

## "Setting the Record Straight"

(G.R.I.T. Comments Re 2007 Election Letters to the *Monroe Monitor* Editor)

**Subject: Burl and Betty Champeaux's 10/30/07 letter** responding to Gerry Gibson's 10/23/07 letter re "*Burl Champeaux being under investigation by the police for assaulting Mr. Ourada's wife [i.e., Traci Hoenstine] at the Red Apple parking lot.*"

### Facts personally verifiable by L. Storm:

- The "assault" by Burl Champeaux of Traci Hoenstine in the Red Apple parking lot occurred on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, not Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> as stated in Mr. Champeaux's letter.
- A verbal assault (at least) by Burl Champeaux targeted at Traci Hoenstine did occur (check your dictionaries for the definition of "assault").
- The only known witness to this incident was Mrs. Betty Champeaux.
- Traci Hoenstine was alarmed and frightened sufficiently by Mr. Champeaux's actions and demeanor to call 911.
  - The audio of that 911 call has been reviewed by Interim Chief Larry Marshall. Regarding its content, based on my conversation with Interim Sultan Police Chief Larry Marshall on Friday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> he stated, "I couldn't hear anything of what Burl said or might have said but she [*Traci Hoenstine*] was obviously very concerned and scared..."; and the 911 operator, based on Traci's demeanor and comments, "was significantly concerned that she [*911 operator*] advised her [*Traci*] to move to another location."
  - Interim Chief Larry Marshall has forwarded all documentation to the Snohomish County Prosecutor's office for disposition.
- Traci Hoenstine called me shortly following her encounter with Mr. Champeaux. She was clearly disturbed, emotionally upset and deeply shaken.

*[In G.R.I.T.'s early years here, I had been the target of several such attacks and understood perfectly how she felt. Exacerbating the situation is the fact that Mr. Champeaux is a large and imposing figure, quite literally a burly man with an arguably-obnoxious presence when emotionally upset. My husband and I have witnessed Mr. Champeaux at council meetings over the years, and regardless of how kind and loving he may be to family, friends and acquaintances, it's evident to us, at least, that Mr. Champeaux has real anger management issues to overcome.]*
- Due to the incendiary nature of this incident, I called Mr. (Burl) Champeaux's home the day after and left a message on his answering machine/voicemail, requesting that he call me to tell his story/perspective of the incident.
- I then called Councilman Bruce Champeaux's home (and had a brief, pleasant conversation with his wife) to ask if Councilman Champeaux could assist me in obtaining his father's side of the story. I told her I would give Mr. Champeaux the right of review and approval prior to its posting.
- No attempts have been made -- by either Champeaux -- to respond to my request.

Mr. Champeaux's 10/30/07 letter emphatically stated, "There was *no* investigation and *no* assault." It's verifiable that an investigation is underway. The 911 audio verifies there was an *assault*, if only a verbal one. Whether or not the Snohomish County Prosecutor decides to file criminal charges is yet to be determined.