



Millions sought in damages to make things right for John Edison



John Edison

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LEONARDTOWN — In an incident which took place on July 5 2008, two girls, 12 and 15, were allowed by their parents to spend the night with two young boys at the home of the father of one of the boys. Unsupervised, the night went as could be predicted with young teens having some sort of sexual contact and before the next noon passed, allegations of rape against John Edison were made to police.

If everything went as they should have gone, the boy who was accused of rape would have been sent home, perhaps with a scolding from police and if his parents were worth a hoot, likely getting his ass kicked and be grounded for about six months.

But on top of parents who evidently don't care too much for their children to give them the supervision they need to help guide them through their teen years, allegations of severe misconduct against two law officers threaten to cause damage to the taxpayers, perhaps in the millions of dollars as the young boy who should have been let out of jail and was instead kept in jail and now he seeks another day in court.

The attorney for John Edison, Kevin J. McDevitt, of Leonardtown, argues in a case filed in St. Mary's Circuit Court, that detectives William Raddatz, a deputy with the St. Mary's Sheriff's Department and Trooper Leo Nims of the Maryland State Police, willfully and knowingly concealed evidence from a Judge, from court commissioners and others which would have resulted in no charges being placed against Edison for rape or his incarceration for six months

as he awaited trial.

The attorney for Edison argues over and over in the lawsuit seeking millions of dollars in damages, which will have to come from the taxpayers as police officers are defended by the county and state, and the girls who are accused of lying to police likely have no money, that medical evidence from rape kits administered at St. Mary's Hospital showed that the girls were not brutally vaginally or anally raped, as they had told police.

In spite of this medical evidence, the detectives are accused of lying to a Circuit Court Judge in order to persuade the Judge to sign a search warrant on the home of Edison's father where the four youths spent the night, playing something more intense than spin the bottle.

While the lawsuit fails to mention whether anyone else was home at Edison's home or where in the world were the parents of the 12 and 15 year old girls, while they were spending the night with two boys, the alleged inability of the parents in question to have control over their offspring or care what happens to them is of no concern to this new legal entanglement, only the poor taxpayer will have to pick up the bill for the entire affair.

If the cops in question are indeed found to have been lying, in fact the criminal trial ended in a not guilty permit, it might be easy to understand how a recent assignment for Detective Raddatz was coordinating traffic around the Blessing of the Fleet in downtown Colton's Point in September. Surely more such assignments might be coming his way.

The lawsuit said that not only did the cops in question lie to the court, they even lied to the prosecutor, which ought to get them banished from future golf outings at

Breton Bay.

Detective Raddatz is accused in the lawsuit of falsely stating to individuals

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at the Sheriff's Headquarters and to the aunt of Edison that he was a rapist and that he had confessed to rape when in fact the medical evidence showed he had not raped either girl.

The lawsuit also accuses Raddatz of failing to properly read the Miranda rights to Edison and then misrepresented that action to others and in the written records of the investigation.

Edison's attorney charges that the "victims" who are now also defendants along with the cops since Edison was found not guilty, are simply revealed as liars and therefore not worthy of being protected from having their names identified in this story, and that they changed their account of the nights events when they got to the hospital to be examined.

The cops are accused of having knowledge of that information and instead of cutting Edison loose from his charges, and that they then proceeded on a course of action which resulted in him being jailed for six months and treated as an adult defendant.

While John Edison was locked up in jail, he was assaulted, says his lawyer, suffering a scar on his back. He was dragged to court in chains and during this time, missed school, in the event his parents would have provided enough supervision to assure he attended, missed work and suffered other distress.

His accusers, Ryieshia Williams, and Kabriahna Vanise Bonds, were given the customary treatment provided to "victims" when instead they also deserved to be given a spanking and put on restriction.

It is completely understandable for police officers to get fed up with elements of society conducting themselves in such a fashion as those involved in this incident.

But society needs for officers to be able to always tell the truth, testify to the facts of the matter and go on with life.

In the case of John Edison, a jury saw the evidence, which was also available to St. Mary's States Attorney Richard Fritz, who could have done his job very early on and simply dropped the charges which would have released Edison from jail.

While Fritz is always happy to drop charges for those of high station and importance who have the ability to present arguments for leniency or mitigating circumstances, Edison didn't have much in the way of prominent political influence to help him and instead had to rely on officers to tell the truth, for officers of the court to seek the truth and for Judges to have enough brains to listen to protestations from the attorney seeking to obtain the release of Edison on bail pending trial.

Now, due to the alleged fools in the criminal justice system, lying cops, stupid prosecutors and vapid Judges who spend a lot of time at luncheons, the taxpayers may have to shell out millions of dollars to right a wrong which common sense and good judgment might have fixed.

Woe to the poor taxpayers, for they always get screwed.