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> Subject: update yo our gang of fellow rogues

>
> I just wanted to give you an update since it has become obvious that a
> simple defamation/libel case seems to be making the national rounds. Here
> are some dull straight forward facts. Yes, the Atlanta Humane Society and
> myself personally have filed more than one suit against individuals for
> libel. (The printed version of slander). There could very well be more
> suits.

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> I do not think it is hype when I say "September 11th" changed all of us
> forever. Some of us certainly a lot more than others. One of the changes I
> experienced personally, and I know some of us joked about this before the
> 11th when everyone saw just how vicious and evil a zealot could be. I no
> longer joke about those in the animal world who think it is their mission
> from God to bring down the successful, effective main stream agency and the
> hard working men and women (many of whom have been involved for years
> engaged in this work). These people operate under the same premise as those
> who ran airplanes into buildings. They simply do not care who gets hurt -
> not the animals, certainly not the people, and not the organizations which
> they see as mere buildings and symbols to be brought down.

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> We need to take a lesson from the animal researchers, medical schools,
> psychologist and psychiatrist who have known for years that with the zealot
> it has nothing to do with animals. The zealot is only interested in
> self-aggrandizement and is absolutely in love with that one-eyed monster
> called a TV camera.

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> I, in no way, will attempt to speak for any of my colleagues; however,
> Marsha in Indianapolis; Pam and Becky in Hawaii; Al in Minnesota; Patti in
> Houston; Eric in Kentucky, and hundreds of others can tell you just how
> destructive a very few people can be (to any of you I've mentioned I
> apologize if in any way you wish I hadn't). There are those in our field who
> know what it is like to be stalked; to have to have police or body guard
> protectors; to wear body armor and in some instances go armed. The general
> public thinks this is because we fear the dog fighters, the gang bangers,
> the unscrupulous breeders and the gamblers. This is simply not the case.
> Those criminals understand the rules and hide from the law and publicity;
> the zealot embraces it. They are the ones who send hate mail, phone in the
> death threats, burn the shelters and attack you and your personal property;
> and, simply do not give a damn about any people or animals that may get
> hurt.

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> Again, I truly am not trying to be guilty of undue hype, I say without
> emotion that after "September 11th", I said to myself "never again". I do
> not intend to take the high road anymore and sit back and just pray these
> vicious little campaigns will just blow over. I am extremely fortunate that
> so far I have had 100% support from my Board and I do not believe there is a
> zealot in hiding sitting on my Board. I know many of you have one on your
> Board, or fear you do. I also know that all of us have well-meaning,
> well-intentioned Board and supporters who simply do not grasp that there are
> people who will behave in such insanely vicious behavior. I urge you to
> please do whatever you can to convince them they truly will. "The best trick
> the devil ever pulled was to convince us he didn't exist".

>

> A brief report on my situation is that a tabloid type TV reporter using a
> combination of mis-statements and out right, provable lies, along with
> edited and incomplete stolen documents ran a story. Even though he had
> access to and refused evidence refuting the story. He made the statement,
> "I don't care if these people are lying, I'm doing a story. If they are
> lying, sue them". People, these reporters hold these zealots in contempt,

> ridicule them and still use them. Our zealots have reported straight out
> that the Atlanta Humane Society was under investigation by the Attorney
> General of our state. A straight out lie. The Attorney General's office had
> only been asked for an opinion on a legal question concerning records.

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> The other component is a small group of people (less than a dozen) with
> several little "cutsie" organization names engaged in a vicious Internet
> campaign of more out right lies.

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> Courts all over the country (and we have received help from, of all places,
> the Washington Post) in getting this data and have found that Georgia is one
> of those states that even the appellate courts have said, "the Internet is
> the newspaper, it is printed on a screen and you can print it on paper. It
> is not private, it can be and is frequently sent to people uninvited (a lot
> of you have received this about the Atlanta Humane Society and myself; it
> is untrue and, it is libel.) We have chosen to go after these people and
> fight.

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> People, in concluding this epistle, I am now going to be guilty of some
> hype. "This is not an effort to send you a wake up call like those nice
> little soft rings you get in some hotel (where you are probably doing a work
> shop for free or at your own expense), but it is a trumpet in your ear
> sounding out loud, clear and long.

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> We all need to wake up and start fighting back. These people are small in
> number, but are capable of huge destruction. Less than a dozen people
> brought down the World Trade Center and killed thousands. I guess you can
> say, someone has figuratively flown a piper cub into my building. The fight
> is on. We are looking to win, we intend to stop this evil.

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> These zealots will seek the help of every vicious little cell in your
> community and sadly they will get it. I ask that you and your Boards
> consider "If we don't do something, will it ever stop and when will it be
> our turn?" The answer is never and your turn is now.

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> Best, Bill Garrett

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> Thank you for listening. I will try to respond to any inquiries you may
> have, but things are going to be a little busy around here.

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