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Voice of the people

Sat, Apr 11 - 4:46 AM
Speaking of trash

The April 9 headline "One person's trash ..." didn't, but could have, applied to the Nova Scotia Liberals' sending a picture of Lenore Zann, naked to the waist, to the CBC, which, in its never-ending slide toward mediocrity, aired it on its evening newscast.

Get a grip, fellows — the woman has breasts. She was performing in a play — maybe it was even written by a Liberal (not likely by a Conservative, given their views on art).

This is her profession, and it's a more admirable one than the hacks who tried to disparage her by publicizing the photo now that she will run for a seat in the legislature.

Some days, I can't wait to get up in the morning to see what these campaign people will think up next. One hoped that the higher tone of the Obama campaign might have migrated north. Not yet, I fear.

Margi Hennen, Dartmouth

No bearing on character

Truro native Lenore Zann has had a distinguished career as a stage and screen actress which has taken her around the world. As such, she has been a cultural ambassador for Nova Scotia. It is to her credit that she has chosen to return to her hometown and province, working on projects to enrich her community, such as the proposal to establish a school for the performing arts in Truro. She is also standing for public office as a provincial NDP candidate, further illustrating the commitment she is prepared to make to this province and its people.

The provincial Liberal party's decision to circulate a photograph of Ms. Zann from an episode of the American TV series The L Word, which shows her topless, was both an affront to this talented and dedicated actress and an attack on the theatrical profession itself. Actors (male and female) are sometimes cast in roles that require nudity. It is part of the job of realistically portraying characters in a variety of life situations. Appearing nude has no bearing on the character of the actors or on their capacity to serve as an elected official.

Hence, I applaud Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil's apology to Ms. Zann. It sets an important benchmark of conduct that such personal innuendo should not be tolerated in the expected election campaign.

As for the people of Truro-Bible Hill, they should listen to Ms. Zann's ideas, consider her many accomplishments, energy and dedication, and then make their decision at the ballot box.

Christopher Majka, Halifax

Unwarranted attack

I have known the Paul and Jan Zann family of Truro for 40 years. They are the finest people one could hope to have as friends and as contributing members of the community, province and country. Lenore Zann is a professional actor who has been a contributor to the growth and success of the Marigold Centre, Truro's cultural landmark. She has been an ambassador for this province on the international stage and screen.

I find it despicable that a member of any political party would attempt her character assassination on the grounds of her professional performance(s). I find it especially reprehensible that the attack came from a member of the Nova Scotia Liberal Party, a party that momentarily I have held with some respect.

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