

19/02 2001 10:07 FAX 61 2 97999449

TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Cujes, Milton

From: Kate Pearce [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Saturday, 17 February 2001 7:28  
 To: Cujes, Milton

Dear Milton

I have received many emails during the past week re newspaper reports and comments about many interviews you did for the media. I realise that information can be misreported, misinterpreted, exaggerated and twisted to suit circumstances. However some people commented that you had remarked that I had been remiss in providing you with information about incidents in the boarding house when they first came to my attention and that I had waited a month because I was "distracted" by the boys exams and my mothers illness.

I understand that your world has been shattered and that you are, every waking moment, attempting to hold the staff, the students and yourself together and I have the utmost compassion for you in your present situation. However I need now to make very clear to you the sequence of events from 11th August because, firstly you are probably not aware of some facts and secondly because it seems likely that a civil action against the school may occur.

On 11th August Peter Green called me to his office to calm an extremely distressed CLB and his friend [REDACTED]. During the next hour or so CLB told me he had been sexually assaulted "about 50 times" during the year. As I asked him some more detailed questions, he said that many of these times a wooden dildo had been "poked up his bum" and that at other times there had been simulated sexual activity - DFA and DFB had been the perpetrators. I informed Peter Green and he talked to Rob Scott. Rob Scott went to the boarding house to locate the dildo but came back and said that he had not been able to find it. Peter Green asked CLB if he had been "face up or face down" when events had occurred and CLB said that sometime he was "face up". Rob Scott and Peter Green shook their heads in shock and disgust. I stayed with the two boys and had lunch with them. [REDACTED] was asked to get some of the boarders from classrooms and I believe that during lunchtime Rob Scott gave them all a talking to.

If you look at CLB statement written on that day he clearly states at the bottom of the page that a dildo was used on him in the boarding house. Rob Scott obtained from DFB on 11th an "apology" for his behaviour in the boarding house where he comments that he would pretend to have sex with boys to punish them for wrongdoings. There is another "apology" from DFA dated 12th also apologising for his behaviour. From these statements it is clear that these two men knew that events had occurred which were serious and needed further investigation.

On the afternoon of 11th CLB [REDACTED] came to the school at about 2.30 for an interview with Rob and Peter and myself. He was told of the events which had led to CLB being attacked that morning and bootpolish being smeared on his face. [REDACTED] said that CLB had been a different boy throughout 2000 (withdrawn and unhappy) and he had wondered and worried that something might have happened to him. He said that one weekend CLB had come home with carpet burns on his back and he ([REDACTED]) hoped that he had not been sexually "interfered with". Rob and Peter made no comment and I thought, are they really not going to tell this man what CLB has told us this morning? The interview went on and [REDACTED] talked quite a lot about his three [REDACTED] and the family. Peter Green commented that CLB could be quite annoying in the boarding house and at times deserved to be punished. At this point I was very angry and upset as they had not told [REDACTED] the most distressing and important information that CLB had clearly stated that morning so I said "punished, yes, but NOT sexually punished". Peter Green gave me a rather withering look which meant, dont speak, and I dont think that [REDACTED] really understood or perhaps he did not hear me. When I saw CLB

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After school I asked him to tell his [REDACTED] what he had told me. ( I found later that he had not though he said to me that he had). I then went to my office and was so angry I was in tears. Here was a distressed and traumatised boy who had been CONTINUOUSLY assaulted for six months and two senior executives in the school had not even informed his [REDACTED]. I told Paul all this and said that there were obviously terrible things happening in the boarding house and that I thought that absolutely nothing would be done about it by Rob Scott and Peter Green . He suggested that I gather information from CLB and other boarders and when I had sufficient to indicate that it was really serious to provide you with this information.

The 14th August was the following Monday and I spoke briefly to [REDACTED]. You have all the boys statements and they are dated. On 21st August I asked Peter Green if he had followed up and investigated the information CLB had given to us and he said " It was just a bit of initiation stuff" so I knew that he had not nor had any intention of finding out what had been going on.

Whether he informed you or not I dont know. I knew that if I told him what I then knew he would have taken it out of my hands and that if I had just come to you with bits of information that you would have given the task of investigating to Rob Scott or to Peter. I did it on my own so that it would be uncovered and in the best interests of the victims and all the other boys in the boarding house not ignored or minimised.

Knowing that Rob Scott had admonished DFB and DFA and obtained apologies from them I knew too that the assaults would stop. And they did at that point though CLA was still grabbed at times by his genitals. So, to a great extent the boys were safe from sexual assaults while I was interviewing the boys who made statements in August and into early September. I was very careful during their examinations not to distress them and so yes there was some time between interviews.

As regards my mother, she collapsed on 29th August and I flew to Queensland to be with my sister and my mother. Mum was operated on on 30th ( a pacemaker ) and seemed to be a little better by Friday 1st so I flew home because I had not interviewed CLA as I had intended to do on 30th August and I was also dealing with a serious incident regarding [REDACTED] who had run away from home and had threatened suicide if he was found and made to return. I had met with [REDACTED] in a cafe the previous week and was to talk with his parents on Tuesday 5th Sept to negotiate his returning home. Sadly my mother passed away as I was on my flight home from Queensland. Because of all that had to be completed at school, I did not return to Queensland for my mothers cremation during the next week and was back at school on Monday 4th to complete interviews and to see the [REDACTED] family and to complete the boys statements for you. You will note that there was a covering letter for you with these documents indicating that it was not my wish to investigate the boarding house incidents because some facts had already been brought to the attention of two senior personnel. Also in the last week of school I had to organise my mothers memorial service, meet with the minister, plan the music and the readings and organise the music as well as have the service details printed. On the last day of term I wrote my mothers eulogy.

There are other facts which you may not be aware of. [REDACTED] was also bound and sexually assaulted by DFA and DFB . He left the school because of what had happened to him and was happening to others and because he felt powerless to do anything even though he was in charge of the year 10 dorm. He went to [REDACTED] for the remainder of last year to spend time with his [REDACTED]. I spoke with him in November. [REDACTED] was sexually assaulted too but fought back and tried to remain friends with DFA and DFB . [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were sexually assaulted but chose not to press charges. There were some day boys who suffered simulated sexual activity by DFA . This occurred in a classroom before a History lesson. One of these boys has left the school. DFA had a sketch book in which he had drawn pictures of humans and animals having sex. There are day boys who have seen this book. DFA also owned a Balinese statuette of a woman bending over in a sexually provocative position. There was an occasion when

made two junior boarders lean over in the same position behind the statuette while he pushed a deoderant spray can up their bottoms ( they were clothed) until the spray penetrated their skin. This statuette was packed up with DFA belongings by Mrs Johnson when she was asked to get his things together for his aunt to collect. There are many stories and a great deal of detail. This information was given to me during November and was irrelevant to the charges already proceeding at that time. .

I want to make it very clear that at all times my only consideration was the welfare of the students. In my statement to the police I did not comment that I believed Peter Green and Rob Scott had not properly investigated boarding house events . However the schools lawyer is aware that I had expected them to do so knowing they had been informed of sexual assaults by DFB on 11th August and the police also are aware of this. If there is a civil case I will have to provide, if asked, the information I have give to you here.

Please check out with Paull those facts which relate to my discussions with him. I believe that REDACTED might confirm some information as he was involved in taking some boys from class on 11th and was told why they were wanted by Rob Scott.

I realise that all this information might add to your burden. I know that at all times I have acted in the most professional manner and that I have told the truth. While m I realise that the whole series of events has caused much pain to many people there was no alternative path for me to pursue.

Kind regards  
Kate

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