hart, who revoked Bloodsaw's probationary sentence for **Case Three**. He was ordered to serve one year and one day in prison with credit for 129 days to run concurrently with his sentence for **Case Four**.

**2/22/89 Case Five Outcome:** Bloodsaw pled guilty to one count of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct (*Felony*) before Judge Franklin Knoll. Judge Knoll sentenced Bloodsaw to 30 months in prison with credit for 187 days. The prosecutor pointed out that Bloodsaw

had been having phone contact with the victims while he was in jail. Judge Knoll said that he would tell the Commissioner of Corrections to monitor the situation closely, but that it was out of his hands.

## **Case Six: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct (Felony), Solicitation, Inducement, and Promotion of Prostitution (Felony), Receiving Profit Derived from Prostitution (Felony) (Hennepin County)**

**11/17/90 Minneapolis Police Report:** In response to a report of a missing girl, Minneapolis police officers met the girl's mother at the Boulevard Motel. They found the girl, who stated that between 11/13 and 11/17, she "turned approximately 15-20 tricks [arranged by Bloodsaw] and made about \$250," all of which Bloodsaw took. She said that she became acquainted with Bloodsaw two years earlier through a friend who was prostituting for him. Bloodsaw contacted her by telephone when he was in jail and arranged for her to meet with adult men to have sex in return for money. Bloodsaw took all the money she earned.

The juvenile first met Bloodsaw in person on 11/13/90 when he picked her up at her home. Earlier, he told the girl by phone that if she "turned a couple of tricks" she would be able to make enough money to pay for rent and she would not have to move to Oregon with her mother. That same day she stated that she had sex with Bloodsaw in his car in a parking lot before he took her to a motel where two men had rented a room. Bloodsaw told her to have sex with the men. He threatened her, "Don't you ever tell, mention my name to anybody, or I'll hurt you like you've never been hurt before."

She stated that she had intercourse with Bloodsaw about five times between 11/14 and 11/16. She said that Bloodsaw knew that she was 15 years old because he told her to tell everybody that she was 17 and that he would get into trouble if she got caught. While she was with him,

*continued on page 10*



## CHRONOLOGY, CONTINUED

*continued from page 9*

he told her to call her mother and say she was with a girlfriend in Wisconsin.

**12/10/90 Criminal Complaint:** A summons was issued for Bloodsaw's arrest and bail was set at \$40,000 with the condition of no contact with the victim or her family.

**12/11/90 First Appearance:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Albrecht and bail was set at \$30,000 with the condition of release being no contact with the victim or the victim's family.

**1/10/91 Probable Cause Pretrial Hearing:** Judge Michael Davis found probable cause, and Bloodsaw pled not guilty and demanded a speedy trial.

**3/13/91 First Jury Trial:** Judge Davis presided over the trial, which was rescheduled after inappropriate jury conduct.

**3/15/91 Second Jury Trial:** The second jury was chosen and then dismissed prior to the start of the trial after being contaminated by an excused juror from the first panel. Judge Davis recused himself from the case.

**3/20/91-3/25/91 Third Jury Trial:** At a trial presided over by Judge Myron Greenberg, the jury found Bloodsaw guilty on all counts.

**5/15/91 Outcome:** Judge Greenberg sentenced Bloodsaw to 95 months in prison with credit for 176 days, no possibility of work release, and to pay a fine of \$380, an upward departure from sentencing guidelines.

**Case Seven: 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault (Felony); 5<sup>th</sup> Degree Possession of a Controlled Substance (Felony) (Hennepin County)**

**2/13/98 Criminal Complaint:** A warrant was issued for Bloodsaw's arrest and bail was set at \$25,000.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> The file for this case at the Hennepin County Government Center was missing, so more information about the nature of the assault and whether it involved juvenile females was unavailable.

**2/16/98 Arrest:** Bloodsaw was arrested and posted bail.

**2/17/98 First Appearance:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Richard Solum. He was found ineligible for a public defender and was granted time to consult with an attorney. He was released under the conditions of no alcohol, marijuana, or controlled substance usage, no contact with the victim, remain law abiding, random urinalysis, and twice-weekly contact with probation.

**3/17/98 Second Appearance:** Judge Dolores Orey appointed a public defender to represent Bloodsaw.

**4/9/98 Probable Cause Pretrial Hearing:** Bloodsaw pled not guilty and demanded a jury trial.

**10/22/98 Outcome:** The complaint was amended to add a charge of 5<sup>th</sup> degree possession of a controlled substance. The prosecutor dismissed the assault charge, and Bloodsaw pled guilty to the drug charge before Judge Richard Scherer. Judge Scherer sentenced him to 17 months in prison stayed for two years with the conditions of no criminal activity, no criminal charges, follow the recommendations of probation, remain law abiding, and no same or similar offenses.

**Case Eight: Sex Offender Failure to Notify Change of Address (Misdemeanor) (Ramsey County)**

**4/7/00 Criminal Complaint; Warrant Filed:** Bail set at \$3,000.

**4/18/00 Arrest:** Bloodsaw was arrested and posted bail.

**6/7/00 Outcome:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Dale Lindman and pled guilty. He was sentenced to two years on probation with no same or similar charges and to serve 100 days in jail with credit for two days and a fine of \$900.

**Case Nine: Solicitation, Inducement, and Promotion of Prostitution (Felony)(two counts) (Hennepin County)**

**6/27/00 Minneapolis Police Report:** As part of the organized crime unit's

## FOR INFORMATION ON JUVENILE PROSTITUTION

### HOFSTEDE REPORT

[www.ag.state.mn.us/resources/hofstede.htm](http://www.ag.state.mn.us/resources/hofstede.htm)

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Breaking Free,** (651) 645-6557

**PRIDE,** Family and Children's Services  
[www.fcsmn.org](http://www.fcsmn.org)

**MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault**  
[www.mncasa.org](http://www.mncasa.org)

prostitution detail, an officer got a room at a Best Western hotel and called a local telephone number shared by two escort services, Bachelor Party Headquarters and Twin Cities Finest Escorts. After several additional telephone calls, a young woman using the name "Eve" arrived at his room, where she agreed to have sex in return for money. The officer then revealed that he was a police officer and placed her under arrest. Eve then made reference to Johnnie Bloodsaw who had "got her into this" and who was waiting in the parking lot in a blue Buick. Bloodsaw was arrested at the scene. Officers searched his vehicle and found numerous cell phones, pagers, miscellaneous paperwork, and a box with out-call information. Officers also found information from Ramsey County District Court indicating that Bloodsaw had a pending felony drug charge in Ramsey County. Eve further stated that Bloodsaw had forced her to engage in prostitution by threatening to harm her if she refused. She said that between December 1999 and March 2000, he had taken her to and from about eight out-call dates and taken all of her earnings. He would force her to smoke crack cocaine prior to these dates, threatening to "beat her ass" if she did not. She also said that approximately four other women were prostituting for him.

**6/29/00 Criminal Complaint:** A complaint was filed and bail was set at \$50,000.

**6/30/00 First Appearance:** Judge Andrew Danielson ordered bail to remain  
*continued on page 11*



continued from page 10

at \$50,000 with the conditions of no contact with Eve, no out-call service activity, and no drugs or alcohol. A public defender was also appointed for Bloodsaw.

**7/19/00 Probable Cause Pretrial Hearing:** Judge John Holahan found probable cause and Bloodsaw pled not guilty and demanded a speedy jury trial. Bail was reduced to \$30,000.

## Case Ten: Violation Predatory Sex Offender (Felony) (Ramsey County)

**8/7/00 Criminal Complaint:** A criminal complaint was filed and a warrant was sent to the sheriff's office for Bloodsaw's arrest on charges of violating the predatory sex offender registration and notification laws.

**8/31/00 Clerical:** The prosecutor for **Case Nine** gave notice of intent to prosecute Bloodsaw as a career offender.

**10/12/00 Clerical:** The prosecutor added a second count of solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution (*Felony*) to **Case Ten**.

**11/21/00 Case Nine Outcome:** A jury found Bloodsaw guilty of one count of solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution and not guilty of the other.

**12/11/00 Sentencing Hearing:** Judge Holahan found cause to sentence Bloodsaw as a "career offender" for **Case Nine**. He ordered him to serve 120 months in prison with credit for 171 days and to pay a \$50 fine and restitution, a significant upward departure in sentencing. When giving his reasons for this decision, Judge Holahan said,

The defendant does have five or more prior felony convictions and that the present offense is a felony that was committed as a pattern of criminal conduct. Specifically, the Court finds that the defendant has prior criminal sexual conduct offenses. That the defendant has a history and a pattern of promoting prostitution; specifically, that the

defendant exploits vulnerable young women by providing them with food, clothing, shelter and then sending them out to work as prostitutes. That, in addition, he provides these young women with telephones, drives them to locations where they will commit their acts of prostitution, and then takes their money.

**12/11/00 Revocation Hearing:** Bloodsaw appeared before Judge Holahan and admitted that the events of **Case Nine** violated the conditions of his probation for **Case Seven**. Judge Holahan revoked his probationary sentence and ordered him to serve 17 months in prison with no work release to run concurrently with his sentence for **Case Nine**.

**2/2/01 First Appearance for Case Ten:** Bloodsaw appeared with a private attorney before Judge Judith Tilsen.

**5/29/01 Plea Hearing:** Bloodsaw pled guilty to the charge for **Case Ten**.

**7/27/01 Case Ten Outcome:** Ramsey District Court Judge Gary Bastian sentenced Bloodsaw to 24 months in prison with credit for 394 days to be served concurrently with the sentence for **Case Nine** and ordered him to pay \$540 in fees from his in-custody work earnings.

Bloodsaw remains in the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections at the Minnesota Correctional Facility at Moose Lake. Barring disciplinary problems, he is scheduled to be released on February 19, 2007. ♦

## THUMBS UP/THUMBS DOWN

Thumbs down to the many members of the media and Kobe Bryant's defense attorney for helping to take a giant step backward in the world of victims' rights. Media outlets publicly named the alleged victim in the sexual assault case against Bryant, contrary to prevailing practice, and Bryant's defense attorney repeatedly named the victim during a preliminary proceeding, contrary to the judge's specific orders. The case is destined to drag on for many months, and we dread that we have many more thumbs to go before all is said and done.

Thumbs up, by way of encouragement, to the U.S. Department of Justice for deciding, reluctantly, to follow federal law and make the federal Office of Violence Against Women (VAWO) a separate unit within the Department of Justice (DOJ). Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act last fall which contained a provision mandating a separate, independent office; however, the Bush Administration announced in February that it would not change the status of the office within the DOJ. Thumbs up to Senators Joe Biden and Patrick Leahy and others for successfully urging Attorney General John Ashcroft to reconsider this decision.

Thumbs up to Hennepin County District Court Chief Judge Kevin Burke, for many good deeds in 2003 and 2004, including responding to Minnesota's new gun law by issuing an order banning firearms from eight Hennepin County buildings with courtrooms, writing a provocative and timely *Star Tribune* op-ed on domestic violence homicides, for continuing to explore ways to improve the handling of domestic violence cases, and for being recognized as an outstanding member of the judiciary by the National Center for State Courts with the 2003 William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence.

And how can we not point a thumb of some kind at the hue and cry surrounding the now infamous Superbowl half-time show "wardrobe malfunction"? Given the prevalence of depicting women in our culture as both sex objects and the objects of violence, we should not be surprised that a little bodice ripping turns up at this "family event." We only wish that the bar were raised when it comes to affronting people's sense of decency so that the daily depictions of mysogyny and violence against women prompt people to object and speak out as much as they have after the momentary glaze at Janet Jackson's exposed breast. ♦



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**The next WATCH volunteer training is in June. Check our website for details.**