

Are we waking up now, Muskegon County?

Letter to the Editor:

After reading the article titled "Attorney investigated for misconduct" in the *Muskegon Chronicle* on Sunday, February 19, 2012, I was once again compelled to write the editor of this newspaper. Another innocent life and career possibly ruined by a revengeful Muskegon County prosecutor Tony Tague.

A National Guard soldier fighting for our country and an honest, caring attorney who truly cares deeply for the people of our county, has now come under fire by this administration. I am talking about Al E. Swanson, Jr., who is now under investigation for misconduct, who could lose his license to practice law and possibly hurt his career in the National Guard. Recently, we have two assistant prosecutors suspended during an internal investigation of allegations they accepted a large gift or gifts from a Muskegon bail bondsman. Furthermore, other personnel in a Muskegon County department are also allegedly involved. Now the corruption goes beyond Tony Tague to his prosecutor's office.

First of all, shame on you, *Muskegon Chronicle*, for putting this article on your front page of a fine man who has fought for our country and the people of this county. In my opinion, Tony Tague surely had his dirty hands in that decision. An article I sent in to the *Muskegon Chronicle's* "As the Readers See It" column was never printed regarding Tony Tague's corruption and misconduct. Several people do feel the *Chronicle* favors and supports Tony Tague all the way, no matter what. At least Mlive allows your opinions to be posted publicly, especially regarding Tony Tague and the *Muskegon Chronicle*. On Mlive on March 2, 2012, user name "Newspaper lawyer" writes, "What makes me laugh is the *Muskegon Chronicle* once again removes facts about TV Tony Tague from the comment section. They are just as corrupt as the rest. I bet this case involves a free turkey or ham at Christmas. Maybe the Attorney's General office or Michigan Bar should be contacted for an Internal Affairs Investigation."

In my opinion, without a doubt in my mind, Tony Tague is out for revenge and retaliation against Al Swanson, Jr., who ran against him to oust him out of office back in 2008. Al Swanson lost only by a narrow margin. Furthermore, in my opinion and many others, Al was most likely set up by Tony Tague.

A few years ago, after speaking with Al on several occasions, a total stranger I never knew, I found him to show genuine deep concern about the people here in Muskegon County who were innocent, being forced to take plea bargains, being wrongfully convicted, having to say the words to a judge, "I am guilty," when they were not. That pain weighed heavily on his compassionate heart, to watch this day after day, week after week, as a public defender. This is a main reason, I am sure, he ran for office. He could not stand back and watch this happen any more to our people here in Muskegon County.

Which forced me to think back about the previous articles I wrote, regarding people I knew who were innocent and received prison terms or who came close: The prodigy child, the elderly caregivers, the high school teacher and coach, and the gymnastics coach, etc. Also, remember back, Tony Tague's vendetta he staged against respectful, longtime Judge Wierengo III when he ran for re-election. It surely helped that Muskegon County residents saw through this and re-elected Judge Wierengo.

Secondly, we now have publicized news March 1, 2 and 3, 2012 on WZZM 13, WOOD TV 8 and Mlive. As of today (March 4, 2012) no article printed in the *Muskegon Chronicle* regarding Tony Tague's misconduct in his office. I wonder why, when all these other news media have brought forward this public news? The three news media point out two assistant prosecutors who have been suspended with pay for allegations they accepted a large gift or gifts for favors from a Muskegon bail bondsman. In addition, another person in a Muskegon County department is also allegedly involved. Why are we taxpayers having to foot the bill while they are on administrative leave? This is not right, and what gifts did they receive? Unquestionably, that has not been brought forward.

User name "Muskswipe" on Mlive stated on March 2, 2012, "Suspension was 22nd of February. No public records stating why a public official was suspended? Or why there is an investigation?" Was this misconduct being hidden from the public also? Another point, why is Tony Tague and his office involved in the investigation? The investigation should be handled by the Department of Justice or the State Attorney General.

Tony Tague's lack of integrity undermines his whole office. The corruption goes beyond just Tony Tague; now, his puppets are showing their true colors of dishonesty, greed and misconduct. Ultimately, Tony Tague is responsible for what does on in his office, so he should be forced to resign. The Muskegon County commissioners need to call for his resignation.

Sandie Christiansen

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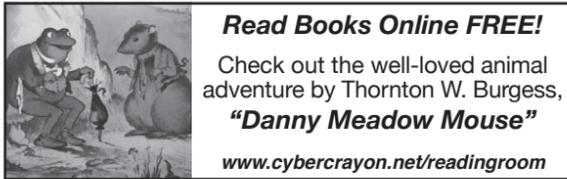
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