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Kevin Kaufman
Managing Editor
Daily Camera

Dear Editor Kaufman,

I read somewhere that Winston Churchill defined a gentleman as a man who is “rude on purpose”. Your paper appears to misinform, a form of rudeness, on purpose, so I guess you fit the definition of being a gentleman? Your paper recently stated that I was terminated as a tenured professor at CU because of “sexual harassment and assault”.

On November 29, 2006 you wrote in the Daily Camera: “*Chemical engineering professor R. Igor was dismissed for ‘moral turpitude’ in 2004 after seven women accused him of sexual assault and harassment; he is now suing for wrongful termination*”.

On December 19, 2006 you added a comment to a letter of mine that you published in the “Open Forum”, reproduced below, and then you changed the original statement (above) that you had written and I had objected to:

“Editor’s note: The Nov. 29 story reported correctly, that seven women accused Gamow of sexual harassment or harassment. Gamow here omits the reference to the alleged harassment and omits the reference to the term ‘accused’.”

Now, since those changes you made completely alter the meaning of the statement to which I objected to, it appears to me that these changes you made were obviously self serving. I am now “accusing” you of deliberate dishonesty and I expect you to put this fact in your CV when you look for a new job. I can even suggest how you could word this: “I have been accused by Professor Gamow (yes, I am still a Professor) for deliberately misleading the reading public” while I was an editor for the Daily Camera”. This is not really a serious suggestion but I am only trying to make my point. So, once again, I was not terminated for “sexual assault and harassment” as you originally wrote. I have been accused of many things, as we all have been accused, so in the same spirit that I am accusing you of deliberately misleading the public. What is true is that I was, in 1992, found guilty of sexual harassment because I held the hand and kissed the forehead of one of my undergraduate students, a student with whom I had spent considerable time with as her advisor! That was the only time I was found guilty of sexual harassment!* My punishment

* Dr. Dana Ruehlman repeatedly charged me with sexual harassment but all of her accusations were eventually discredited by CU.

was I was ordered to watch a one hour video on “sexual harassment”. Because of the 1992 incident I completely ceased socializing with any and all of my CU undergraduate students from that time on. This was a big change for me because from 1968 till the fall of 1992 I had participated in so many extra curricular student activities that my then chairman, Rob Davis, suggested to me that he would put up a sign-up sheet on the office door for students wishing to:

- Read Poetry with Professor Gamow,
- Go Trekking with Professor Gamow,
- Go Horseback Riding with Professor Gamow,
- Go Swimming with Professor Gamow,
- Go Motorcycle Riding with Professor Gamow.

I had, in fact, done all these activities with CU undergraduate students which I discontinued in the fall of 1992. With my off campus students who attended my “Study Abroad” program during summer vacation or Christmas break, I of course continued these activities through 2002 at which time the civil war in Nepal halted my study abroad program.

Oh yes, my excuse then and now, for the hand holding and forehead kissing is simply that between 1988 and 2002 I had taken some 200 CU students to Nepal/Tibet/Australia for a study abroad program run by the SANN institute, an institute that I co-founded with Narayan Shrestha and on these trips I routinely held hands with the students as it is an Asian custom. In fact, once one of my SANN male students objected that I never kissed him on the forehead so I promptly did, to everyone’s amusement.

In terms of the outrageous charges made by Dr. Dana Ruehlman I was fully exonerated by CU. David Temple, CU attorney, reported this to the Privilege & Tenure committee, Sept. 2003, and to the CU regents, April 2004. More importantly he also reported this fact to a District Court Jury, May 1, 2006, that Dr. Dana Ruehlman was not a “credible witness” i.e. which is legalese for “lying”. More importantly David Temple told this jury that I was not terminated for harassment, sexual or otherwise. If you, Mr. Editor, had any pretense of being objective why did not the Daily Camera report any of the details of this trial to the public? Is it because you have sexual harassment on the brain? CU’s David Temple lost the case, and the public lost 285,000 dollars, simply because they, CU, was afraid to present to the jury why was I first found guilty of sexually harassing Dr. Dana Ruehlman and why was I later exonerated? I was exonerated, as described below, because CU, back in the spring of 2001, manipulated the evidence that led to my dismissal in the first place. CU probably believed that if they presented this fact, that they hid evidence from me, resulting in my dismissal I would have grounds to sue them. CU put itself in a “lose-lose” situation--Now that “Mr. Editor” is an interesting news story. Finally, I have not yet checked with legal counsel but I believe a newspaper can be held legally accountable if they knowingly publish false information to defame an individual for any reason.

I certainly would have been fired for sexual harassment because of the outrageous charges made by Dr. Dana Ruehlman if it had not been for the efforts made by my attorney, Mr. Joe French, who discovered that CU’s co-chair of the sexual harassment committee, Professor

Neil Ashby, had manipulated and concealed evidence. As a result of these revelations Dr. Dana Ruehlman was not, by CU, allowed to be a witness in the Privilege & Tenure hearing.

Although, I never received an apology from CU, I was clearly exonerated from all the sexual harassment accusations made by Dr. Dana Ruehlman. Now, after Dr. Dana Ruehlman's case fell apart, CU decided to dig up as many people as possible who would "bad mouth" me in front of the Privilege & Tenure Committee in order to get me fired. Below I will describe to you two of CU's star witnesses. Since my dismissal did not entail sexual harassment I will divulge their names. I should, once again say, the way CU handled my case is similar to how CU is presently handling Professor Ward Churchill's case and also how they handled fired instructor Anderson case in the past. Again, if CU can not fire someone for their "real" reason they race around finding some other reason.

The Daily Camera seems fascinated by the fact that in the 130 year history of CU only two tenured faculty members, Mahinder Uberoi and myself, have been fired, Daily Camera, 11/29/06. Professor Uberoi, in fact offered, me my first professorship in 1967. In the mid seventies Professor Uberoi acquired the hatred and scorn of the then dean and since I was a friend and a supporting colleague of Professor Uberoi I also became a victim of this dean's hatred and scorn. Before this story had completely unfolded this dean died having choked on his own saliva, which is a bit symbolic but he, the dean, started the ball rolling for the eventual dismissal of Professor Uberoi and myself. The Daily Camera did publish recently, 11/17/06, that Professor Uberoi sued CU "claiming his career had been harmed by prejudice against foreign-born faculty". He had told me several times that CU had persecuted him because he was an Indian! How times have changed—today CU tries to fire Churchill because he was not an Indian—yesterday they fired Professor Uberoi because he was an Indian! Please Mr. Editor, I do know the difference between an Indian Indian and an American Indian but you have to admit it does make a fine joke?

It has been almost three years since I have left the university and my friends certainly know what a farce the whole P & T dismissal procedure was and they also know the specifics reasons why was I fired but your readers still do not have a clue particularly with you printing blatantly false information on why was I fired.

My past history with CU is similar to Professor Churchill's present situation with CU searching for a reason, any reason, to fire him. When Dr. Dana Ruehlman case collapsed CU scrambled to find other reasons to fire me! Let me, for brevity, tell you about two women, in addition to the two women mentioned above, that CU "dug up" to help accomplice CU's goal. I will call these two women, woman #1 and woman #2 who for obvious reasons CU wanted their identities to be kept a secret but I see no reason to do so because they did not accuse me of "sexual harassment" nor "assault" as you so happily reported in your newspaper. Both women are at least middle aged, they both have taught at CU engineering for a number of years and they both testified for the prosecution in the 2003 Privilege & Tenure hearings which I, of course, attended. I have known and worked with these women for some 10 to 20 years. Both women are more heavily involved in administration work than teaching.

Woman #1, Jackie Sullivan, is a professor in the CU's college of engineering. This woman testified that at an off campus faculty party, that included dinner and drinks, that I put my arm around her and said to her that I would be happy to co-teach a course with such a "pretty woman". She testified that she did not remember when or even where the party took place. I, in fact, do remember that the party. It was hosted by Professor Carlson, another engineering professor, in 1994—i.e. some ten years before her testimony! I remember the year because Professor Rob Davis, my then chairman, told me that he had suggested to the engineering dean that possibly I could co-teach a course with woman #1 as part of a teaching team. I actually do not remember talking to woman #1 but her story may be correct because I learned, at an early age, from my mother that a gentleman should always, in principle, complement a woman on her appearance. I still think that a casual remark, made in the distant past during an evening drinking party, concerning a woman's appearance should not be grounds for dismissing a tenured professor. Apparently CU was so desperate to find something, anything, and since the hearings were closed and also the CU attorneys were running the show any ridiculous charge would suffice. As it turned out I in fact did teach with this woman several times without incident, as far as I know.

Woman #2, Bev Louie's story is even more bizarre. I have known woman #2 since she was an undergraduate in my department. She had, over the years, asked me numerous times to be a guest lecturer in her class and I always accepted. In the fall of 2000 she again asked me and I again accepted. I, as always, arrived with my teaching assistant, Dr. Dana Ruehlman, who handled my visual aids. Then something really strange happened which never happened before. She, after introducing me to her class of some 30 freshman, gave a mini lecture on the importance of "role models" and how important they were, especially to women engineering students. And then, to my astonishment, she told the class that when she was an undergraduate I was her role model and she would have never gone to graduate school except for me! I then put my arm around her and thanked her for the complement she had paid me. A few weeks after this incident I learned that she had filed a complaint with the sexual harassment committee! This is the story she told to the P & T committee. What is really so bizarre is that it appears to me that #2 did not write the complaint but my then assistant, Dr. Dana Ruehlman wrote it and #2 signed it! Well no matter who wrote it I have evidence that Dr. Dana Ruehlman filed this complaint in the sexual harassment office. What is even more bizarre is that Dr. Dana Ruehlman accepted employment from woman #2 after this incident. I have no idea what was going on between these two women, but I can only guess. My best guess is that Dr. Dana Ruehlman convinced her that she had been mistreated by me and Bev Louie went along with this ridiculous accusation. For me it was the first time that I experienced first hand a person extending her right hand in friendship to me and then knifing me in the back with her left hand. She seems, to me, to have all the makings of an assassin?

So, there you have it Mr. Editor. I could go on and list the accusation of the other women that you mentioned, that are equally as ridiculous, but I think, at this time I will stick to the women that I have mentioned above. As you reported in the Daily Camera Professor Uberoi was directly responsible for bringing open-records and open-meeting laws to CU. Professor Uberoi was, at least in part, fired for his efforts. Since I am already fired perhaps my present efforts could help other endangered faculty such as Professor Churchill and

former instructor Anderson, or not? Does the Daily Camera give a hoot about this issue? I suspect not! In any case I believe that CU cheated me and the evidence for this is readily available, so maybe, perhaps, someone would look into this but I am pretty sure it would not be the Daily Camera.

R Igor Gamow
Professor

Daily Camera, 12/19/06:

Dear Editor,

Reading the Daily Camera is a constant source of pleasure for me. I was amused to read that I was the second tenured professor to be dismissed for cause in the entire 130 years of CU's history because I assaulted 7 women ("Uberoi was the first tenured prof dismissed", Daily Camera, 11/29/06) which is, of course, sheer nonsense. Soon I expect to read that I was dismissed because I am not a true Indian or perhaps because I had secretly attended the famous CU football recruiting party in December 2001! Keep up the good work.

*Professor R. Igor Gamow
Boulder*

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