

IN COURT » INDECENT EXPOSURE?

Trial of man accused of naked yard dancing wraps up in Moncton

MONCTON

The definition of "indecent" was debated in Provincial Court yesterday as the trial of a man accused of dancing naked on his lawn concluded in Moncton.

Peter William Bulman is accused of exposing himself to a woman and her young daughter on Sept. 10, 2006. The woman testified last month that she came out of her apartment building and saw Mr. Bulman with a beer in his hand, his pants around his ankles, dancing in circles on his front lawn.

The woman said Mr. Bulman took no notice of her or her daughter, but he continued to expose his buttocks and genitals for several minutes as he danced in the sun.

Mr. Bulman admitted to being on his front lawn and drinking as many as nine beers that afternoon.

But he denied dancing or dropping his pants.

He claims the woman had a grudge against him and made up the story.

Defence lawyer Bernadette Richard said that even if the judge decides Mr. Bulman exposed himself, there was

nothing indecent about his actions.

"It was a person doing a little dance and maybe his pants fell," she said.

"Whatever it was, it certainly wasn't indecent, according to the law."

Crown prosecutor Stephen Holt disagreed.

"A man goes out on his front lawn, drops his pants to his ankles, exposing his penis and buttocks and swings around on his front lawn to music with a beer in his hands," Mr. Holt said.

He argued that such an action isn't acceptable according to the community's standards, especially when it occurs in a residential area with many families around.

Ms. Richard argued that the Crown didn't prove that Mr. Bulman exposed himself to a person under 14 "for a sexual purpose," noting that even the mother testified that he took no notice of her or her daughter.

"There was nothing degrading or dehumanizing in that act," she said.

Judge Michael McKee adjourned his decision to March 20.

» The Canadian Press

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"She had to make a change so she could tell everyone she's changing."

Dane Strother, Democratic strategist, on the departure of Hillary Clinton's campaign manager. A13

DOUBLE TAKE » I'LL DO IT NEXT WEEK

Can't wait to put things off?

New study says impatience and procrastination are two sides of the same coin

BY PHILIP JACKMAN

We all know that impatient people want to get things done right away. Procrastinators, on the other hand, are happy to put things off until, well, you know, whenever.

In other words, the two personality types are totally different.

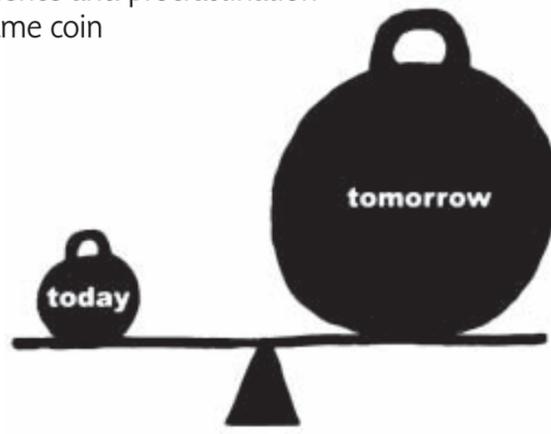
Not so, says research from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University in Illinois. Procrastination and impatience have definite links. They're two faces of the same phenomenon.

Ernesto Reuben, one of the three co-authors of the study, said in a telephone interview from Evanston, Ill., yesterday that in economics there's a notion that impatience and procrastination are linked, "as opposed to psychology, where they would think that these two are separate."

So the study set out to measure whether impatient people could also be procrastinators. Turns out they could.

"In this part of the study, what we wanted to do was to measure these two things in separate ways," said Dr. Reuben, "and see if the same people that we measure as being impatient are the same people that then procrastinate on simple tasks."

To establish the true procrastinators in the more than 500 students who took part in the study, the researchers told the test subjects to fill in an online survey within a certain time period and then measured at what point the students actually completed the task. Not surprisingly, the procrastinators filed at the last moment.



GETTY IMAGES

In the other part of the study, the researchers paid the students for performing various tests but paid them by cheque. They also offered the students a choice. Get paid now and receive, say, \$100, or get paid in two weeks and get slightly more, say, \$112.

The "impatient" brigade wanted the lesser amount right away, as you'd expect. But the strange thing was that these students then often took a while before they'd go to the trouble of cashing the cheque.

"It's actually very surprising," said Dr. Reuben. "They'd rather have \$100 now than \$112 in two weeks and then they'd take a month to cash the cheques."

It also turned out that those impatient to get the cheques were procrastinators in other test areas.

In sum, said the study, highly impatient individuals are overly keen to engage in activities where they get what they want right away and pay the costs later, but they procrastinate when they have to put in the effort up front in order to get benefits down the road.

The study also discovered

that there are procrastinators who realize they put things off and procrastinators who don't realize it.

So how does this relate to the work environment?

Dr. Reuben emphasizes that this is still very new research, but that the bigger problem in the workplace could be the procrastinators who aren't aware that they put things off. This could be addressed by giving them the right tools, such as e-mail programs that emphasize "important" messages "because a procrastinator will easily get distracted and start reading non-important e-mails."

These people would also need to be taught to realize that they are procrastinators so they could make efforts to address the problem.

The study, co-authored by Paola Sapienza of Northwestern University and Luigi Zingales of the University of Chicago, is part of a larger study funded by the Templeton Foundation on the personality traits of MBA students and how these traits affect their progress in the business world.

INSIDE INFORMATION

» BY PHILIP JACKMAN

Your guide to today's Globe

Now, what were we talking about ...?

Among the middle-aged, friends are competing to see who's losing their memory fastest.

It's that time of life, writes Judith Timson. Book shelves are laden with tomes about how our memory works – or doesn't. Baby boomers are madly solving Sudoku puzzles in the hopes of staving off Alzheimer's. But here's the truth: There's little to fear. And all that Sudoku isn't helping as much as you think.

GLOBE LIFE, L1 »

Scheider a leader in 1970s film renaissance

Actor uttered one of cinematic history's most memorable lines.

As the agonized police chief of *Jaws*, he famously said, "You're gonna need a bigger boat." Roy Scheider's rangy figure, gaunt face and emotional openness made him particularly appealing in everyman roles. But *The French Connection* made him a star and he excelled as the central figure in Bob Fosse's *All That Jazz*.

OBITUARIES, R5 »

A bad week on campus

This is not a good time for the University of Toronto's president.

In fact, it's the worst. It's Israel Apartheid Week – the annual Israel-bashing fest with the usual small band of activists and crackpots, and speakers from that champion of universal justice, the Canadian Union of Public Employees, writes Margaret Wente.

COMMENT, A17 »

Sexy and 60 in the City of Lights

You if have to get old, the best place to do it is in Paris.

So says writer Pamela Druckerman. Why? "It's because ... I'd like to keep having sex. In the United States, my odds would be grim." By the time American women are in their 60s, she writes, nearly half have gone sexless in the previous year. Not so in la belle France.

SOCIAL STUDIES, L8 »

The drinks business going to the dogs

Just when you thought they'd thought of everything ...

Along comes Cott Corp. with fortified water for pooches – one of the company's more unusual efforts to break out of its corporate straitjacket as primarily a contract producer of private-label carbonated soft drinks for major supermarket chains. The vitaminized dog water will be marketed under the trade name FortiFido.

REPORT ON BUSINESS, B1 »

CORRECTION

The Conservative government introduced two motions last week they said would be considered votes of confidence. Due to an editing error, incorrect information appeared in yesterday's paper.

TODAY'S COLUMNISTS

Lynn Crosbie Michael Jackson R1
Derek DeCloet Mutual funds B2
John Doyle Strike R3
Eric Duhatschek Hockey R7
John Heinzl Google B12

William Houston Media R9
Gary Mason Olympics A9
Barrie McKenna World B1
Jeffrey Simpson Kandahar A17
Norman Spector Mulroney A17

Judith Timson Memory L1
Margaret Wente Free speech A17

WEATHER » WHAT'S ODD AND WHAT'S NOT



Vancouver 8/4, Rain
Edmonton -6/-16, Variably cloudy
Calgary 2/-7, Variably cloudy
Winnipeg -11/-29, Light snow
Toronto -7/-10, Snow
Ottawa -11/-12, Sunny
Montreal -11/-13, Sunny
Halifax -4/-10, Cloudy

Full Weather Coverage L7

Today's extremes. Nanaimo, B.C., will be the nation's warmest spot today at 9 degrees. The coldest place will be Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, at -40. It will be wettest around Prince Rupert, B.C., with 15 millimetres of rain, and windiest around Twillingate, Nfld., with gusts of 80 kilometres an hour.

» The Weather Network

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TECHNOLOGY

BlackBerry users in withdrawal after massive outage

BY CAROLINE ALPHONSO AND MATT HARTLEY

Millions of BlackBerry users were cut off from their wireless lifelines last night when a massive server outage caused the popular handheld devices to fail across North America.

Research In Motion, the maker of the BlackBerry, issued a brief statement confirming the problem and apologizing to customers. But it was not immediately clear what caused the outage or when service would be restored.

"There is a BlackBerry data service interruption that is causing intermittent service delays for BlackBerry subscribers in North America," RIM said. "Research In Motion is currently working towards a resolution and will provide an update as soon as possible."

Late last night, a recorded message on RIM's customer support centre at 10 p.m. said the service was "not experiencing any outages." However, the company made no formal statement.

Yesterday's outage was unsettling news for the Waterloo, Ont., company, which is facing

mounting pressure from devices running Microsoft Corp.'s Windows Mobile software and Apple Inc.'s widely popular iPhone – currently not available in Canada – in the market for e-mail-equipped business cellphones.

"A lot will depend on how quickly RIM can recover from this," Info-Tech Research Group senior analyst Michelle Warren said earlier yesterday.

After voicing criticisms over a slow response and poor communication during an outage last April, RIM's clients will be watching the company's response to this blackout, Ms. Warren said.

"RIM is going to have to respond quickly, provide updates and solve whatever caused the problem," she said. "Otherwise I imagine we're going to see more IT managers look at Windows Mobile as a platform."

The outage, which hit yesterday afternoon, left business executives, politicians and others addicted to the "CrackBerry" without wireless e-mail access.

David Hurford, spokesman for Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan and an avid BlackBerry user, said it took him about a



BlackBerry e-mail service was down across North America yesterday.

half hour to notice something was wrong. "Usually I'm getting lots of e-mails and we have a busy day. Then I go to my desktop and I'm seeing e-mails on my desktop that I'm not getting on my BlackBerry. Then I clued in," he said.

Mr. Hurford took yesterday's outage in stride. "Sometimes we all need a break from our BlackBerrys," he said.

A couple of days after last April's outage, the company said the crash was prompted by the installation of new software, and the failure of a backup system. It also said that it

was making internal changes to ensure that a massive outage didn't happen again.

Concerns were raised by analysts that it could happen again, but RIM co-chief executive officer Jim Balsillie told Reuters news agency at the time that such outages were "rare."

Although RIM has recently stepped up its efforts to grab a larger share of the consumer cellphone market with such sleek devices as the BlackBerry Pearl, about two-thirds of the company's 12 million global BlackBerry customers still come from the worlds of business and government.

RIM's biggest advantage over its competitors is its system of Network Operating Centres, which provide a direct link between the company and the BlackBerry Enterprise Software that organizations install on their servers to connect and run individual devices.

While NOC failures are rare, when one goes down, thousands of customers are left with lifeless BlackBerrys. Analysts speculated that at least two NOCs failed yesterday, causing the outage.

» With a report from Reuters

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