

Opinion

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oral quarrel

Callers agree: Dotson should be free

This week's Oral Quarrel question asked readers: How would you rule in the case of Gary Dotson if you were the governor?

Following are the responses:

Have the governor free Dotson and give her a couple of years for perjury.

He should be released. He has already spent six years in jail.

I think he should be freed at least until he gets a chance to have a retrial or whatever the decision might be. I think he should be free until they make a final decision.

If I were the governor, I would grant Gary Dotson clemency because there is more than reasonable doubt involved in his case.

He should be freed immediately. If I had anything to say about Webb, she would be in jail for life.

Definitely, not guilty.

Did Gary Dotson have any kind of a criminal record. Did he have any convictions of sexual offenses or anything that would indicate he did rape the girl? I can't understand why the judge would question

his innocence if the girl said he is innocent. Unless he had some kind of a shady background, I would like to read about that.

I would free Gary Dotson.

I would release Gary Dotson immediately, compensate him several hundred thousand dollars, tax free, put the judge in jail for convicting Gary on precedent rather than on the merits of his particular case.

I would let Gary Dotson out of prison but arrest the woman who claimed he raped her for contempt of court and for framing him.

I believe he is innocent.

If I were governor, I would set Dotson free.

If I were governor, I would rule that Gary Dotson should be let out of prison. I think it is a travesty of justice that he is still in.

If I were the governor of Illinois, I would

pardon Gary Dotson. After all the woman who changed her testimony had absolutely nothing to gain and everything to lose by it. There has to be a great deal of truth to it.

Considering it was untrue, I think he should be let free.

I would say he was innocent. American law says that a man is innocent until proven guilty and the witness recanted her testimony. That governor has a chance to override the charge and it has been done here in Michigan.

According to what I have read, Dotson should be released from prison and the state of Illinois should reimburse him for the time he has been incarcerated. The judge sounds like a fool to me and should be thrown off the bench. The governor don't seem to have both ears in the water either.

Gary Dotson should be released. The man is innocent. They ought to put the judge in jail for miscarriage of justice.

In my opinion, Gary Dotson should be free. It was the woman's complaint that put him in prison in the first place and her new testimony should exonerate him.

21-month-old battler waits for chance at life

Say I'm weary, say I'm sad,
Say that health and wealth
have missed me,
Say I'm growing old, but add,
Jenny kissed me.

sue is compatible with Brandon's, but that occurs only once in 10,000 or even less, according to medical experts.

WEISS, AN attorney, often is interviewed on television. Now appearances to beg for volunteers to be tissue typed brings the agony of going public about his personal life.

"But he's our son. We don't want to lose Brandon. He's got to have every chance," the father says.

"People are calling, volunteering and sending cards and letters and we're so grateful. Tell them to keep them coming," he told me.

Weiss is cheered, too, that appeals to regular platelet donors at the Red Cross seem to be moving them, causing them to request records which may show tissue compatibility with Brandon.

"Platelet donors are already tissue typed, so if they volunteer, it skips about five steps," Weiss explains.

THE HUNT for a non-related donor is on because family members were found ineligible. Recently, an out-of-state donor was located. The Weisses thought they were home free, until it was discovered she has breast cancer and cannot do the transplant.

Only a few bone marrow transplants between non-related donors have succeeded anywhere up to now. Dr. A. William Shaffer, director of the American Red Cross Southeastern Michigan Center, cautions that the procedure is highly experimental and potential donors must be appraised there are risks.

Appointments for tissue typing are being made at Beaumont and Mott Children's Hospital, Ann Arbor. Potential donors can be anyone over 10 years of age. Only 12-15 studies a day can be done.

IT DOESN'T cost the donor anything because the family is picking up any expense over that covered by insurance. And it only takes a few minutes.

So when you call to volunteer (288-8270 for Beaumont or 1-764-2220 for Mott U-M) during business hours, they'll tell you the first appointment is sometime in July at Beaumont or just two to three weeks hence if you can make it to Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

Put it on your calendar and go. I've already penciled in Wednesday, July 17. You see, Brandon touched me.



Shirlee Rose Iden

POET LEIGH HUNT wrote this short, memorable poem. And a few short days ago, I was reminded of "Jenny Kissed Me" when Brandon Weiss lifted up his chubby arms, smiled, and begged me to pick him up in my arms.

Hugging this little fellow, just 21 months old, whose slim chance for life hinges on a bone marrow transplant, I was touched. Yes, Brandon touched me, both the child and his plight.

A recent Thursday, a call had come into our office, a plea for help for a bone marrow donor, someone whose tissue will prove compatible to Brandon's. Could we do a story?

Two hours later, we were in the Weiss' Southfield home, meeting Brandon, his mother, Gayle, his sister, Layne, 3, and Basha, the Polish woman who cares for the kids and helps Gayle Weiss.

Just beginning to walk, already talking, Brandon is a chubby, curly-haired doll who has been plagued by illness all his life. Doctors recognized aplastic anemia at his birth, and at six months his first hospitalization took place. He has had tests and transfusions ever since, in an effort to keep him alive until a transplant can be arranged.

IN APLASTIC ANEMIA the bone marrow system which manufactures white cells, red cells, and platelets fails. The patient's immune system is damaged, infection cannot be fought, and spontaneous bleeding is a constant danger.

All of this means that Brandon is in jeopardy.

Arthur Weiss, his father, said Brandon is a "walking time bomb" with poor resistance to viruses or other routine ills.

Stories about Brandon started the phones ringing at Beaumont Hospital and Dr. Charles Malin's (pediatric hematologist) office has received hundreds of calls in just days.

Somewhere there's a person whose tis-

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