

Support is growing for Jack Carroll

Perhaps you're wondering where stands the matter of Jack Carroll, the Troy man I have frequently written about who was convicted of child sexual abuse despite what I regard as grave irregularities in the case and sentenced, the second time around, to 10 to 20 years in state prison.

Well, I can tell you that support for him has been growing.

The National Center for Reason and Justice (www.ncrj.org), which helps people who have been wrongly accused of sex abuse, recently adopted his case along with more celebrated cases like that of the Amiraaults of Massachusetts, meaning he will benefit from more publicity, more legal advice, and possibly more money, which is a desperate need.

Locally, Ernie Tetrault, the retired W R G B Channel 6 anchorman, has gotten involved, filming interviews on the subject for public access television in both Troy and Schenectady and assisting with public forums on the subject.

His interview with me will be shown Monday, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m., on Channel 18 in Troy, and Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 5:30 p.m., on Channel 16 in Schenectady.

A round table discussion including Ernie, me, and Jack Carroll's wife, Mary (former fiancée Mary Donohue), with host Alan Chartock, will air on WAMC 90.3 FM, Friday, Dec. 10, at 1 p.m.

Along with Carroll's family, Ernie Tetrault is creating an organization, Justice Now, to address not only Carroll's case but other cases of apparent miscarriage of justice, and this organization has a newsletter and a Web site — www.justicenow4.com — to which I refer you for more information.

On the legal front, Carroll has filed what's called a 440 Motion with Rensselaer County Court, where he was tried and convicted in January 2001, for a reversal of his conviction partly on the grounds that the Appellate Division set a new standard, which should apply to him, when it overturned another sexabuse conviction of another defendant on the grounds of prosecutorial misconduct.

The misconduct attributed to the prosecutor, Rensselaer County District Attorney Patricia DeAngelis, seemed not much different from what was done in Carroll's own trial.

In this effort he is assisted by a court-appointed lawyer, James Gross, who concedes that the motion is a long shot but still has hopes, the regular state appeals process having been exhausted.

Jack himself, meanwhile, was transferred last May from Greene Correctional Facility in Coxsackie to Bare Hill Correctional Facility in Malone, near the Canadian border, so that his family now has to make a sevenhour round trip to

visit him.

The transfer was ordered at least in part as punishment for his declining to participate in a sex-offender therapy program, though he insists that in one instance there was no such program available and in another that he was acting on the advice of his attorney.

Also, of course, he maintains that he is not a sex offender.

I do not have space here to recapitulate the details of his case, but if you would like to learn more, if you would like to contribute to his defense, if you would like to send him a card, if you would like to schedule a speaker, you may log on to the www.justicenow4 Web site or you may contact me directly at the telephone number given below.

The View From Here presents Carl Strock's personal commentary and appears on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. Strock can be reached at 395-3085. The opinions of the newspaper appear in editorials on the Opinion Page every day.