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Protect from 'guilt by accusation'

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Response

Protect from 'guilt by accusation'

To the editor:

In regard to your article pertaining to the Penobscot County Superior Court dropping charges against Infeng Vongsay (*Campus*, 10/5/83), I feel your paper has done a grave injustice to Mr. Vongsay by printing the comments of Assistant Director of the Department of Police and Safety William Prosser.

Who the hell does Mr. Prosser think he is? I'm sure Mr. Almy and Mr. Hamilton are quite capable of ascertaining whether sufficient evidence was available to charge Mr. Vongsay. Mr. Prosser's comment, "Just because the

grand jury didn't find just cause to prosecute doesn't mean he didn't do it," is ignorant to the point of liable.

Mr. Prosser, as your title suggests, you are charged with protecting the "safety" of our population. This safety should include protection from morons who practice "guilt by accusations."

Certainly no person on this campus is happy about the incident in which Mr. Vongsay was involved and we would hope that this is the last case of this type which we will see for some time. However, no one has been served by the comments of Mr. Prosser or

by Mr. Lint, who managed to distort the situation even further by indicating that no charge was brought because no violence was apparent. Mr. Lint, I am quite sure that not only was that not the reason a rape charge was not issued, but I am quite sure the issue of violence is moot point and is not a precluding prerequisite for bringing a rape charge.

Mr. Prosser and Mr. Lint, you should be ashamed.

Don Taylor
Bangor