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Despicable Crimes And Punishment



FEATURED GNEWS NEWS

By Alexander Baron



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There is **an old rhyme**:

The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose from off the common
But leaves the greater villain loose
Who steals the common from off the goose.

That was once true and may still be, but not for rogue trader Tom Hayes who on Monday, August 3, 2015 started a 14 year sentence after he was **convicted on all counts** by a jury at Southwark Crown Court in his LIBOR fixing trial. This case was mentioned here *en passant* at **the beginning of June**; the trial started in late May. His defence was basically that everybody else was doing it, so I thought it would be okay if I did too. He claimed he had been made a scapegoat, but imagine this, you are carjacked and beaten up by four men. The police catch one of them while the other three

skip the country. How much sympathy would you expect the judge and jury to have for your assailant if he claimed he was being made a scapegoat?

In any case, Hayes is not likely to remain a scapegoat for long, even in his own mind, because there are eleven other people shortly to face trial for the same or similar offences. Hayes as good as admitted his guilt but sang like a canary to avoid extradition to the United States where he might have faced a sentence in triple figures. Perhaps when this sordid industry has been cleaned up we can have a sane financial system based on Islamic or similar principles.

At the other end of the financial scale but far, far worse, last month, Michael Adegbite advertised a laptop computer for sale on the Gumtree website. When he and a friend went to meet the buyer, they were **attacked by three youths** in what was clearly a planned robbery attempt. Somehow they managed to get the laptop back but perhaps unwisely after being joined by a third man they went looking for the assailants instead of calling the police. When they found them, Michael was stabbed fatally. Three teenagers have now been with his murder. Michael Adegbite was 28 years old, and his assailants have effectively thrown away their own lives as well. And for what?

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