



COSA NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED  
CASUALTIES OF FALSE SEXUAL ALLEGATIONS

The fellowship of the unashamed  
I have been beat-up, burned-out,  
banished and robbed of my life's savings.  
I have been abandoned, unloved,  
and left to rot in a prison cell of silence.

I have been told when to get-up, go to bed,  
what to eat, when to speak, what to fear,  
and when to worship.  
I have been shunned, shackled, despised, and  
damned with the Mark of Cain.

I have been denied the gift of giving  
and the eternal joy of my now faceless grandchildren.

But most of all, I have been denied the love of my  
family that was destroyed by Repressed Memory  
therapists who no doubt (or so they think) will one  
day sit on the right hand of God.

But we are a part of the fellowship of the unashamed  
and our banner is clear.  
We won't give-up, shut-up, let-up, or throw-up  
until we have exploited those who seek to rekindle  
and justify the murderous works of the  
Salem Witch-Hunt Trials of three centuries ago.

We won't slow down, back away or be still;  
we cannot be bought, compromised, detoured,  
lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

We will not flinch in the face of sacrifice,  
meander in the maze of mediocrity,  
or hesitate in the presence of the enemy.

One day, these so-called self-proclaimed  
memory scientists will destroy no more.

One day, those fathers and grandparents who died in  
their beds and in prison from a broken heart will not lie  
unloved any more.

- Posted on the Internet, written by Ted Hamilton,  
a man released after being wrongly imprisoned  
of false sexual allegations

## No. 7 DECEMBER 2000

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### *COSA South business*

COSA South's new computer system  
COSA South's computer operator has  
our new toy. It is up and going and at  
work right here. Sometimes the  
printer hiccups! Grrrr!

The system has plenty of power and  
storage space, and the ability to store  
data off-line, via a writable CD drive,  
onto recordable CDs (compact disks),  
and we have a scanner.

Getting used to the system, and this  
is not yet completed, is a bit of a learn-  
ing curve.

The operator's productive work so far  
has been to read and select relevant  
items from the Internet group  
"Witchhunt". Some of these are  
summarised later in this issue.

Witchhunt is a news-style and discus-  
sion group whose topics are the prob-  
lems and solutions associated with  
false sexual allegations. To read and  
contribute, people take out a sub-  
scription, which is free.

The computer has also been helpful  
in producing this Newsletter.

The editors hope you enjoy the extra  
content.

## October meeting

COSA South conducted an important piece of business at its last general meeting, in October, when it resolved to investigate changing its name to COSA, in the wake of the dissolution of COSA North.

The change would reflect an intention to accept responsibility, in terms of the purposes of the association, for New Zealand as a whole.

The dissolution of COSA North, in October, an event that had been in the pipeline for some months, was noted.

The meeting also heard some first-hand reports from people who had attended Elizabeth Loftus's Dunedin talk.

Our meeting noted that it was pleasing for Dover Samuels, MP, formerly Minister of Maori Affairs, to acknowledge publicly the trauma of false sexual allegations.

One of our members contributed his story of false allegations against himself, which should never have happened. The tale turned on the erroneous nature of his daughter's stories, with input from social workers and police compounding the problems. She now retracts what she earlier said, but the family stresses cannot be easily overcome.

In answer to a question, the speaker said that after 10 years he fortunately had been able to retrieve the family's situation, financially, through hard work, but only in the terms that they were back to about where they had been when the saga started.

We held this meeting in a different part of the Methodist Church complex on the corner of Harewood Road and Chapel St in Papanui. The location is used because of some members' association with the church, and its convenient location for people, some of whom travel from all corners of Christchurch and its outskirts, to attend.

To everyone, wherever you may be, a Happy Christmas.

## RMT

### [Recovered Memory Therapy]

#### **imaginary memories, and all that: a legacy still with us**

A few months ago, a new member of COSA South told our group the story of his daughter's imaginary memories of abuse in the family. These are current allegations.

The imaginary memories hark back to her childhood, some decades ago, and are quite extensive. They include, for example, allegations of weird group sexual abuse in a public place.

The father and mother and other members of the family have been privately dealing with the effects of their daughter's problems, and its repercussions on them, for some years.

The New Zealand organisation COSA North Inc recently dissolved (in October 2000), saying that Recovered Memory Therapy, RMT, and the epidemic of false allegations, is over. The organisation, which is Auckland-centred, was until late in 2000 a colleague organisation to COSA South Inc. It, and we, were originally under one national organisation, COSA (Inc), but by August 1999 we formed separate incorporated societies.

COSA, in all of its forms, has worked alongside numerous similar initiatives across the world, to see the dangerous practices associated with false sexual allegations, stopped, and to help support the falsely accused and their families.

COSA South's newsletter editors are people in the position of being affected by false sexual allegations. We would like to say here that 'Recovered Memory Therapy' and some false allegations have lessened, but the retreat does not mean the problems are over.

#### **Support Network for Caregivers of Sexually Abused Children**

A group recently wrote to a local paper to explicitly deny use of RMT. The group's coordinator said they had been wrongly reported as

supporting RMT therapy, contrary to their real position (Letter, ChCh Star 15/11/00 p B3, by coordinator Kathryn Johnston).

However, there is a problem revealed in this letter. The writer went on, after denying using RMT, to describe ordinary forgetting and remembering as "amnesia as a means of coping". The latter phrase is really a back-to-front euphemism for Recovered Memories. She goes further into this territory by then citing research on amnesia. The research is of no value if it does not take into account ordinary forgetting and remembering. What she thinks are memories can be imaginations: she has said, reportedly '...unless there has been a conviction, or medical evidence, it is difficult to get safety issues heard' (The Press, 25/11/00 WE4). How, when there is no evidence, can anyone else decide on such allegations? What does she mean by safety issues exactly? As a writer D. Hudson, said: "Just because a person has been accused does not mean he or she is guilty" (Star 24/11/00 p A9).

RMT, and the bedfellows of RMT, we are afraid, are still going on. This is partly because of the extensiveness and type of support that grew with the arena, where the false and the true are sadly mixed. It is also because prominent false cases have been allowed to travel so far.

Christchurch still reverberates with the effects of the 1992-3 Civic creche case, involving the Christchurch Civic Childcare Centre. Justice in the case, and for Peter Ellis, there is not.

The allegations of children in that case have, notably, been called an example of recovered memories: because the children when questioned, although still very young at 4 years and upwards, were asked to remember events a year or more ago. What happened, of course, was that many failed to resist being influenced by what certain people, including some parents, induced them to believe they were "supposed to" say.

There are recent and old cases grinding on. RMT's legacies can be linked with these in one respect or another: people close to the cases can see it, and the ploys used.

Why aren't all these false accusers thinking straight, why aren't they being helped into being disabused of their delusions?

We know when accusations are as serious as sexual accusations are, you do not want to wrongly dismiss them, but some allegations which are insidious false grandiose interpretations based on pinches of reality ought to be seen for what they are.

The man who recently joined COSA South amply demonstrates much still wrong. The couple's contact with the grandchildren is denied. As a next step, the man, who has some effective coping mechanisms, hopes to find the name of his daughter's therapist.

### **DNA analysis in New Zealand**

DNA testing is carried out for police by the Crown Research Institute Environmental Science and Research. ESR expertise in the field is up-to-the-minute by world standards.

In simple terms, using DNA testing in criminal allegations cases involves:

- \* keeping analysed samples from many known people, in a DNA database (of currently 11,000),
- \* taking crime scene samples of persons unknown (human tissue, fluid) and DNA profiling them, taking a sample or samples from any suspect in the case, and DNA profiling them, and
- \* comparing the DNA profile of the unknown person with that of either the suspect, or the database. In either case, the comparison is reported in terms of a statistical result.

The profiles are of samples from: people convicted of 'a relevant offence', suspects who've volunteered, suspects who've been compelled, and volunteers from the public.

The DNA profiles comprise things like visual pictures and data.

The table here names some characteristics of processes used in New Zealand in the last 20 years.

Year/s	Name of process	Size of sample needed	Use with mixed samples
1980s	Multi Locus Profiling (MLP)	Relatively large, up to 2 micrograms	Difficult
1990s, early	Single Locus Profiling (SLP)	Quite small, typically 0.5-1 micrograms	Useful
1992	HLA DQA1	Very small samples of DNA can be analysed - eg, as small as saliva stains on the back of a postage stamp	Useful
1994, and used currently	Short Tandem Repeat (STR) Profiling	Very small, as for HLA process	Useful

If a prosecutor uses a DNA profile in court, it will be because the crime-scene and the accused's samples have matching profiles. The scientist called on to give the evidence will give the evidence in terms of how likely it is that the accused is the source of the sample compared to how likely it is that some other random person is the source of the sample, ie:

The accused is the source of the sample : Some other random person is the source of the sample

The ratio is calculated through statistical means and based on the ESR database of DNA profiles.

According to an ESR scientist from the forensic biology group, currently the samples taken for the routinely-made database must be blood samples, and they are usually collected by a medical practitioner or a registered nurse, and then forwarded to ESR for analysis. Crime-scene samples, according to another scientist, have been such things as semen, saliva stains, and hairs. ESR forensic scientists, or special staff within the police, take these samples.

A member has written to us asking is it usual for a DNA sample 'used by' police, to be 'used in' an independent analysis. The ESR web site <http://www.esr.cri.nz/features/history/index.htm>, seen on 9/11/00, answers one question about what "independent analysis" means. It shows a photograph of two scientists working alongside each other doing their analyses and it describes these as being done 'independently'. Their analyses are 'independent' in one sense but not because they would work from separate samples. This does not entirely answer the reader's query, which could be clarified, but it may go some way to it. Further enquiries are being pursued.

In a well-known Wellington murder case an ESR investigation found that a crime-scene sample could be DNA matched to that of a Christchurch person who, it was proven, could not have been there. The ESR conducted an investigation that could find no reason for the problem, but the explanation is thought to be some procedural matter in ESR. The integrity of ESR's database is however assured in general by a quality assurance program, which routinely repeats 1 in 10 of the databank's samples.

#### Footnote

"New DNA tests ordered by the Crown to help decide a compensation claim by David Dougherty have been completed in Australia" said a report. The results were in the hands of Crown lawyer Stuart Grieve. The man's lawyer, Murray Gibson, did not know what the later tests showed (Press 28/9/00 p 9). *Three months later, the case still had seen no conclusion.*

## ADVOCACY AND NEWS

### Christchurch cases

#### CYFS pays

The Complaints Review Tribunal has recently ordered the Child Youth and Family Service

to pay a teacher \$8000 in relation to false sexual allegations that did not reach court.

The department breached the Privacy Act when the teacher, who had sought \$80,000,

set about gathering information to clear his name. The department also delayed providing him with files and information it held. It admitted these and other breaches.

The Tribunal panel's decision - which had an odd and unnecessary sardonic tone - did say there was a "series of errors" and "later errors ... operated to compound the earlier ones".

The teacher sought \$10,000 on each of the six breaches of the Privacy Act, but the department suggested a total of \$3500 would be appropriate, the Tribunal said. It noted that the High Court had recently reduced its awards in Privacy Act matters at appeals.

In awarding the amount it did - \$7000 for damages and \$1000 for legal costs - the panel said a restraining order on the department, sought by the teacher, was not necessary because it had altered its procedures to reduce the type of problems demonstrated, and there was a written apology with terms agreed by both parties.

The man said in an interview, in the same article as reported the Tribunal's decision, that the damages were much less than had originally been offered by the department as settlement. That settlement would have involved having an agreed statement published, and an apology, he said, and it would have ended all matters before the tribunal. However, because he would not agree to a confidentiality clause later demanded by the department, the agreement went unsigned. The teacher apparently is still considering pursuing certain matters.

The Press 19/9/00 p 22

*COSA South is aware of another case, with an employer and settled in 1998, where the settlement, for a broken employment contract, and for about \$60,000, was agreed subject to a confidentiality clause relating to identification of the parties.*

### **Music teacher discharged**

A little girl heard her friend whisper "He's a feeler". The person referred to was a teacher,

and he had just intervened in a play fight between two girls. The friend's whisper was based on, she said, that he had tickled her. The little girl who heard this was apparently then led, by the friend, into saying that several weeks before and on two occasions, the man, a music teacher, had indecently assaulted her during her music lessons. Those allegations against the music teacher resulted in a case that made it to court.

At the end of the prosecution case, however, Judge Neil Hattaway halted the trial, ruling that it would be unsafe to let it go any further.

He noted that the girl had weeks in which to tell her class teacher, her friends, and her family, of the alleged indecencies, but had said nothing until the friend had suggested he was a "feeler". Even then, she initially denied anything had happened until after the friend said: "He did it to me. I know he did something to you, just tell me".

Judge Hattaway said the friend was slightly older but more worldly wise than the girl, and the friend was said to have been on a mission to 'get' the teacher, and had got other people - 15 - involved in this. None of the 15 had, however, given evidence in court.

There was suggestion, to the girl, which finally resulted in her telling her friend. It was the friend and not the girl who had caused the allegation to be made to the police. The combination made it dangerous to continue, the judge said, and the man was discharged.

The Press 3/11/00 p 8

### **Ex-Kingslea worker takes multiple actions**

The Education Review Office gave Kingslea Centre and its principal a glowing report, although the Board would be unlikely to be able to meet some concerns "without help from the Ministry of Education" (Star 27/10/00 p A2), said a report.

Another report, however, said an ex-Kingslea worker sacked from there because of false sexual allegations (complainants withdrew in the middle of a court case), was taking several courses of action because of various

matters. The man's lawyer, Robbie Davidson, said:

- he had laid a complaint with the Complaints Authority about the police;
- he had asked Minister of Social Welfare Steve Maharey to conduct an inquiry; and
- the Employment Tribunal was expected to hear a personal grievance claim next year.

The future of Kingslea's director, Fran Erikson, also was in doubt, although she had not been dismissed, according to a CYFS spokesperson. (The Press 27/10/00 p A2.)

## **NEGOTIATING**

### **POST-FALSE ALLEGATIONS CULTURE**

In developing a culture, as we are, that gets past the nefarious problem of false allegations while reacting appropriately to real sexual abuse cases, the press, if its reports are anything to go by, is being inundated with information and lobbying about child abuse.

A few examples of headings, all concerning the Child Youth and Family Service (CYFS), which deals with reported cases of child abuse, from Christchurch's The Press and from over the last five months, are:

- Decline in cases of abuse (8/8/00 p 2);
- Social workers 'struggling' to cope; School child abuse policies 'unclear' (9/9/00 p 6),
- Schools 'afraid to report abuse' (to CYFS, for fear of a bad publicity; 14/9/00 p 5),
- 39 abused by approved people (2/10/00 p 10),
- Early CYFS reform unlikely (9/11/00 p 7),
- Computer blow tipped for CYFS (21/11/00),
- Backlog review (22/11/00), and
- More CYFS funds found (to address the problem of 'social workers leaving the department in droves'; 24/11/00).

The first of these items said CYFS had 3111 notifications of suspected child abuse and neglect in the 12 months previous to 30 June,

up from the last year when there were 2842. However, according to the report, these figures corresponded to a smaller number, 1100, of cases (down from 1517 last year), but the ones determined were an even smaller number, 672. They consisted of 151 cases involving emotional abuse, 161 of physical abuse, 288 of neglect, and 72 of sexual abuse.

Some of the other press items demonstrate that sometimes, various things are not quite what they seem. Firstly, the paper sometimes uses quotation marks in headings to identify that fact that what it contains is what someone says, not its own assertion. Secondly, in one case a heading does not align straightforwardly with the text. The article about the 'computer blow' gives us the news that the department has a new \$3.7 million computer system! Well, while new computer systems can be stressful, they are not exactly a 'blow' either!

Another set of headings has the ACC - Accident Compensation Corporation - as the subject of their articles. ACC is the organisation that funds sensitive claims, requiring only that the claimants think they suffered sexual abuse, or so it has seemed.

One of the headings referring to ACC claims, recently, was 'Sex abuse victims cost \$16m'. The article said there were 4400 claims in the year to June 30 2000.

This works out to about \$1300 for each claim, which doesn't pay for much counselling for each claimant, but there is the nagging question, how many of these are real? The problem is, who can answer this question with certainty, any longer, given what we know of the corrupting, and false, claims, in the past?

An article under the heading 'Inmates rewarded for straight thinking' seemed to be a breath of fresh air, because what was described was a cognitive skills programme designed to teach attendees - inmates of Christchurch Prison, Rolleston Prison, and Christchurch Women's Prison - to think and reason. Such a programme seems in distinct contrast to what COSA has at times heard about screwy, dogma-based, prison courses



for inmates in prison for sexual crimes that they didn't commit.

Across the community, agencies or groups that either deal with sexual allegations or have an interest in changing perceptions towards what is abuse, have started to come into the open, like axolotls into the foreign domain of sunlight. In the crazy days of the Christchurch crèche case, false allegations, sexual abuse agencies and those dealing with perceptions of abuse, seemed to be rather closely bound together. They still seem to be lurking together, shrouding their mysterious depths.

What do they mean, today, by "abuse", as opposed, we suppose, to normality? Well - ...

### **5-year old children's behaviour is abuse?**

In October, under the carefully-headed item "Refuge sees 'sexual trend' ", the recently-appointed chief executive of Women's Refuge, Merepeka Raukawa-Tait, highlighted "children as young as five with highly sexual behaviour" (The Press, 18/10/00 p 11).

As frightening as what this asserts seems to be, especially with the word "highly", and as frightening as it is to go out on a limb and question it, I'll say what I think: this assertion seems suspicious.

What, do we imagine, she might mean? What might the children be doing? After all, children are not normally thought of as having sexual drives, and one of the givens of children is that their sexual hormones aren't in operation.

Maybe they touch their private parts - but that doesn't make the behaviour highly sexual, does it? Maybe they act aggressively to other children - that would be a problem. Does it make the children highly sexual if they hit another child - on the body? Or a hit lands on a bottom? Or is it the adults judging the behaviour to be highly sexual, when it isn't? Certainly, if toddlers have such behaviour, perhaps through their own character, or copied from someone, someone should actively manage the behaviour. Is this what she is highlighting? Are Refuge staff reporting these families to appropriate authorities? The proper

places would be places where behaviour management was under the supervision of appropriate people who haven't got sucked in by screwy ideas.

The same article said Refuges had observed "children with violence, alcohol, and drug problems at a younger age". When the article says that Ms Raukawa-Tait reports these trends have been seen in refuges for the past 10 years, we wonder why is it news, if they have, as they ought to have, made it known before, so as to get something done about it?

Alcohol and drug abuse in the young are problems, although the Refuge is not the first to let us know, but the main thing to be said about this is that there is a sense of bathos, when we go from 'highly sexual behaviour in five year olds' in the one breath, to alcohol and drug problems in youth in the next. There is another question arising from the report too, in relation to the term 'alcohol and drug problems at a younger age': it is the question Younger than what? There is a breathless tone to the reported facts, and we should not be left to imagine.

### **An advertisement is pedophilia?**

Also in October, people made complaints to the Advertising Standards Authority about an ad, and they were upheld, according to a press report (The Press 28/10/00 p 6).

The press report stated:

The general overtone of complaints was that the depiction of the relationship between the elderly man and the child was unsavoury and bordered on pedophilia. The board said the impact of the advertisement did create a "significant" level of discomfort.

This advertisement, and the complaints were not from sexual abuse agencies as far as we know, was of an old man amusing a little girl with his antics. The little girl, dressed in a fairy costume, laughed delightedly when he made noises by putting his hand in his armpit, and then bringing his arm down quickly a few times, to make squelching noises. He grinned at her wetly (and he might have lacked some

teeth), he was wearing only a singlet on his top half, and his skin was old - dry and wrinkly and a bit loose.

The ad went on to depict his shoulder and upper arm joint as if it consisted of moving metal parts: at this the subject of the ad, arthritis awareness, became clear.

What seems borderline is for us to be seriously considering that a rapport achieved for the purposes of filming and portraying an ad, clearly fictional, and in which nothing unpleasant happened, with the participants likely devoid of any relationship other than what we all saw, as itself bordering on pedophilia. What next?

Principle two of the "Code for Therapeutic Advertising", which set a "high standard of social responsibility", was apparently not satisfied.

While it was apparent the girl was not harmed, the interrelationship in the depiction could be a threat if transferred to other circumstances, we suppose - circumstances where the man was pedophiliac. The threat is, it exists, because adults can know that while this situation was not pedophilia, in another situation, and almost indistinguishable on the surface, it might be.

It is probably worth asking, what would be an acceptable thing, these days, for an old man such as the one in the ad - whose age meant he has few teeth, and old skin - to do and get a laugh from, to entertain a child, who, if entertained, might laugh? Would anything involving his physicality, pass muster?

### **The party scene is sexual abuse?**

"Growing numbers of Christchurch teenagers are being raped or sexually abused, because they are ill-equipped to cope with the predatory party scene" a newspaper item reported recently, referring to the words of Ali Cooper, of Christchurch group 'Sexual Abuse Survivors Trust', or SAST ('Unwary teens at risk' The Press 10/11/00 p 3).

The group had had a 14% increase in 'rape and sexual-offence' cases in the last year, according to the report.

'In many of the cases the victim was drugged' the report went on, referring to what Ali Cooper, who is the Trust's manager, had said.

The police or Doctors for Sexual Abuse Care (DSAC) automatically call in the Trust in sexual-assault cases the report noted: the Trust administers Safecare, Christchurch's official rape and crisis support service.

DSAC has in the past been badly implicated in false sexual allegations case, as has SAST (the latter in the crèche case for example).

As a start to unpacking this dense nest of hornets, the editors suggest that the juxtaposition of "rape" so easily with "sexual abuse" raises suspicions. This is because the one is a very strong term and contains a very strong allegation against someone, and the second has come to include such things as that someone made perhaps a lewd, or even only a sexist, remark. They would be clearer if separated.

The Trust's new booklet 'Safecare for Teens' contains, according to the report, teenager Tandy's story ("not her real name") of rape. Strangely she uses reported speech about her rape. She is quoted saying "The stuff he gives her keeps her on her feet but her head goes somewhere else. When they get home he does the dirty deed and splits". With two references to 'splitting' in one sentence, perhaps they all should go and see an 'MPD psychologist' (-) ?

Shortland St lacking boundaries is abuse?

Meanwhile, the call to change plot lines in the TV soap Shortland Street, for its unrealistic portrayal of doctor-patient boundaries, has been met with a response. Several characters have been dropped, and we can suppose plots might change.

*Another reality:* Agencies trimmed from 'Local Services' list

Whereas contact telephone numbers for various community groups such as Bulimia treatment programme, Child Helpline, Christchurch Sexual Health Centre, Family Planning Clinic, Parentline, Patient Advocacy Service, Schizophrenia Fellowship, Womens



Centre, and Womens refuges used to be individually listed in The Press's 'Local Services' column, now they are all gone, while the telephone numbers for necessities such as Refuse Stations, are still there.

Not all the above organisations are equal of course. Anyway there is now only one contact for services for women specifically, the 'mainstream' organisation, the YWCA. The response needs for the other categories of enquiry would seem to have been met by listings for the telephone counselling services Lifeline and Youthline (The Press 28/10/00, cf. The Press 21/6/00).

### NEWS OFF THE INTERNET

Your operator, with the new computer system, has been able to read numerous postings from around the world, on the Internet. What follows is a taste of these, showing that we are not, unfortunately, alone in what concerns us, which are false sexual allegations and their damage.

#### AUSTRALIA

Melody Gavigan (now Wahl), called for David John Oates, apparently an "RMT" therapist, to have his hypnotist's licence taken away. The man had a radio show, which at the time I visited it on the Internet, was off air. The writer said Oates had created iatrogenic (=created by treatment) illness in clients, and she identified herself as an FMS retractor.

#### UK

A new report on an old Nottingham case - from a decade or so ago, of an alleged "satanic child abuse" in an extended family - has been canned. The canned report, by writers "psychiatrist Valerie Sinason and Dr Rob Hale of the Portman Institute of London", after rewriting 3 times, is still "not worth publishing". The report appears to be an attempt to overturn an earlier report on the same case, which showed why the allegations were false.

#### US

The innocence project, founded in New York in 1992, says child sex-abuse cases of the mid-1990s are largely discredited, and there should be an Innocence Commission so it doesn't happen again and officials are held accountable.

Wenatchee area residents from prison said police should stop sending alleged child abuse victims to Washington Hospital until the facility shows it can handle examinations.

"Everyday irrationality", a chapter from a new book by a Robyn Dawes, is contained in another posting. It discusses in cooler terms whether there has been a sexual abuse epidemic.

An article said the proponents of RMT are losing ground, but still, an uncritical conference on Satanic Ritual Abuse was held in Connecticut last summer and another problematic one was held in April 2000. As of 1998 Sept, the article said, the False Memory Syndrome Foundation had tracked over 150 malpractice suits mainly from parents. It said that former clients suits are more significant, because of the size of the damages.

Bill and Becky Wallis, according to a report posted from San Diego, whose children alleged satanic abuse, will collect \$750,000 from the city of Escondido: they filed their suit in 1992. A lawsuit remains against the individual police officers after a judge found that the city did not conduct any significant investigation of what were extraordinary allegations before seizing the children.

A posting said that Elizabeth Loftus's piece of research in Italy used "credible American psychologists". A group of normally skeptical Italian college students were convinced, by these psychologists, that they had possibly witnessed demonic possessions during their childhoods. The report describes the experiment as taking "Halloween prankishness to a new level".

Associated Press writer Maryclaire Dale, Philadelphia: Michael Donnelly, 39, New York, will sue his sister for defamation over false

sexual allegations, even though he has not been charged with any crimes.

New York Law Journal: a posting reports a case where a former MPD patient suing her social worker, resulted in a hung jury.

**PSYCHOLOGY TODAY**, November 1, 2000. Article. In this, memory expert Elizabeth Loftus, Ph.D., warns that psychiatrist Marlene Steinberg, M.D., in her new book *Stranger in the Mirror*, is trying to breathe new life into a form of therapy that once destroyed thousands of lives. Dr. Steinberg responds.

Susan Sarnoff 'letter': ACC compensation is the subject - this item makes a case against victim compensation for cases not verified in court.

Other postings have discussed EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation Remedy) likely to be a crank therapy, being used to "treat PTSD". A contributor, Alethea Guthrie, seemed to start retracting her former stories of abuse [after two and a half years it appears that the retracting, if any, did not occur or anyway did not develop into anything much (this note added 1/6/02)].

### **CANADA or CANADA/US**

**Calgary Herald**: A post from **Adriaan JW Mak** contains a published article where a woman says her other personality lied about satanic ritual, and physical, abuse.

**New York Times**: In Regina, Saskatchewan (Canada), lawsuits filed by thousands of former Indian boarding school students claiming sexual, physical and "cultural" abuse, threaten to swamp the financial resources of four mainstream Christian churches: ie, the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian churches and the United Church. By the end of the year, the government forecasts, 16,000 Indians will have entered some form of claim. The head of a group representing 4,000 of the claimants said about 1/3 of them charged sex abuse, and there were no statutes of limitations for such cases.

### **POLAND/SWEDEN**

Lena Hellblom Sjogren: Conference article about sexual abuse rates. "It's a problem to get solid knowledge about the frequency [of sexual abuse] and to discuss the problem because in different countries and in different studies there are different, changed or not good enough definitions of a child (a person under 14, 15, 16, 18 or 19?) and of sexual abuse (rape, touching, sexual suggestion?)".