Justice: Denied - Issue 42, Winter 2009

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Message From The Publisher

Lonnie LaBonte's story of being convicted of a double murder in Montgomery County, Texas was in *JD* Issue 34, Summer 2006. The Innocence Project of Texas became involved in his case and over the dogged opposition of the prosecution, on January 13, 2009 the Texas Court of Appeals granted DNA testing of the prosecution's key evidence. Swabs from spots on the exterior of LaBonte's truck tested positive for the possible presence of iron, and the prosecution claimed at trial it was the victim's blood. If the spots prove to not be blood, the prosecution will have no physical evidence tying him to the crime, and he can petition for a new trial.

Karlyn Eklof's story of being convicted of a Springfield, Oregon murder was in *JD* Issue 35, Fall 2006. On March 2, 2009 the US Supreme Court declined to review the lower federal court's denial of her writ of habeas corpus. Anthony Bornstein with the Federal Public Defenders Office in Portland, Oregon wrote brilliant briefs on Karlyn's behalf, but he was unable to convince the federal judges that evidence of her innocence concealed from the jury by the prosecution's *Brady* violations wasn't procedurally barred from consideration on its merits. Erma Armstrong, the retired music teacher who discovered the concealed evidence, is now spearheading the effort to prepare a clemency petition for submission to Oregon's governor.

William "Bill" Coleman's 18 month refusal to eat solid food to protest what he claims is the injustice of his conviction for allegedly raping his wife, is unusual for this country. (See article on p. 12) One of the most well known hunger strikes was in 1981 at Northern Ireland's Long Kesh prison that resulted in the starvation death of ten IRA prisoners. *JD's* Bookshop now carries the book *Ten Men Dead*. (See p. 21)

The underhanded tactic of prosecutors concealing exculpatory evidence is rarely exposed to the light of media publicity. Fortunately for Claude McCollum (See p. 19) and Ted Stevens (See *JD* Editorial on p. 5), publicity in their cases contributed to overturning their convictions.

Hans Sherrer, Publisher

Justice:Denied - the magazine for the wrongly convicted www.justicedenied.org - email: hsherrer@justicedenied.org

Justice: Denied's logo represents the snake of evil and injustice climbing up on the scales of justice.



Information About Justice: Denied

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