

▼ From front

Teachers, employer agree to a facilitator

budgeted from their earlier offer of 7.5 per cent over three years.

School district 57 board vice-chair Bev Christensen says the board supports a negotiated settlement and is happy with the apparent decision by the premier not to intervene.

"We're still hoping we can have a negotiated settlement, even though we're as far apart as we

are. Imposed settlements always leave a bad taste in everyone's mouth," she says.

Reaching a contract through the collective bargaining process for the first time, she adds, would be a milestone and is important to the future of good employer-teacher relations in the province.

With recent concerns over funding for health boards to cover the sec-

ond and third year of the imposed contract for nurses in the province, Ms. Christensen says she is also worried about what a legislated settlement could mean for local school district budgets.

"My concern is the government will impose a settlement and then not send the money with it."

Negotiations are set to resume this week, but

with an added twist. BCTF vice-president Neil Worboys confirms both parties have, after consultation with labour ministry observer Richard Longpre, agreed to a facilitator — respected labour mediator Stephen Kelleher — to help reach an agreement at the bargaining table.

"He will assist us in working at reaching a deal," says Mr. Worboys.

WILSON, KING & COMPANY

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

PRESENTS YOU BE THE JUDGE

WHOSE RIGHTS ARE WE PROTECTING ANYWAY?

by Claire Bernstein

Jonathan kicked open the door of the company kitchen. "My car broke down on the highway," he grumbled. "This day can't get any worse..."

"Hey," Jonathan asked a co worker, "Are you finished with the paper?"

"Stick to the comics. The news is awfully depressing today," the co worker said. "Especially on page two. Another child molestation case. It's enough to make you sick." Jonathan shrugged as he poured himself a coffee. "You can't get so emotional about things that have nothing to do with you."

He glanced at page two.

Suddenly, the coffee cup fell from his hand and shattered on the floor.

His coworker ran back from the hall. "You ok?"

Jonathan was pale as a ghost. "I...I...I know the man who was accused. Gabe. He was my coach...and I think..." Jonathan stared in horror at the newspaper photo.

Without a word, Jonathan grabbed the paper and rushed back to his office.

He fell into his chair. The room was spinning. After a few deep breaths, he phoned his lawyer and made an appointment.

That afternoon, at the lawyer's office, Jonathan was wringing his hands nervously. "Tom, I know this sounds crazy, but as soon as I saw that paper, I knew it was true. That man...he abused me too..."

Jonathan slumped even further into the chair in tears. "The

memories have been rushing back all morning."

The lawyer brought over a box of tissues. "Please, take your time. Tell me everything..."

After the session, Jonathan reported his suspicions to the police.

He then made an appointment to see a therapist.

A few weeks later, Gabe was pacing in his lawyer's office.

"Another so called 'victim'? Out of nowhere?"

The lawyer was calm. "I assume it's because of the newspaper story."

"Aha," Gabe pounced. "Well, that just shows this guy is faking it."

"Well, Gabe, we can't be sure..."

"Talk to his lawyer...get his file. Do something."

The lawyer slowly removed his glasses. "That's confidential information."

Gabe leaned against the desk. "What am I paying you for? Try, will ya?"

In court, Gabe's lawyer insisted. "Your Honour, we need Jonathan's legal file. Just look at the facts: Jonathan first went to his lawyer, then the police, then a therapist, and then started a civil suit. We think there might be something in the file that will help us to show that this unusual order of events is sinister and that Jonathan is making the whole thing up."

Jonathan fought back. "Your Honour the solicitor client privilege is a time-honoured principle. Whatever I discussed with my lawyer is confidential."

Should the file be admitted? You! Be The Judge. Then look below for the decision.



BY CLAIRE BERNSTEIN

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YOU BE THE JUDGE - DECISION

"Gabe can't get the file," held Judge Brendon. "Jonathan's right to the lawyer client privilege has to be weighed against Gabe's right to defend himself. Gabe can't access the confidential file because he didn't prove that it was necessary for his defence. He was merely speculating that it might help."

Today's column is based on a case from Ontario. If you have a similar problem, please consult Wilson, King & Company or a lawyer in your province. We are proud to bring you some of the current legal issues from across the country for discussion and debate. To provide compelling entertainment, we have fictionalized the names, the characters and the scenarios in the case. Any resemblance to real people is purely coincidental. In the interest of clarity and brevity, the legal issues in the case have been greatly reduced and simplified. Claire Bernstein is a lawyer and nationally syndicated columnist Copyright 2001 Haika Enterprises. C29-5

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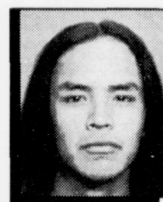
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PRINCE GEORGE CRIME STOPPERS

WANTED PERSONS OF THE WEEK



ANTONE
Trevor Gene

1976-June 02
175 cm or 5' 09"
68 kg or 151 lbs
Long Black Hair
Brown Eyes

Crime Stoppers needs your help in locating the following male who is wanted on Warrants. As of 10:17 pm this 29th day of November 2001, Trevor Gene **ANTONE** (BD: 1976-June-02) is wanted on a Warrant for Sexual Assault and Fail to Appear. **ANTONE** is described as a non-white male, 175 cm or 5' 09" tall and weighs 68 kg or 151 lbs. **ANTONE** has long black hair and Brown Eyes. **ANTONE** should be considered violent.



FAYANT
Percy Andres

1965 October 14
173 cm or 5' 08"
82 kg or 182 lbs
Long Black Hair
Brown Eyes

Crime Stoppers needs your help in locating the following male who is wanted on Warrants. As of 10:17 pm this 29th day of November 2001, **Percy Andres FAYANT** (BD: 1965-October - 14) is wanted on a Warrant for Sexual Assault, Assault, Fail to Appear, Breach of Probation, and Fail to Comply with Probation Order. **FAYANT** is described as a non-white male, 173 cm or 5' 08" tall and weighs 82 kg or 182 lbs. **FAYANT** has Long Black Hair, moustache, and Brown Eyes.

Anyone with information as to where these persons can be located is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 564-Tips (8477)

564-TIPS (8477)

1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

You will remain anonymous you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Remember... We don't need your name - just your information.

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