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IN THE TERRITORIAL COURT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
IN THE MATTER OF:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

- and -

FRED LLOYD DEAN JEROME

Transcript of the Oral Reasons for Sentence delivered
by The Honourable Judge R.M. Bourassa, sitting in
Yellowknife, in the Northwest Territories, on the 19th
day of January, A.D. 1999.

APPEARANCES:

MS. S. AITKEN:	On behalf of the Crown
MS. J. MERCREDI:	On behalf of the Defence

Charges under Section 268(2) C.C., 266 C.C., 145(3) C.C.

1 THE COURT: Most right-thinking and law-abiding
2 people sit around for supper at night and probably tune
3 in to the radio at six o'clock to listen to CBC
4 National. We hear of these beasts, these madmen, in
5 Toronto, Vancouver, places all around the world, men
6 that go wild, kill their wives, kill two or three kids,
7 kill themselves, blow themselves up, shoot their wives,
8 shoot themselves. It's only an item on the news,
9 albeit real. But there's a big cushion between what
10 you hear on the news on the radio and what you
11 experience in day-to-day life.

12 Here is one of those beasts, one of those madmen.
13 He whips himself into a frenzy all day long over his
14 girlfriend even though he's broken up with her,
15 obsessed with feelings of ownership. "You can't see
16 anyone else or I'll fix you", he says. He whips
17 himself into a frenzy and threatens to stab her.

18 Every day we hear threats of "I'll kill you" given
19 to the police, to women, and often to counsellors.
20 Sometimes the Court is urged to dismiss them just as
21 hot air. In this case, the accused threatens to "shank
22 her" - his words - and indeed does precisely that.
23 This is outrageous. One can almost hear the crowd
24 saying, "Throw away the key" for doing this to a
25 woman.

26 The accused has a long criminal record: six prior
27 convictions for assault, many of the prior convictions

1 for assault on a spouse. He was raised in a
2 dysfunctional family where there was alcohol abuse and
3 violence, and now he has recreated and is recreating
4 the same environment that he was raised in in his adult
5 life.

6 Thank goodness the victim has the wherewithal and
7 the bravery to break out of this relationship. I agree
8 with the Crown - whatever this Court does, it has to
9 protect this woman from this man, however things shake
10 out.

11 It is trite for me to say, again I agree with the
12 Crown, he could have killed her. It is a miracle he
13 did not kill her. I am sure it was not careful
14 planning. He sunk a screwdriver into her chest. It's
15 unbelievable. I would expect to hear of that on the
16 radio, not in our town. But for the grace of God, he
17 is a killer.

18 The accused says he has issues. Well, I think the
19 law is tired of hearing of his issues. It is time for
20 him to get a life and move on and quit making other
21 people pay for his issues.

22 I agree with the Crown, the imposition of a
23 deterrent sentence, a denunciatory sentence and a
24 sentence that will protect the victim here cries out.
25 This is terrible. This is beastly. I run out of
26 adjectives. I could go on all day.

27 The only mitigating factor is that the accused has

1 pleaded guilty and surrendered himself into custody to
2 the RCMP the next day. While he may have been
3 inescapably caught by way of evidence and witnesses, at
4 least it wasn't dragged out. The victim didn't have to
5 wait a year-and-a-half, two years, for the matter to
6 get all the way through the courts before she could
7 sleep at ease at night. That has to be taken into
8 account.

9 The presentence report is not particularly
10 optimistic with respect to the accused. As I
11 mentioned, he has a long history of dysfunctional
12 living and an inability to personally deal with his
13 problems and to move on. He's stuck in time.
14 Obviously the victim isn't. From what I understand,
15 she's trying to get educated, she's trying to move on
16 and deal with life.

17 Stand up, Mr. Jerome. Do you have anything you
18 want to say before I impose sentence?

19 THE ACCUSED: Yeah.

20 During all this time this was happening, I
21 couldn't think straight. I didn't know if I was coming
22 or going sometimes.

23 Part of the stuff that's said before the -- like
24 some of the witnesses in the bar, Miss Casaway, said
25 that she knew me in '91. That's not true, because I've
26 been in Yellowknife November '92, and she says that she
27 stated in her statement that she knows me. She

1 doesn't.

2 I have been going to school to better my
3 education, to better myself. I was told by an elder to
4 go to a treatment program. I didn't do that 'cause I
5 was in school and I've jeopardized my chances before,
6 dropping out of school.

7 The night I gave myself up, I got up the next day
8 and I realized what I did. And it really hurt, it
9 really did. I tossed and I turned and I wrestled with
10 myself before picking up the phone 'cause I realized
11 what I'd done.

12 I've read all those reports. It's like you said,
13 I'm a beast. That's because they created a beast in
14 that report.

15 I'm Native American, I'm 30 years old.

16 Preliminary report I wasn't really pleased with
17 because it didn't -- it never -- there was a lot of
18 misunderstanding in the reports that really didn't
19 write down what I really said.

20 And I pled guilty right away, yes, because of
21 remorse. And the agreement was two to three years, and
22 I didn't want to take it to the Supreme Court basically
23 because there's been enough, I put her through enough.

24 There's a lot of underlying issues that I need to
25 work on deep inside. Last week I surrendered my anger
26 and I found out how much anger is there, and memories
27 of what happened to me. Carried that into my adult

1 life.

2 And I don't blame Miss Frise if she hates me. I
3 don't blame anybody that's related to (inaudible).

4 A lot of the stuff that's reported dealing with
5 the charges is basically negative, in what it says that
6 I am. But in day-to-day life, even before this
7 happened, there was a lot of good things I did. I'm
8 sure of that; I'm sure she knows that too.

9 There's abandonment issues in my life, child
10 sexual abuse, it's creating all this anger. Verbal,
11 physical abuse as a child growing up, a mother that was
12 never there, abandonment issues, jealousy, that's where
13 it comes from.

14 I never learnt how to cry really, never learnt how
15 to grieve, never learned how to function properly as an
16 individual growing up in life because I wasn't taught
17 that. The environment I was brought up in was not
18 healthy.

19 I tried to maintain a healthy life. Even before
20 these charges were brought up I tried to see a
21 psychologist. A psychologist wanted to put me on
22 medication -- the doctor wanted to put me on medication
23 in order for me to see a psychologist. I wanted to see
24 a psychologist. I wanted to deal with these issues,
25 and I still do very much.

26 What I've done leading up to the point in time
27 where I am now, taking up your time and the taxpayer's

1 money. There's a lot of work I have to do, a lot of
2 inner-child healing, anger management, trauma therapy.
3 I need to take life skills, boost my self-esteem 'cause
4 I have none. I haven't had an easy life.

5 I apologize to the accused, or to the defendant
6 for all this hell that I've caused.

7 And the reason for the publication ban again is a
8 misunderstanding again because I don't want to hurt
9 anyone. I don't want the girls to go through it and I
10 don't want the family to go through it again. And I
11 apologize, I'm sorry, to the defendant.

12 And that's all I have to say.

13 THE COURT: On the charge of assault, six months
14 in jail. On the charge of breach of your undertaking,
15 three months concurrent. On the charge of aggravated
16 assault, five years federal penitentiary.

17 I am going to make an order pursuant to Section
18 486 of the Criminal Code that you are not to be
19 considered for early release until you've served
20 one-half of your sentence.

21 I'm going to make a recommendation on the warrant
22 that there be no contact directly or indirectly with
23 Valerie Frise.

24 You'll be subject to a probation order for two
25 years following your release. You're not to be within
26 the geographic limits of the city of Yellowknife.

27 MS. AITKEN: I'm wondering. It was my

1 understanding that you couldn't do a probation order
2 after a five-year sentence. I think you can't be more
3 than three years.

4 THE COURT: You're right. Thank you for bringing
5 that to my attention.

6 Anyway, the warrant will. I'll entertain that
7 wording in the warrant, to have no contact with her
8 directly or indirectly.

9 MS. AITKEN: And that's concurrent as well?

10 THE COURT: Yes.

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Certified pursuant to Practice
Direction #20 dated December 28,
1987.

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Annette Wright
Court Reporter

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