| 1        | BEFORE THE   |
|----------|--|
| 2        | TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION                                   |
| 3        | STATE OF OREGON  |
| 4        |  |
| 5        |  |
| 6        | In the Matter of the )   |
| 7        | Administrative & Teaching Licenses of ) ORDER OF SUSPENSION                  |
| 8        | JAMES SAVARD )   |
| 9        |  |
| 10       |  |
| 11       |  |
| 12       | FINAL ORDER  |
| 13       |  |
| 14       | By resolution dated September 16-17, 1999, the Teacher Standards and         |
| 15       | Practices Commission adopts the attached proposed order to suspend the       |
| 16       | Oregon Administrative and Teaching Licenses of James Savard for one year for |
| 17       | serious and material breach of professional responsibilities.                |
| 18       | DATED THIS /7 <sup>th</sup> day of September, 1999.                          |
| 19<br>20 | DATED THISday of September, 1999.  |
| 21       | TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION                                   |
| 22       | TEACHER STANDARDS AND TRUCTICES COMMISSION                                   |
| 23       |  |
| 24       |  |
| 25       | By Marie Myton   |
| 26       | David V. Myton, Executive Director   |
| 27       |  |
| 28       | NOTICE: YOU ARE ENTITLED TO A JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THIS ORDER.                 |
| 29       | JUDICIAL REVIEW MAY BE OBTAINED BY FILING A PETITION FOR REVIEW              |
| 30       | WITHIN 60 DAYS FROM THE SERVICE OF THIS ORDER. JUDICIAL REVIEW               |
| 31       | IS PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ORS 183.482 TO THE OREGON                   |
| 32       | COURT OF APPEALS.  |
| 33       |  |
| 34       |  |

# BEFORE THE TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

| 2  | OF THE STATE OF OREGON   |
|----|--|
| 3  | In the Matter of the Teaching and Administrative Licenses of  PROPOSED FINDINGS OF FACT,   |
| 4  | JAMES SAVARD CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, OPINION AND ORDER   |
| 5  |  |
| 6  | On May 20, 1998, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (the "Commission")   |
| 7  | issued a Notice of Opportunity to James Savard (Savard) proposing to suspend, revoke or impose   |
| 8  | other discipline under ORS 342.177. Savard requested a hearing and a hearing was held on   |
| 9  | June 22-24, 1999, at the offices of the Oregon State Bar in Lake Oswego. The hearing was before  |
| 10 | panel of three Commissioners: Karen Famous, Chair, Manuel Mateo and Charles Sharps. Savard   |
| 11 | was represented by Walter Cauble attorney and the Commission was represented by Assistant  |
| 12 | Attorney General Elizabeth T. Denecke. The panel was advised by Assistant Attorney General   |
| 13 | Gary M. Cordy. The hearing was conducted as a contested case hearing and was tape-recorded.  |
| 14 | The panel heard testimony from numerous witnesses and received into evidence the   |
| 15 | following exhibits:  |
| 16 | COMMISSION EXHIBITS  |
| 17 | <ol> <li>Paul Throne statement to Kerm Bennett, dated July 19, 1993 – 3 pages.</li> <li>Facsimile from HBO, regarding airtimes of "Where the Buffalo Roam," dated</li> </ol> |
| 18 | December 21, 1998 – 2 pages.   |
| 19 | <ul> <li>Diagram of James Savard's House.</li> <li>Letter from Ed Weiseth attaching memorandum decision of Regional Review</li> </ul>  |
| 20 | Committee – Boy Scouts of America, dated November 11, 1987.  5. Letter from Paul Ernst to Jim Savard revoking Boy Scouts of America  |
| 20 | Registration, dated November 19, 1987.   |
| 21 | 6. Letter from Bernard S. Moore to Barbara McCarthy regarding Jim Savard, dated December 7, 1987.  |
| 22 | 7 No exhibit offered   |
| 23 | 8. Grants Pass School District Performance Goal Planning Form for Jim Savard, dated May 20, 1977 – 2 pages.  |

| 1  | 9.             | Letter of Reprimand from Robert G. Modde, Assistant Superintendent of Grants Pass School District to James Savard regarding violation of GPEA – District |
|----|----------------|--|
| 2  |                | Contract.  |
| 3  | 10.            | Jim Savard Assistant Principal (Grants Pass High School), Performance Review   |
| 3  | 11.            | dated June 30, 1995.<br>Evaluation of Jim Savard, Assistant Principal (Grants Pass High School), dated   |
| 4  |                | June 30, 1995.   |
| 5  | 12.            | Facsimile from Capitol Investigation, Dated June 22, 1999, verifying substitute service of subpoena to wife of Ken LeGros.                               |
| 6  |                | SAVARD EXHIBITS  |
| 7  | . 1.           | Videotape of MDA Telethon on September 6, 1981 in Medford.   |
|    | 2.             | Calendar for the year of 1981.   |
| .8 | 3.             | Memo dated April 23, 1999, from A. W. Holt, MD, regarding Savard's medical condition related to kidney stones.   |
| 9  | 4.             | Cover and two pages from the University of Oregon Bulletin, dated October 1981.  |
|    | 5.             | Notarized statement by Ken Drury, dated November 4, 1987 (8 pages).  |
| 10 | 6.<br>7.       | Written statement of Ken LeGros, undated. Written statement of Mike Orr, dated April 22, 1998.   |
| 11 | 7.             | written statement of white off, dated April 22, 1998.  |
|    |                | RULINGS  |
| 12 | Coun           | sel for Savard made a motion to dismiss the proceedings on or about June 16, 1999.   |
| 13 | Coun           | ser for Savard made a motion to distinss the proceedings on or about June 10, 1999.  |
|    | Pursuant to C  | OAR 584-019-0005 the matter was heard by the Executive Director and  |
| 14 | Commission     | er Karen Famous on June 18 and a written decision denying the motion was issued  |
| 15 |                |  |
| 16 | that date. Co  | bunsel for Savard renewed the motion to dismiss and requested the panel reconsider   |
|    | the prehearin  | g ruling of the Executive Director. Reconsideration is granted.  |
| 17 |                | THE MOTION TO DISMISS  |
| 18 |                | THE MOTION TO DISMISS  |
|    | Savar          | d moved the Commission to dismiss the charges against him on the following   |
| 19 | grounds: (1)   | doctrine of laches; (2) lack of due process and constitutional right to a fair hearing;  |
| 20 | grounds. (1)   | docume of facties, (2) fack of due process and constitutional right to a ran hearing,  |
|    | and (3) failur | re of revocation process to advance Commission objectives.   |
| 21 | The r          | panel has had the opportunity to consider the arguments and counterarguments   |
| 22 | 1 110 p        | and has the opportunity to consider the arguments and counterarguments   |
| 23 | contained in   | the Motion to Dismiss; Reply to Motion to Dismiss; and Answer to Reply to Motion   |
| 23 | to Dismiss an  | nd has determined to deny the motion.  |

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## LACHES

| 2  | The elements of laches are: (1) delay by a plaintiff, (2) with knowledge of relevant facts          |
|----|---|
| 3  | under which the plaintiff could have acted earlier, and (3) substantial prejudice to the defendant. |
| 4  | It is undisputed that in January 1998 Paul Throne (Throne) submitted a complaint to the             |
| 5  | Commission alleging misconduct by Savard approximately 18 years prior. The Commission had           |
| 6  | an investigation undertaken and on May 20, 1998 the Commission charged Savard with                  |
| 7  | misconduct as set out in the Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. The matter was subject to           |
| 8  | ordinary delays in scheduling the hearing, including the taking of depositions, and was also        |
| 9  | delayed at Savard's request.  |
| 10 | Savard does not assert the delay by the Commission in investigating the complaint and               |
| 11 | scheduling the hearing constitutes laches. Rather he asserts the 18-year delay by Throne in         |
| 12 | bringing the complaint to the Commission constitutes laches. The panel is convinced that the        |
| 13 | doctrine of laches is not a legally appropriate defense to the charges. First, the Commission has   |
| 14 | considered imposing a time limitation on complaints but has not adopted such a limitation.          |
| 15 | Second, laches is a doctrine that is intended to deter deleterious actions by a plaintiff or entity |
| 16 | having control over the pursuit of a claim. A delay that results solely from the inaction of a      |
| 17 | complainant is not attributable to the Commission and is therefore not a legal defense. Third,      |
| 18 | perhaps the Commission could exercise its discretion not to proceed on a given case due to the      |
| 19 | delay by a complainant bringing it forward, but this is not a case where such action is warranted.  |
| 20 | The nature of the complaint * * * inappropriate touching of a sexual nature * * * is a very serious |
| 21 | matter that demands inquiry regardless of delay. Therefore, the Commission concludes that the       |
| 22 | first element of the laches doctrine is not present in this case.                                   |
| 23 |   |

| 1  | The second element of laches, knowledge and ability to pursue a claim is likewise not                |
|----|--|
| 2  | met under the facts of this case. Two experts testified regarding their learned opinions on the      |
| 3  | delay by male youth in reporting inappropriate sexual contact. One expert testified that a           |
| 4  | significant delay in reporting is common and is based upon consistent male psychological             |
| 5  | characteristics. The other expert testified there is no generally accepted time line for victims to  |
| 6  | report and that the delay in reporting is not a predictor of the credibility of the complainant. The |
| 7  | panel is convinced by Throne's testimony that the delay in reporting to the Commission was           |
| 8  | reasonable given the concerns Throne had for his parents that still lived and worked in the area     |
| 9  | and his own privacy. Throne's testimony regarding his personal reasons for delay were credible       |
| 10 | and those reasons constitute an adequate explanation of why he did not come forward at an            |
| 11 | earlier time. The second element of laches attempts to evaluate the extent to which a complaint      |
| 12 | could have been reasonably pursued earlier. Here the panel finds Throne was unable to come           |
| 13 | forward to the Commission until he had reached a level of maturity and had personally realized       |
| 14 | the importance of mandatory reporting of sex offenses by those in the counseling profession.         |
| 15 | Given the expert opinions regarding the common delay in male victim reporting and the personal       |
| 16 | reasons expressed by Throne, the panel finds the complaint was brought forward within an             |
| 17 | objectively reasonable timeframe.  |
| 18 | The third element of laches, substantial prejudice to Savard is also not present. In effect          |
| 19 | Savard assets that the delay has resulted in faulty memories, absent witnesses and missing           |
| 20 | documents. During the course of the hearing it was evident that the passage of time operated to      |
| 21 | the detriment of both the Commission and Savard. However, the detriment to Savard was not so         |
| 22 | substantial to constitute prejudice because he was able to present witnesses with first hand         |
| 23 | knowledge regarding the important issues and the relevant circumstances of the time. In              |

| 1  | addition, Savard was able to produce exhibits that were relevant to the charges. Those witnesses   |
|----|--|
| 2  | who were not available were not alleged by Savard to have first hand knowledge of the specific     |
| 3  | matters alleged in the Commission complaint. After hearing all the evidence, the panel is          |
| 4  | convinced that Savard was able to present a defense to the charges that was not so prejudiced by   |
| 5  | the delay as to constitute laches.   |
| 6  | LACK OF DUE PROCESS  |
| 7  | Savard alleges that Commission action on 18-year-old allegations offends the Federal               |
| 8  | Due Process Clause of the U. S. Constitution. Whereas the laches doctrine is dependent on an       |
| 9  | inappropriate delay by a plaintiff and substantial prejudice to the defendant, a due process claim |
| 10 | requires a different analysis.   |
| 11 | Under the common law there was no fixed time frame for bringing civil or criminal                  |
| 12 | charges. See US v Thompson, 98 US 486, 489 (1878). Fixed periods of limitation have come           |
| 13 | through statutes. However the Due Process Clause does have a limited role in protecting against    |
| 14 | oppressive delay. <i>US v. Lovasco</i> , 431 US 783, (1977).                                       |
| 15 | For due process consideration to apply there must be a constitutionally protected interest.        |
| 16 | For example, regular status public employees have a constitutionally recognized property interest  |
| 17 | in continued employment. Similarly, all citizens have liberty interests that must be protected     |
| 18 | through constitutionally adequate criminal proceedings.  |
| 19 | Once licensed, Oregon educators have statutory protections in a continued credential so            |
| 20 | long as qualifying conditions are met. Here Savard has a license and but for these charges he      |
| 21 | would remain qualified for continued licensure. Assuming, without deciding, that such an           |
| 22 | interest is constitutionally significant, the question remains as to whether an 18-year delay      |
| 23 | violates due process consideration.  |

| 1  | When faced with a 24-year delay and a due process challenge in the dismissal of a  |
|----|--|
| 2  | teacher, a reviewing court noted:  |
| 3  | The more substantial question is the as-applied challenge to this proceeding, the contention that the charges against DeMichele were                                     |
| 4  | brought so long after the events in issue that the values of fairness that underlie the Due Process Clause are offended. And while we have found                         |
| 5  | no authority directly on point, the analogous issue of pre-indictment delay in criminal prosecutions is both illuminating and persuasive.                                |
| 6  | In <i>United States v. Lovasco</i> , 431 U.S. 783, 97 S.Ct. 2044, 52 L.Ed, 2 <sup>nd</sup>   |
| 7  | 752, the Supreme Court dealt with the question whether a delay of 18 months between the commission of a crime and the return of an                                       |
| 8  | indictment, in circumstances in which the government developed virtually all of its information within the first month following the events, violated                    |
| 9  | the Due Process Clause. In rejecting the defendant's contention, the Court   |
| 10 | held that "proof of prejudice is generally a necessary but not sufficient element of a due process claim, and that the due process inquiry must                          |
| 11 | consider the reasons for the delay as well as the prejudice to the accused."  Id. At 790, 97 S.Ct 2044. See also United States v. Lane, 561 F2d 1075, 1077 (2d Cr.1977). |
| 12 |  |
| 13 | Cited in: DeMichele Greenburgh, Central School Dist No 7 167 F. 3 <sup>rd</sup> 784, 789-90 (1999)   |
| 14 | The court in the <i>DeMichele</i> case concluded that the <i>Luvasco</i> standard was appropriate to   |
| 15 | an administrative proceeding. The Commission is also persuaded that actual prejudice to Savard   |
| 16 | and an improper delay by the government are necessary components of a due process claim. As  |
| 17 | noted in the laches analysis above, there was no actual prejudice to Savard arising solely on the  |
| 18 | basis of delay. Furthermore Savard does not allege that the Commission engaged in a knowing  |
| 19 | delay. Therefore, Savard's substantive due process claim is denied.  |
| 20 | To the extent Savard raised procedural due process claims, those require no discussion   |
| 21 | because Savard was afforded all rights set out in ORS Ch 183, 342 and OAR 584 Div 019 and 020.   |
| 22 |  |
| 23 | ///  |

#### ALLEGED FAILURE TO ADVANCE COMMISSION OBJECTIVES

- 2 Savard alleges that because he does not intend to teach due to his retirement, it would not
- 3 serve any Commission purpose to impose licensure discipline. The Commission has an interest
- 4 in uniform application of its standards regardless of the individual plans of educators who may
- 5 have violated Commission standards. Moreover, Commission rules require findings of fact even
- 6 when an educator surrenders a license and there are grounds for disciplinary action. OAR 584-
- 7 050-0027. Savard's motion to dismiss on this ground is also denied.

#### 8 FINDINGS OF FACT

- 9 1. Savard was employed at the high school in the Grants Pass School District
- 10 (district) from 1969 through the date of this hearing.
- During his career with the district Savard taught classes, worked on extra
- 12 curricular student projects and activities and engaged in administrative duties. Savard taught
- advanced placement history and student leadership classes during the 1970's and 80's. On some
- occasions he held evening study groups at his home.
- 15 3. For many years Savard was involved in student leadership courses and related
- 16 activities. Some of the planning of student leadership activities along with student social
- 17 functions took place at Savard's home. Participation in courses and leadership activities offered
- 18 by Savard was a virtual necessity in order for students to attain positions of leadership in the
- 19 school.

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- 4. For approximately 25 years Savard was a Boy Scout of America (BSA) adult
- 21 leader and held many scouting activities at his residence. Some of the Scouting participants were
- 22 also students at Grants Pass High School. Other Scouts were students from high schools within
- 23 the geographic area of Southern Oregon and Northern California.

1 5. On or about November 17, 1987, the Crater Lake Council of the BSA upheld the 2 revocation decision of Ed Weiseth, the Scout Executive regarding Savard. The revocation was 3 based on Savard's association with a convicted sex offender and the frequent use of Savard's 4 residence for scout activities when the sex offender was present or had potential interactions with 5 Scouts. 6 6. Savard generally lived alone in his residence in Grants Pass until his marriage in 7 1993. For certain time periods, Savard permitted students to live at his residence. On many 8 occasions Savard was present in his residence with students and scouts when no other adults 9 were present. Some male students and scouts spent the night at Savard's residence without other 10 adults being present, beginning in the early 1970s and lasting at least until the mid 1980s. 7. 11 Savard was a strong advocate for what he described as barrier breaking activities. 12 These were team building activities that require physical touching in order to build trust and 13 closer relationships between participants. According to Savard, boundary breaking was a 14 recognized training method in the 1970's and 80's and was utilized in scouting and with other 15 organizations. Barrier breaking activities often included massage. 16 8. In the 1970's and 80's Savard often massaged students and scouts and sometimes 17 received massages in return. Savard admitted giving and receiving back massages. 9. 18 On some occasions Savard gave male students and scouts full body massages 19 while the male lay prone face down. When Savard gave these massages, the male recipients 20 would sometimes remove their shirts and trousers. Savard sometimes received massages from 21 students and scouts while he was in a similar state of undress. 22 111 23 111

- 1 10. On some occasions Savard administered and received massages described in
- 2 finding of fact 9 in his bedroom on his bed with the door closed with only he and the
- 3 student/scout present.
- Throne, a Crater High School student, was an active scout during the 1970's and
- 5 early 80's. Savard was one of his scout leaders during Throne's approximate ages of 14-18.
- 6 Throne was an Eagle Scout and in The Order of the Arrow, a scout service organization. Throne
- 7 graduated from high school in 1981.
- 8 12. Throne received some assistance from Savard in the period of 1980-81 in advanced
- 9 placement history although Throne was not in the Grants Pass class as a regular student.
- 10 13. Glen Stohr was a student at Crater High School and graduated in 1981. Stohr was
- a close friend of Throne's. In 1981, Stohr and Throne participated in debating and
- 12 extracurricular activities including Convention II, a weeklong mock governmental function held
- in Washington, D.C. during the summer. Savard was an adult leader for Convention II for
- 14 several years including 1981.
- 15 14. In 1981 Savard invited Throne and Stohr over to his house because Throne
- wanted to see a movie on HBO. Throne recalled the movie was called "Where the Buffalo
- 17 Roam." Stohr recalled the movie as a documentary. Savard did not watch the movie with the
- 18 two boys. HBO records indicates the movie was broadcast on September 6, 17, 26 and
- 19 October 5, 1981. Throne believed he watched the movie at Savard's on September 6, 1981,
- 20 although he testified September 17 was also a possibility. Throne did not believe he watched the
- 21 movie on the September 26 or October 5, 1981 dates because classes started at the University of
- Oregon on September 28, 1981 and Throne was enrolled as a freshman.
- 23 ///

1 15. Savard participated in the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon on September 6, 1981 at

2 a television station in Medford. Savard asserts he was not home on the evening of September 6,

3 1981 and remained at the telethon through the next day.

4 16. At some time in 1981 Throne and Stohr watched a movie at Savard's home, and

Savard offered to "cure" Throne's ticklishness and invited him back to his bedroom. Throne and

6 Savard went to the bedroom where Savard asked Throne if he wanted a massage and Throne said

7 yes. Savard told Throne he would give him a full body massage and asked Throne to take off his

8 shirt and pants, which occurred. Savard gave Throne a full body massage while Throne lay

9 prone on the bed. The massage included rubbing of Throne's upper legs, buttocks and lower

10 back. Savard pulled Throne's underwear down to administer the massage. Throne felt like he

could not say no to the massage and although it felt physically pleasurable to Throne, it also felt

12 inappropriate.

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13 17. After Savard massaged Throne, Savard asked Throne to do the same to him.

Throne felt repulsed but did administer a massage to Savard.

18. After the massages, Savard asked Stohr if he wanted the "cure" for ticklishness and

Stohr agreed to a massage in Savard's bedroom. Savard asked Stohr to take off his clothes and

Stohr complied by removing all his clothes including his underwear. Savard then massaged Stohr's

back, legs and buttocks. The massage felt physically good to Stohr, but it was unclear to him what

Savard was thinking, and it made Stohr tense when Savard rubbed him below the waistline.

20 19. Approximately a week after the massage, Stohr asked Throne if he thought

21 Savard was a homosexual. Throne responded abruptly "no" and Stohr determined not to ask

22 Throne any further questions about the massage, and in fact did not do so. For a substantial

23 period of time neither Stohr nor Throne discussed the massages with others.

- 1 20. After the massage described in Findings of Fact 16, but before he began school at
- 2 the University of Oregon, Throne returned to Savard's residence. At this time Savard offered to
- 3 administer another massage to Throne and did so on the bed as before. No other persons were
- 4 present in the room. During this massage Savard asked Throne words to the effect "what do you
- 5 want more of." Savard's massage was more extensive on the second occasion and included
- 6 touching of Throne's buttocks and genital area. Throne felt like he couldn't say no to the
- 7 massage and it made him feel confused and uncomfortable.
- Parents of students and scouts permitted their children to attend activities at
- 9 Savard's residence even when no other adult was present. School officials knew Savard had
- school related activities at his residence and took no steps to restrict Savard.
- In 30 years at Grants Pass High School Savard was not disciplined for misconduct
- 12 with students, through he received a written reprimand on one occasion for misuse of school
- 13 resources.
- Savard administered massages in his residence to many student/scouts other than
- 15 Throne and Stohr including: Ken LeGros, Mike Orr, William Bullington, Bruce Allyn, and
- 16 Martin Jones.
- 17 24. Bullington and Jones received massages in Savard's bedroom while only in their
- 18 underwear. Both were approximately 15-17 years of age when the massages occurred and both
- 19 testified they felt uneasy and uncomfortable with the massages.
- 20 25. Savard testified he had no recollection of giving massages as described in
- 21 Findings of Fact No. 16, 18 and 24. Savard also testified that giving massages in his bedroom to
- 22 male student/scouts while in their underwear, did not seem inappropriate to him, within the
- 23 context of that period of time and based upon the close relationships he had with the

| 1  | students/scouts. The panel concludes Savard gave the massages described in Findings of Fact       |
|----|---|
| 2  | No. 16, 18 and 24.  |
| 3  | 26. Savard denied ever giving a massage to Throne as described in Findings of Fact                |
| 4  | No. 20. The panel concludes Savard gave the massage described in Findings of Fact No. 20.         |
| 5  | 27. Savard denied any massages he gave were for his sexual gratification. He                      |
| 6  | described his feeling while administering or receiving massages as "agape." Webster's             |
| 7  | Dictionary defines agape as "love" or "lovefest."   |
| 8  | 28. Savard agreed that in the 1970s and 1980s, he gave back massages to youth in                  |
| 9  | situations where only he and the male youth were present at his residence.                        |
| 10 | 29. No witness testified that parents gave permission for massages to be administered             |
| 11 | by Savard in his residence to male youth while in a state of partial undress.                     |
| 12 | CONCLUSIONS OF LAW  |
| 13 | Savard's conduct demonstrates a violation of standards required of Oregon educators.              |
| 14 | Specifically Savard violated OAR 584-020-0035(1)(b), (3)(a) and 584-020-0040(f).                  |
| 15 | Savard engaged in gross neglect of duty by his serious and material breach of                     |
| 16 | professional responsibilities. The gross neglect of duty arises from Savard's sexual contact with |
| 17 | Throne and Stohr in 1981 by touching and engaging in physical conduct of a sexual nature. This    |
| 18 | conduct violates the express prohibition regarding sexual contact with a student and constitutes  |
| 19 | an exploitation of Savard's professional relationships with Throne and Stohr in violation of      |
| 20 | standards for ethical educators.  |
| 21 |   |
| 22 |   |
| 23 |   |
|    |   |

1 OPINION

2 Savard was in a unique position of authority in Grants Pass High School because he was 3 the funnel through which all high achieving students with leadership aspirations needed to pass. 4 In addition he was active in the BSA, the community, and in extracurricular student activities. 5 Savard did tremendous good work on behalf of student development and committed 6 extraordinary time and energy on behalf of students. At the same time it is obvious Savard 7 received great personal satisfaction and had many of his emotional needs met through his student 8 relationships. This is not a negative circumstance unless the educator fails to maintain 9 appropriate professional boundaries inherent in the profession and as specified in Commission 10 rules. 11 The evidence before the panel clearly establishes that Savard crossed the line and 12 exploited his relationships with students. Giving massages to students while in a state of partial 13 or full undress while in the teacher's bedroom without others present can never be appropriate 14 regardless of whether the student sought the massage or merely acquiesced. The disparity in 15 power between Savard and aspiring students made those massages nonconsensual if viewed 16 objectively. 17 Savard acknowledges that in the 1970's and 80's he believed barrier-breaking activities 18 including massages as described above were permissible activities and that changing norms now 19 make the activities prohibited. The panel does not accept that perception as accurate. Without a 20 doubt had these activities been brought to the Commission when they occurred, they would have 21 been viewed as a violation of professional standards. 22 111 111 23

Savard argued that he never intended his massages to be sexual for himself or for the 1 2 students. However, his intent is not the determining factor. First, the definition of sexual contact 3 in the rule, OAR 584-020-0005(5), does not require the conduct be with the intent of arousing 4 sexual desires. It merely requires the intentional touching of intimate parts. The panel concludes 5 that the circumstances under which Savard massaged the low back, buttocks and upper legs of 6 students constitutes sexual contact under the rule. Second, Throne, Stohr, Jones and Bullington 7 all noted the confusion they felt as a result of the massages and how it felt both inappropriate and 8 good at the same time. Even Bruce Allyn, a staunch Savard supporter acknowledged that the 9 massages could objectively be viewed as sexual. Therefore the panel concludes the massages 10 violated the sexual contact rule. 11 Savard failed to maintain the dignity of the profession by failing to exemplify personal 12 integrity. Viewed objectively Savard engaged in "grooming" behavior of males whereby he 13 sought to develop ever more personal relationships without establishing clear and appropriate 14 boundaries. This constituted selfish behavior whereby Savard let his personal needs for intimacy 15 with students overcome his professional obligations to those students. 16 The panel is also struck by how manifestly discriminatory Savard's behavior was. Savard 17 acknowledged that his conduct with females was very different than his conduct with males. 18 Male students were given far more personal attention and opportunities than female students to 19 develop and benefit from a relationship with Savard. Favoring one group of students on the 20 basis of sex fails to meet the obligations of the profession. 21 111 22 /// 23 111

### **ORDER**

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| 2  | After considering the factors under OAR 584-020-0045 the panel concludes Savard's                 |
|----|---|
| 3  | licenses shall be suspended for one year commencing on the date the final order is effective. The |
| 4  | panel has determined a suspension, rather than revocation is the appropriate sanction based       |
| 5  | primarily on the following factors. The age of the misconduct when coupled with the lack of       |
| 6  | more recent transgressions is a mitigating factor. The opinion of Dr. Mike Knapp that Savard      |
| 7  | does not pose a predatory sexual disposition provides some limited assurance that Savard will     |
| 8  | conform his behaviors to professional standards. Lastly, Savard did not overcome overt            |
| 9  | resistance when he engaged in his inappropriate physical touching. Nonetheless, based on the      |
| 10 | nature of these offenses, the Commission must be vigilant to the interests of children. Savard    |
| 11 | will be eligible for reinstatement upon application and upon submitting evidence satisfactory to  |
| 12 | the Commission of good moral character pursuant to ORS 342.175(3). In addition, Savard at his     |
| 13 | own expense and as a condition for reinstatement shall provide to the Commission a statement      |
| 14 | satisfactory to the Commission from a qualified mental health provider acceptable to the          |
| 15 | Commission that he does not pose a risk to children prior reinstatement of his licenses.          |
| 16 | DATED this 17th day of extende 1999.  |
| 17 | TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION  |
| 18 |   |
| 19 | By: Darrill My Disposes   |
| 20 | David V. Myton, Executive Director  |
| 21 |   |
| 22 |   |
| 23 |   |