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Christopher Hall
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Mon, Nov 29, 1993

Dear Christopher

Many thanks for the material on the school which followed our chat. This was my first personal contact with the school for nearly thirty years.

I was surprised that I was upset after the phone call to you, which in itself was delightful, but it stirred up old wounds. And the same effect occurred when I saw the magazines, remembered the uniform and saw the headmaster's gown.

My professional expertise is trauma. This letter is about trauma. Its contents may trouble you. It has taken me a long time to feel ready to disclose to the school the sexual abuse I experienced during my year there.

For a long time, I never told anyone about it. I felt ashamed thinking that I had somehow caused it to happen to me. I now realise David Lawrence was a practised, skilful and predatory paedophile. He knew exactly how to use his relatively immense authority to exploit me physically and emotionally.

He began by giving me private french lessons on his couch in the headmaster's office. I think it was the fourth or fifth time I was there that he put his arm around my back and insinuated his fingers into my fly and pulled my penis out of my pants, stroking it to erection as I remained paralysed with fear and stupidly reciting french grammar. This experience has affected some of my relationships in adult life.

I now believe he had picked me on my first day there, probably

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because I was vulnerable, isolated and exposed. It makes me sick writing this, I feel so outraged by it after all these years.

There were other teachers who used to touch me and other boys in inappropriate ways during class. I think now, after 20 years professional experience with other survivors of sexual abuse, that there must be a number of other old boys who experienced sexual molestation at the school during the sixties.

It is rare to find a paedophile with only one victim. Most paedophiles have hundreds of boys before they are caught, and then it is usually because they molest a girl. Girls have more permission to express their feelings, and boys typically believe that because they had an erection they enjoyed it and therefore were not being abused. The paedophile carefully uses this to his advantage and can stay hidden for years.

I believe this was the situation with David Lawrence. As far as I can tell it was some years into his career at the school before he was exposed. He, and maybe others, had plenty of opportunities among day boys and borders, and they had the power to exploit it, and none of us talked.

I want to talk about it and I want to hear from other survivors among the old boys. This is how you can be of further assistance. Find them, or start the ball rolling so I can find them. I've been very fortunate in working in the field and have had excellent professional help in overcoming the consequences of sexual abuse. I wonder about these others.

I've also written to John Bednall and invite you to share letters.

Yours sincerely

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