

# Messenger

8th October 1998

## Man cleared of rape charge

Jason Grant, 27, of Norwood Road, Stretford, was accused of assaulting the 17 year old after stripping her of her 'boob-tube' and black hipsters.

But at Minshull Street Crown Court, Manchester, a jury took three hours to find him not guilty of rape after Grant said she had consented to the liasion.

Relatives and supporters in the public gallery wept and shouted 'yes' as they heard the verdict.

The prosecution had alleged that Grant turned up at the teenager's home last January and they agreed to go for a drive, stopping at his mobile phone shop before going on to his flat.

It was claimed he then attacked her, told the teenager 'I love you and want to marry you' before forcing her to take a bath to destroy the forensic evidence.

The girl herself told the jury she had met Grant through a female friend but their relationship was 'purely platonic'. She denied they had had sex before.

But defence counsel Stuart Denney said the girl regularly saw Grant and had sex with him and was 'entirely co-operative' in having intercourse..

After the verdict was returned Judge Adrian Smith awarded Grant defence costs.

Talk to Talk Communications Ltd., which runs a mobile phone shop in Flixton Road, Urmston, would like to point out their business had no connection with Bravo Telecom, run by Jason Grant.

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