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BEDFORDSHIRE On Sunday BOROUGH EDITION

Sex assault women finally get justice

BY CHRIS GILL chris.gill@bedsonsunday.com

BOGUS cab driver Jaylyn Samuel, who lured young women to his cab and sexually assaulted them, this week started a four-year prison term.

His sentencing at Luton Crown Court will have brought some comfort to his victims, who thought they were stepping into a taxi and a safe journey home.

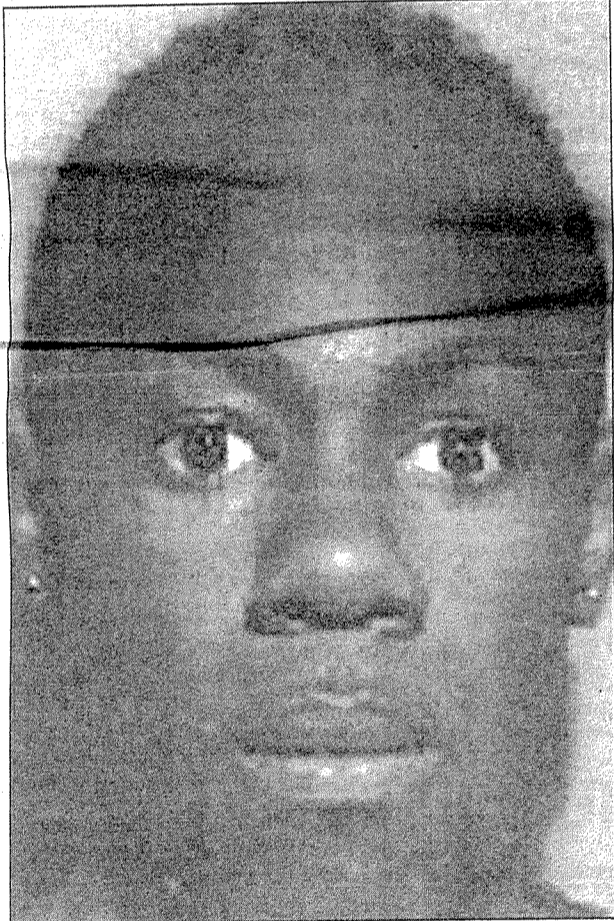
The terrifying attacks happened in Bedford four years ago. At the time Bedfordshire on Sunday broke the story, one of the young women involved, a student, told us of her ordeal, which prompted a second female to launch a similar complaint.

Then 21, she was with a group of people at a nightclub celebrating a friend's birthday.

She left alone at around 2.15am and got into a car outside Mill Street. She told BoS at the time: "I assumed it was a taxi because it was waiting outside the Mission nightclub. I asked the driver to take me to my home address.

"I only realised we were going in the wrong direction when we crossed the Town Bridge. I said 'take me home'.

"He said he had to go somewhere first. By the time we got to the roundabout by Rope Walk he had started trying to touch me. "He kept trying to put his



hand between my legs. I kept trying to push him off and I belted him on the side of the head."

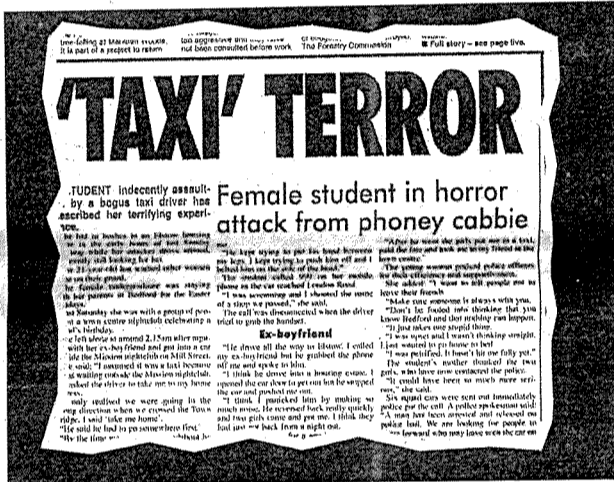
The student called 999 on her mobile phone as the car reached London Road.

"I was screaming and I shouted the name of a shop we passed," she said. The

call was disconnected when the driver tried to grab the handset.

"He drove all the way to Elstow. I called my ex-boyfriend but the driver grabbed the phone off me and spoke to him.

"I think he drove into a housing estate. I opened the



JUSTICE: Jaylyn Samuel has been jailed four years after he carried out attacks we revealed on our front page four years ago.

car door to get out but he stopped the car and pushed me out.

"I think I panicked him by making so much noise. He reversed back really quickly and two girls came and got me. I think they had just got back from a night out.

"We were hiding for a good five minutes while he was driving around. After he went, the girls put me in a taxi, paid the fare and took me to my friend in the town centre."

Samuel carried out two of the attacks on successive Saturdays after parking his black BMW car outside a nightclub, knowing young girls would be coming out having had a lot to drink.

At crown court this week, Judge Michael Kay was told how detectives in Bedford

were quickly able to identify the defendant and arrested him the following day at his home in Ashburnham Court in Bedford.

Prosecutor Laura Blackband told how, on April 3 - a week before - a second woman had been in Bedford drinking and ended up at The Mission.

She said she had got in the back of a BMW thinking it was a taxi. Miss Blackband said this victim told detectives how the defendant had stopped the car close to a children's play area and then 'jumped on top of her' fondling her breasts over the top of her clothes and trying to pull down her jeans. She escaped by kicking him in the stomach.

Miss Blackband said as a continued on page two

Credit crunchers drink the Wells dry

BEDFORD'S flagship beers have inspired local brewer Charles Wells to defy the credit crunch and post a 20 per cent rise in profits.

The own-brewed Bombardier and Corona Extra brands have helped lift the company to a record level of growth - while beer sales across the country are in decline.

"This was a tough year because of a tightening market but these are an encouraging set of results," said Charles Wells chief executive Paul Wells.

"The economy has weakened since the summer so 2009 will be increasingly a challenge but our strategy in pubs and beer brands is paying off.

"We are committed to investing and growing our pub estate but it's hard to find pubs that are worth buying at the moment. The focus in 2009 will be to maintain the high quality of the estate, support our licensee partners and deliver a great pub experience to customers."

Mr Wells added: "Wells and Young's has one of the most enviable ranges of cask, premium bottled ale, speciality lager brands and wines from any brewer.

"Our beer brands are outperforming the market and we have seen a revival of interest in British cask beer. We intend to maintain investment behind our brands with the highest quality marketing to continue their growth."

The company, which operates around 240 public houses among its business, achieved an operating profit of £10.5m on a record-breaking £225.1m turnover.

Mr and Dr Sismey-Durrant - an apology

ON October 12 Bedfordshire on Sunday wrongly reported that death threats had been received by Mark Sismey-Durrant following the demise of Icesave of which he was managing director. It is true that a threat had been received and that it was reported to the police.

It is also true that there was a police watch put on the house as a result. However, we now accept that there had not been any death threats. We apologise to the family for any embarrassment caused.

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