

a friendly reminder

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Please do not drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs this Holiday Season!

**Report Impaired Driving
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Be Responsible. Don't Drink & Drive
A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO Kelowna Capital News
DECEMBER 2014

Driving under the influence... **Will cost you.**
For your own safety and the safety of others,
Don't drink & drive

Celebrate your holiday season safely.
PLEASE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

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news

Backtracking in defence of ex-CBC broadcaster

I invite you to read my last recent column about ex-CBC Radio broadcaster Jian Ghomeshi to give you context for my column this week.

It's an easy find on the Internet, the number one result when you Google "spanking Hergott."

The morning I wrote that column, I had seen footage of the first of Ghomeshi's victims telling her story in a televised interview.

The victim described a brief violent episode that seemed to me to be a minor one in the context of a consensual (up to that point) intimate

Achieving Justice

PAUL HERGOTT



encounter with a fellow who has shared publicly that he participates in "rough sex."

I had felt compelled to come to the defence of a public figure whose reputation and career were crumbling as a result of an unsubstantiated allegation that, if true, I imagined to have been an innocent mistake.

I did my best to tell the

exact same story that the victim had told, but from my imagined perspective of Ghomeshi who, I imagined, took the intimate encounter to

a kinky place that he mistakenly thought would be welcomed by the victim.

I conjured up and put my best soft porn writing talent into describing, a sexually charged lead up to that brief, non-consensual, violent episode.

I characterized the non-consensual aspect of it as Ghomeshi innocently misreading cues given by the victim.

For those of us who have never fantasized about a choking/slapping scene, the "violent episode" I included in my porn excerpt was the "Jian Ghomeshi" in my story, pulling the unsuspecting victim over his lap for a brief spanking.

Within a day or two of writing that column, more victims with more serious allegations surfaced.

The emerging picture since of Ghomeshi is of him being a serial perpetrator rather than an innocent misreader of cues.

With criminal charges now in the works, whatever the true picture might be will hopefully be revealed in due course.

I didn't feel that my column in Ghomeshi's defence was problematic beyond the possibility that my perceptions might eventually be proven wrong.

But my associate Jill planted a seed with me, suggesting that perhaps my column might result in me being perceived as misogynistic, as "blaming the victim."

The fertilizer of MP Peter Goldring's misguided comments (wearing a video camera as protection when inviting someone to your hotel room) helped that seed to grow into a beanstock.

I did not intend to "blame the victim" in the sense of suggesting the she "asked for it" sort of thing.

My intention was to come to the defence of someone who I had assumed must have been

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