

This time the practical joke's on me

I think I'm in trouble — again. But, this time, it's not my fault. Honest. It would appear that a practical joke played by a local travel agent friend of mine, who shall remain nameless, has threatened to cast doubts upon my otherwise unblemished reputation as a clean living proponent of old fashioned values.



FROM WHERE I LIVE
Bruce Stapley

Yes, a classic example of the old saw that goes, "With friends like this, who needs enemies?"

Upon walking into the newspaper office the other day, I was informed that there was some mail for me. I walked into the office of the editor, where all such correspondence is stored, to pick it up.

It is important to point out here that such items can sit around a day or two, sometimes even

three, in plain view of all who happen by. Not to mention that editors themselves tend to be a little snooty in their unending pursuit of all the small town news that's fit to print.

In addition, in our version of "Small Town Ontario", the local post office itself is still considered by many the place to go to catch up on all the gossip of the day.

Any piece of mail coming through the system is likely to be noticed if it should happen to stand out for whatever reason... which is certainly not to intimate that I have anything less than unquestioning respect for both the employees who handle such "lively" mail, and the job they perform. Why should I leave myself wide open for a lawsuit?

So, when I walked in to collect my correspondence, hoping it to be a pat on the back for my taste in television shows or my aversion to club soda, all I could see was a photograph of a dizzy-looking female in a suggestive state of beach attire. This, obviously, could have nothing to do with me.

I stepped back into the reception area, and, apologizing for my

myopia, requested the assistance of the office staff in locating the envelope alleged to have been addressed to me.

Now, I've got to admit that the look of puzzlement, chagrin, and outright worry that overcame the countenance of the office manager, is something I have often been confronted with in times of personal disorientation.

Undaunted, I headed back into the office, looked again, scratched my head, despite the fact that it wasn't itchy, and idly picked up the racy snapshot.

To my horror, I discovered that it was a post card addressed to you-know-who. "My special Bruce," it started out. "It was great to see you here on the beach in California. You are such a

great surfer. Hope your sunburn is feeling better. Say hi to your family."

The name at the bottom was illegible, because it was written on top of the printed line on the post card that read "California — Where I'm waiting for you to squeeze me." This line corresponded to the boldly printed "Squeeze Me" emblazoned on the tee shirt of the beach babe on the front of the card.

Now, I know only one "friend" who was in California when that card was sent, so I'm absolutely certain who sent it. And I will get my revenge.

But, in the meantime, I'm afraid I'm going to have some heavy duty explaining to do if this thing does the grapevine circuit.

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