

# Sex teacher neglected by husband

By CHRISTINE CAULFIELD



THE husband of a teacher who had a sexual relationship with a schoolboy told a court yesterday he was partly to blame.

Plumber Stephen Ellis said wayward wife Karen Louise Ellis, 37, was under strain at home because he was away and neglecting her when she began her illicit affair.

In the Victorian County Court to support the mother of three, Mr Ellis said he travelled interstate for work often and had ignored his wife's needs.

"She sometimes indicated that I did not show enough affection towards her. If I had seen those problems I probably would have stopped going away," he said.

Mr Ellis said he had moved out of their Eltham North home briefly after learning of the affair but had since returned and now wanted to repair the marriage.

Ellis pleaded guilty yesterday to having sex with the teenager while her husband was away on business last year.

The affair began in September, when the pair exchanged kisses in the school gym, and blossomed into a sexual relationship.

The court heard the physical education teacher had unprotected sex with her pupil six times in the Ellis family home between October 10 and November 24.

She sent almost 500 text messages to the boy's mobile phone in three months and received 123 phone messages from him. The affair was revealed when the boy's mother saw the two getting into Ellis' car outside the school.



During her police interview, Ellis acknowledged the relationship was inappropriate and unlawful but said she had not really considered his age at the time.

"I'm not blaming [him] because he was only 15 for God's sake. It was my fault," she told investigators. "Of course it was wrong, it should never have happened."

The boy, who cannot be named, failed Year 10 and severed all contact with his immediate family after the affair ended. He now lives with his grandparents and is studying at TAFE.

Ellis resigned from her teaching position but has kept in contact with the teenager, who is now 16. He appeared at yesterday's hearing to show support for Ellis and told the court he was not scarred by their relationship and did not consider himself a victim.

Defence lawyer Brian Bourke said the pair's relationship was forbidden only in the eyes of the law and asked the court to spare his client jail.

Judge John Smallwood said Ellis had committed a crime against the community, whether or not the boy considered himself a victim. But he admitted the boy's consent was a mitigating factor and might allow Ellis to avoid the "inevitable" prison term. He will hand down his sentence next Wednesday.

'It was wrong' ... teacher Karen Ellis yesterday

It's been celebrated in films such as *The Graduate* but these real-life cases of affairs between adults and youngsters raise serious moral questions - and possible double-standards, writes NORRIE ROSS

**G**AVIN Maxwell Hopper and Karen Louise Ellis are both sexual predators who had carnal relationships with young people in their care.

They both taught physical education and seriously breached the bond of trust that should exist between a teacher and a pupil.

Hopper, 48, seduced a 14-year-old girl for several years in the 1980s and Ellis had a brief affair with a 15-year-old boy last year.

But while Hopper was jailed in August for **3 and 1/2 years** with a minimum term of two years and three months, Ellis, 37, walked **free from court this week**.

Sentencing Ellis to a 22-month suspended jail term, Judge John Smallwood said no comparison could be made with the Hopper case.

"Even a cursory examination of the circumstances relating to Hopper reveal the fallacy of that," Judge Smallwood said.

No two cases are the same in the eyes of the law but the differences between Hopper and Ellis were marked and had little to do with the gender of their victims.

**Ellis was not treated more leniently than Hopper because she had sex with a boy who seemed happy about it.**

According to the evidence in his trial, Judge Graeme Crossley's sentencing remarks and other evidence that has come to light, Hopper was a cunning sexual hunter who sought out young girls to seduce.

Hopper was notorious at Wesley

## Gavin Maxwell Hopper



□ **School** teacher Gavin Hopper was described as a "sexual hunter" who was notorious for his predatory behaviour at Melbourne's Wesley College

□ He had an affair with a 14-year-old girl in the 1980s for which he is now serving a 3 1/2-year jail term

College for his attraction to young girls and his predatory behaviour.

Judge Crossley noted Hopper had no remorse. He played his victim along, enmeshed her in a suffocating relationship from which she felt she could not escape and shattered her emotionally.

Ellis's relationship with the boy was in some senses naive for a woman her age. They went to the movies like an ordinary couple and held hands.

The affair was brief and Ellis and the boy had sex at her North Eltham home in a six-week period. She behaved like a teenager and bombarded him with SMS messages like he was her boyfriend.

**The law also gives generous sentencing discounts for people who are prepared to admit their guilt. Hopper denied all knowledge of the sexual relationship with his victim,**

## Karen Louise Ellis



□ **School** teacher Karen Ellis had an affair with a 15-year-old boy who has stated publicly that he suffered no damage from the encounter

□ **The** court declined to give the Melbourne teacher a jail term in part because she had suffered enough through the shame it brought on her and her husband

tried to paint her as deranged and made her go through a harrowing County Court trial.

**J**UDGE Crossley said Hopper's offending brought about a significant change in his victim's personality and led to years of psychological problems for her.

Hopper commented unfavourably on the young girl's figure and she **developed an eating disorder** as she strove to please her demanding and domineering lover.

Unlike Hopper, **Ellis admitted her offending at the earliest opportunity and pleaded guilty to all the charges against her.**

The mother-of-three admitted the affair was her fault and not the boy's. A sexual relationship between a teacher and a pupil was wrong, she admitted.

Ellis knows that her suspended sentence means that if she offends

again she will go straight to jail and, unlike Hopper, she had some remorse.

Although it was not the most important consideration in her sentence, the fact that her victim did not believe he was a victim was important.

**Hopper is a sleazy, evil man who used his victim like a puppet. Ellis is a foolish woman who romantically attached herself to a boy less than half her age.**

She abused his trust but not in a deeply nasty way like Hopper. She also knew she was wrong and admitted her guilt.

**That's why Hopper went to jail and Ellis walked free.**

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**What do you think of these two cases?**

### *Комментируем статью:*

1. Что произошло? В Августе и Ноябре 2004 года в Австралии было два судебных заседания по очень похожим криминальным делам. Только в одном случае, мужчина, признанный виновным получил 3,5 года тюрьмы, в другом случае, женщина, признанная виновной, ушла из суда свободной, получив условно 3 года.
2. Итак, Гейвин Хоппер (48 лет) – да, да, тот самый... .., самый высокооплачиваемый теннисный тренер в Австралии, который тренировал Марка Филлипоусиса и др. теннисных звезд первой величины, хозяин собственной школы большого тенниса в Австралии! Да, именно он получил 3,5 года тюрьмы.
3. За что? Оказывается, когда ему было 29 лет, он работал простым учителем физкультуры в школе и жил половой жизнью со своей 14-ти летней ученицей почти три года. **Это было 19 лет назад!!!!** Сейчас (в 2004 году), когда этот человек (уже давно имеющий собственную семью) стал очень престижным тренером и богатым человеком, эта (уже 33-х летняя) дама вспомнила то, что оказывается «дядька проводил время между её ног», когда ей было 14 лет. Когда она стала мужика финансово шантажировать, а он отказался её содержать (это почему-то не уточняется в суде), то подала в суд иск на него!!!!
4. Другая сторона медали. Уже в Октябре-Ноябре 2003 года, 37-ми летняя женщина, Карен Эллис, школьная учительница физкультуры, мать троих детей, дождалась того, когда её муж-сантехник уедет в другой город по работе, затащила к себе (при детях) домой своего 15-ти летнего ученика и также пару месяцев «проводила всё своё свободное время у него между ног»! Мама 15-ти летнего паренька их «застукала» и подала на учительницу в суд. Учительницу уволили с работы, суд признал её «виновной условно» и отпустил домой.
5. Посмотрим теперь на то, как судьи прокомментировали свои решения. Хоппер – подлец, так как он «заставлял» 14-ти летнюю девочку сожительствовать с ним (со слов 33-летней дамы). При этом, у неё в период их отношений нарушилась психика, что повлекло за собой «провал памяти на 19 лет» (заявила об этом только через 19 лет) и расстройство питания (испытывала затруднения при приёме пищи). При этом Хоппер не считает себя виновным – какой наглец! За это он (мужик) получил 3,5 лет тюрьмы спустя 19 лет.

Эллис же, чувствует себя виноватой и осознаёт то, что если в течении условного срока (3 года) она опять будет сношаться с малолетним и (до 16 лет), то тогда она пойдет в тюрьму. Более того, её ученик совершенно доволен произошедшим, никого не обвиняет и не против того, чтобы продолжить эксперименты с бывшей учительницей, так как ему уже 16 лет и «уже можно по закону»! Но самое главное то, что муж «муж-сантехник» добровольно признал себя виновным в том, что не уделял должного

внимания своей жене, когда уезжал на заработки в другой город, что повлекло за собой такое поведение его 37-летней жены. Вот именно по этому, раз виновный найден, то Эллис не будет посажена в тюрьму при максимальном сроке за это преступление 15 лет!

(«Мама ученика» на «мужа-сантехника», как виновного во всем этом деле иск в суд пока ещё не подала..... Возможно, «мужу-сантехнику» придется отвечать перед законом! Посмотрим. )

6. В Австралии все в «лёгком изумлении» обсуждали происшедшее ещё примерно месяц, но потом всё постепенно забылось! Робко задаются вопросы: «А что, в Австралии правосудие отдельно для мужчин и отдельно для женщин?»

***А Вы ..., как думаете?***