

## Personal Integrity, Character Assassination, and the PGF

A special document on a matter which goes directly to the issue of personal integrity in the debate about the Patterson Gimlin Film.

Until 3 1/2 years ago, about the only negative thing one could find about me on the internet was criticism of my work on an obscure movie, "Return of the Living Dead" (1984), from which I was fired midway through the principle photography phase of production. That film has gained a curious cult status, and thus my failings, real and imagined, have been reported over and over, as the cult following developed. Indeed the stories are like the film's zombie characters themselves, they simply will not die. I long ago resigned myself to the fact this film and the criticism of my work would follow me, but I had confidence that the sum of my career would show enough fine work to more than balance those criticisms and show that I am a capable and responsible artist, able to attain excellence in my efforts. And I will show my resume to anyone with pride in what I have accomplished thus far in my life.

Then I got involved with the analysis of the famous Patterson Gimlin film of 1967, often called the "Bigfoot" film, because of the possibility that this film may show an actual "bigfoot" creature walking through the woods. I had been aware of this film since it's announcement in 1967, and aware of the controversy which in general terms divided between people who feel the film shows something real as it appears, and people who feel the film is merely a hoax and the creature seen is just a human in a fur costume commonly called an "ape suit".

Once I became involved, I found two unexpected situations to overshadow the controversy. One was that the amount of film image data and documentation of the event, as well as documentation of the lives of the people involved, was overwhelming in its volume, and any person seeking a solution to the film mystery should be prepared to wade into a veritable ocean of information, evidence, testimony and discussion. It is not for the faint of heart, nor the dilitante.

Second was the extent of the character assassination being committed by people fanatically determined to win the argument they perceive as the truth, whatever that may be. Roger Patterson (who passes away in 1972, less that 5 years after taking that historic controversial film footage) would, of course, be the most vilified, he being the man who held that fateful camera and then promoted the film in public showings. However much he may have been criticized in his lifetime, the derogatory descriptions of him escalated as the internet was born and linked people around the world in on-line discussions. His widow, Patricia Patterson would be completely unprepared for this onslaught of character assassination against her late husband, and woefully unprepared that even she is dragged into it on occasion. What egregious offense has Mrs. Patterson committed? She simply has not "confessed" to the claims of hoax, as fanatic hoax believers insist she must.

Bob Gimlin, the man who was with Roger that day and remains today the surviving witness to that filmed event, has seen this film transform his life and cause total strangers to dedicate themselves to vilifying him and accusing him of fraud (foremost among the many varied attacks on his integrity) for simply standing by his fundamental testament that the filmed subject is not a hoax. The attacks on Bob tend to be more microscopic and semantic. People pour over his words

in varied statements, speeches, interviews and such, and seek out any discrepancy in word or phrasing, oblivious to the inherent ambiguities of the English language, intolerant of any seeming contradiction between facts and remarks, however slight or benign. And this controversy has virtually overshadowed all other elements of his life, his defining legacy, so to speak, yet it is a form of cultural quicksand, in which the more he may wade in to set matters right, the deeper he sinks into the mire.

John Green was not a true participant in the filming of the famous 1967 footage called the PGF, but was an established researcher and journalist with interest in the bigfoot/sasquatch subject long before the film was taken, so he was immediately brought into the controversy as one of the people attending the first viewing of the film as soon as it was developed and ready to view, two days after it's described filming day of Oct. 20, 1967. John would further become linked to this film by his own filming at Bluff Creek when he asked fellow researcher Jim McClarin to walk a path similar to the PGF subject while John filmed the walk from a position closely approximating Roger's camera position for the "look back" part of the PGF. John's footage of Jim would become one of the most valuable pieces of secondary evidence used in the PGF analysis.

For many years, John was generally held in high esteem, and criticisms were few and far between, as compared to the intensity and malicious form of criticisms against Roger's legacy and against Bob Gimlin. But in the past two years, a new and truly deranged accusation against John was publicly offered, and embraced by a fanatical few. That accusation is commonly called the "massacre theory" and tries to describe an event in which John Green, as "Godfather", oversaw a hunting expedition at Bluff Creek where a group of sasquatch creatures were slaughtered and their bodies buried, supposedly at the behest of logging industry backers who did not want logging revenues to be cut off by any preservation of the land as sasquatch habitat. Bob Gimlin and Roger, along with the late Rene Dahinden, would be implicated as accomplices to this "massacre", and the PGF is supposedly the evidence, that somebody was filming while the massacre occurred.

This is likely to be the most outrageously false and legally actionable case of libel and slander in the whole PGF controversy, as the "evidence" for the claims is laughable on any fair inspection.

People have used the argument "If they are innocent, why haven't they sued the ones who make such claims?", with the lack of legal action turned around to supposedly endorse a guilty until proven innocent mentality. Such claims are a perversion of the truth, because actionable legal redress for libel and slander is difficult and can be more trouble than it's worth, for the injured parties. Their reluctance to pursue the case legally has no real bearing on the merit of their cause of action.

My case secondary to theirs. The libel and slander against me is instigated by the simple willingness of me to support them. I have stated I feel the PGF is showing something real and not a hoax, which would vindicate Roger and Bob, so I must be vilified. My analysis of the film also shows that all claims of the so-called "massacre" are absurd mis-interpretations of the actual evidence, and the claim is utterly without merit, so I must be vilified.

In doing so, this constitutes libel and slander against me, by people obsessively intent upon discrediting me because of my PGF analysis. So over the last 3 1/2 years, I watched as I was

drawn more and more into the circle of character assassination the longstanding PGF people had been enduring. Many times, I asked myself, should I draw the line, or just let go. Is the challenge of pursuing the remedy worth the potential benefit? Will any form of justice actually result?

The proverbial line is drawn when a person says, "enough is enough". No person can make that decision for another, so I cannot make it for Bob Gimlin, Mrs. Patterson, John Green, or any one else associated with this PGF mystery and much maligned by people in the world, intolerant of any opinion but their own, any perception of the PGF except the one they want to see. But I can speak for myself, and can draw the line for the character assassination against me.

Today (as I write this), June 16, 2011, I decided to say, "enough is enough".

The remainder of this report document details the cause, the issues and the other participants.

First and foremost, what is the base action of mine that has inspired so many people to take action to discredit me? It can be summed up in one simple phrase. "I do not think the PGF shows a hoax with a human in a fur costume." That's it. That simple expression of analysis and conclusion has inspired fanatics to search every word of my professional resume, every word of my career websites, and dissect every word I post in forums on-line, in desperate search for something to base a claim that discredits me somehow.

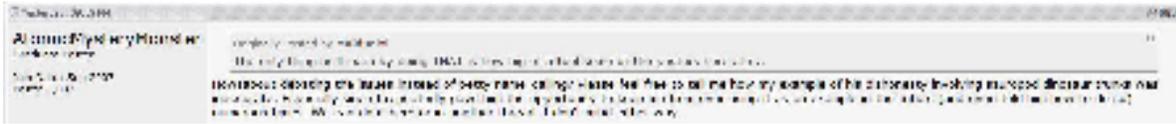
How that simple remark injures these people so powerfully, that they will obsess over details and semantic oddities in pursuit of a cause to malign me, is something which caught me totally by surprise. But they do, and of late, several truly asinine discussions emerged which show the pettiness these critics will wallow in. But as well, it was the action of a discussion forum's moderating team which make this issue one I can no longer ignore. That forum, the JREF, chose to punish the person reporting the inappropriate post, while letting the inappropriate post stand.

So, this matter of the recent days goes into the question of on-line libel, legal liability, accomplice by the forum hosting the libelous remarks, and the moderation of the on-line dialogues to allow the libel, yet censor the injured person who reports it. And as I said above, enough is enough. This document explains my decision to begin the fight, for my integrity. I want all concerned to know what I am documenting, and how, as my prima facie case of probable cause.

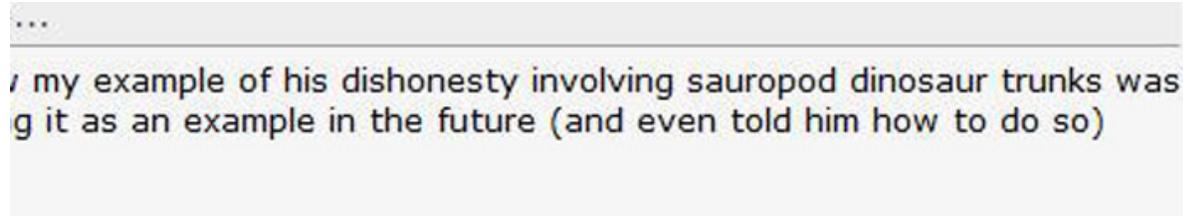
The JREF forum member using the screen name of "Atomic Mystery Monster" (or AMM, abbreviated) is hereby given notice that you, sir, are the first person I will ask to be found as committing libel. The forum member using the screen name "Wolftrax" (abbreviated WT) will be the second. Bobbie Short, you are third. Others will be added as the investigation of the forum archives continues. I expect the forum member named "Parnassus" will soon be added to the list (once examples are culled from the forum archives) because while I do not have an example from the past few days, I am well aware of your unrelenting pattern of trying to discredit me and misconstrue my statements and motives. As more JREF Forum archives are preserved and examined, the list of people called to be held responsible for their actions and words will surely expand beyond those named above.

First is a brief chronology of posts and events.

Atomic Mystery Monster posted this remark:



section enlarged for reading:



I reported his character attack, accusing me personally of dishonesty, and gave notice in the forum that I had done so, but this post of mine was removed, as shown below.



while his libelous remark was uncorrected.

I also posted a news piece from CNN that addresses the issue of on-line responsibility for some degree of fairness and honesty, and described a court ruling which reinforced the fact that a forum or website can be compelled to disclose truthful identifying information about a person using an anonymous screen name, if said person is committing libel against a true named real person. That post was removed by the moderators, as shown above, the third one removed.

So the content of that news story is repeated here:

**NEW YORK (CNN) -- A model who was slammed with derogatory terms by an anonymous blogger has the right to learn the identity of her online heckler, a judge ruled.**

**In August 2008, a user of Blogger.com, Google's blogging service, created "Skanks in NYC," a site that assailed Liskula Cohen, 37, a Canadian-born onetime cover girl who has appeared in Vogue and other fashion magazines. The blog featured photos of Cohen captioned with terms including "psychotic," "ho," and "skank."**

**On Monday, New York Supreme Court Judge Joan Madden ruled that Google must hand over to Cohen any identifying information it possesses about the blog's creator.**

Steven Wagner, Cohen's attorney, said [Google](#) complied with the ruling Tuesday evening, submitting to his legal team the creator's IP address and e-mail address. Only a valid e-mail address is required to register for a blog on Blogger.com.

Wagner said that once his legal team tracks the e-mail address to a name, the next step will be to sue Cohen's detractor for defamation. He said he suspected the creator of the blog is an acquaintance of Cohen.

The blog has not been operational for months.

The unidentified creator of the blog was represented in court by an attorney, Anne Salisbury, who said her client voluntarily took the blog down when Cohen initiated legal action against it.

Salisbury suggested that Cohen is more interested in attracting publicity than restoring her reputation. She contended her client's blog would have languished harmlessly in obscurity had Cohen not filed suit. The site had negligible traffic and only five posts on it, all written on a single day, she said.

In her ruling, the judge quoted a Virginia court that ruled in a similar case that nameless online taunters should be held accountable when their derision crosses a line.

"The protection of the right to communicate anonymously must be balanced against the need to assure that those persons who choose to abuse the opportunities presented by this medium can be made to answer for such transgressions," the judge said, quoting the Virginia decision.

Cohen's attorney said he was "happy that the court recognizes that the Internet is not a place where people can freely defame people."

But the blogger's attorney strongly disputed the judge's reasoning. Salisbury asserted that her client's invective was not unusual for the Internet, and that hyperbolic online name-calling is so rampant -- "in comments sections, on Twitter, on blogs" as to practically be part of the Web's DNA.

She warned that Monday's ruling has "potentially damaging implications for free speech on the Internet."

After the ruling, a Google spokesman expressed sympathy for targets of Internet insult-sliding, but said the company divulges user information only when ordered to do so by a court.

"We sympathize with anyone who may be the victim of cyberbullying. We also take great care to respect [privacy](#) concerns and will only provide information about a user in response to a subpoena or other court order," Google's Andrew Pederson said.

Please note that the legal ruling does show that people cannot hide behind an anonymous screen identity and said people cannot insult, ridicule, discredit or libel a real person with impunity, thinking they are insulated from any legal punishment for their actions.

Repeated (in part):

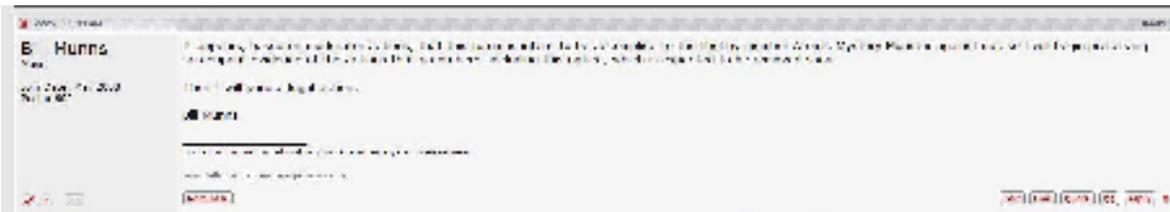
**In her ruling, the judge quoted a Virginia court that ruled in a similar case that nameless online taunters should be held accountable when their derision crosses a line.**

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I felt the forum members would be well served to know the legal standing and possible consequences of their activity, and the posting was a respectful conveyance of news. The JREF moderating team deleted the post but I maintain the evidence of it's removal.

So I found out that by reporting a person who personally attacks me, and then posting straightforward news regarding the legality of on-line libel and the circumstance in which a poster of internet comments can be actionable as libel, from a CNN News article of law, my posts are deleted and the character attack is not removed, edited or otherwise modified.

I then posted the following, to convey my dissatisfaction with this action:



which was deleted almost instantly, as if I, the person insulted and attacked, was the one who should not be allowed to post, because I feel I have rights that should be upheld.

If the screen capture is not very legible, it reads:

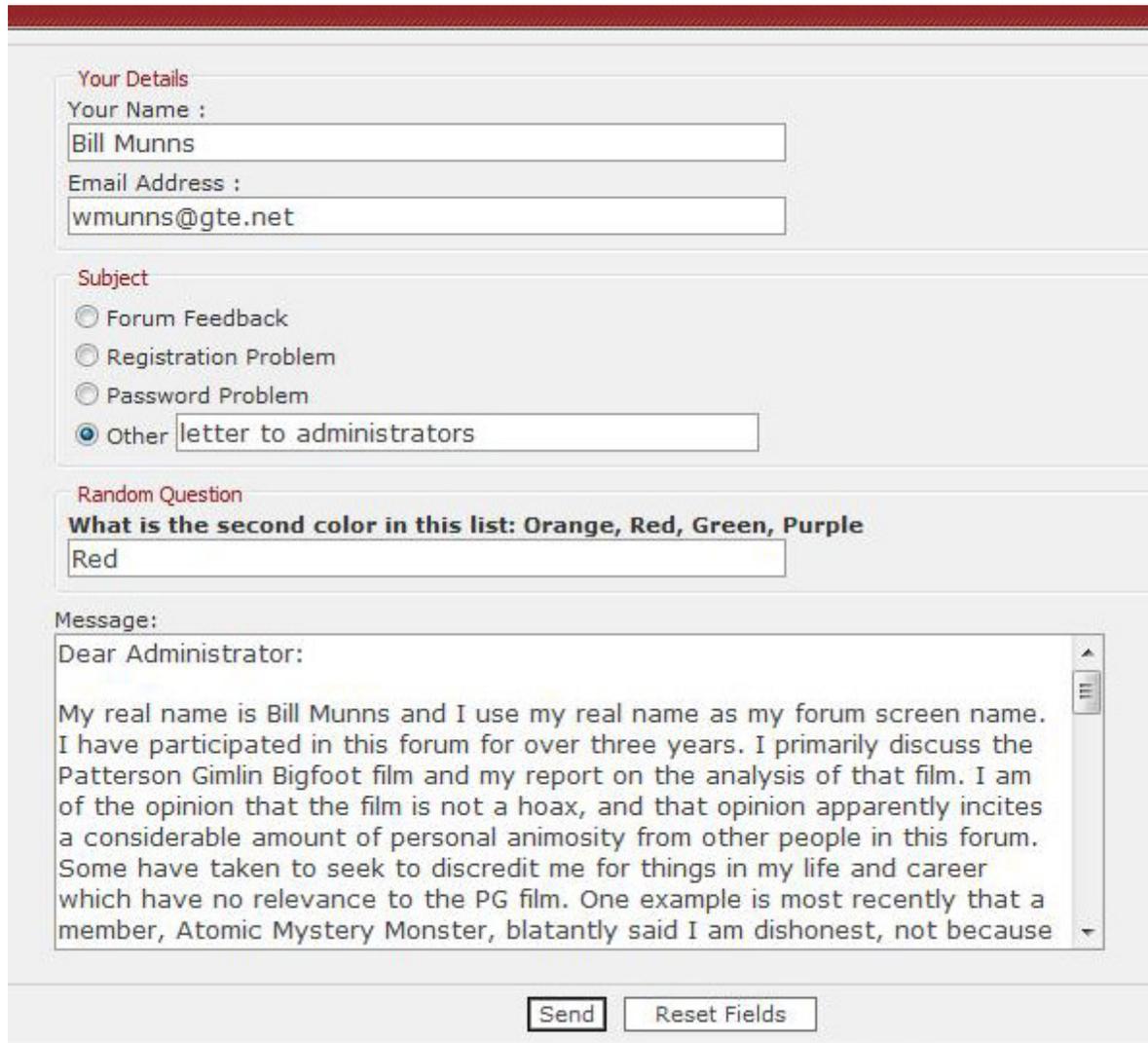
**"It appears, based on moderator actions, that this forum is intent to be accomplice to the libel of member Atomic Mystery Monster against me, so I will begin preserving screenprint evidence of the actions that go on here, including this notice, which is expected to be removed soon.**

**Then I will pursue legal action.**

**Bill Munns"** (end quote)

Next, I prepared the following letter to a JREF Administrator, and I am showing this draft to all concerned. I tried to open my account there to send it by PM to the forum staff, but apparently I

no longer exist as a member, so I emailed it through the "Contact Us" function to the webmaster, and shown here:



The screenshot shows a web form with the following sections:

- Your Details**
  - Your Name :
  - Email Address :
- Subject**
  - Forum Feedback
  - Registration Problem
  - Password Problem
  - Other
- Random Question**

What is the second color in this list: Orange, Red, Green, Purple
- Message:**

Dear Administrator:

My real name is Bill Munns and I use my real name as my forum screen name. I have participated in this forum for over three years. I primarily discuss the Patterson Gimlin Bigfoot film and my report on the analysis of that film. I am of the opinion that the film is not a hoax, and that opinion apparently incites a considerable amount of personal animosity from other people in this forum. Some have taken to seek to discredit me for things in my life and career which have no relevance to the PG film. One example is most recently that a member, Atomic Mystery Monster, blatantly said I am dishonest, not because
- Buttons:

If no action is taken, it will document the Administrator's willful disregard for upholding forum policy.

The full letter reads as follows:

**Dear Administrator:**

**My real name is Bill Munns and I use my real name as my forum screen name. I have participated in this forum for over three years. I primarily discuss the Patterson Gimlin Bigfoot film and my report on the analysis of that film. I am of the opinion that the film is not a hoax, and that opinion apparently incites a considerable amount of personal animosity from other people in this forum. Some have taken to seek to discredit me for things in my life and career which have no relevance to the PG film. One example is most**

recently that a member, Atomic Mystery Monster, blatantly said I am dishonest, not because of issues regarding that bigfoot film or my report, but simply because I hold a certain opinion on how to explain an odd dinosaur skull I have studied.

I reported that post, for the character attack on my honesty. Apparently I am now being punished by the forum for reporting a personal attack someone made against me.

I also posted a copy of a news article, from CNN, which described a court case and judicial ruling which found anonymous people on the internet do not have an unrestricted right to defame or harass real people on-line, and if the defamation is serious, the person's anonymity will not be protected by the court. As this is a respected news article, I felt it was a fair piece of material to post.

It was deleted. Apparently the forum is more concerned about allowing members to defame another's character than it is concerned with providing or allowing members to know what are the legal rights and limitations of defaming a person on-line.

I don't know the full circumstances of the deletion of the posts, or what information you have access to in regard to this issue. So I can only say that I am so fed up with the insults by people in your forum that I now choose to pursue legal redress, and I must ask, candidly, will the JREF be part of the problem or part of the solution. Will you be the supportive of your stated policies and a defender against personal character attacks, or will you be accomplice to libel?

I hope that you will simply take this matter seriously enough to consult with any formal or informal legal counsel who aids the JREF and consider this issue with thorough deliberation. I know you have access to all the evidence you need to make a determination.

As I do not know the extent that my forum access is limited at present, I would hope that any response advising me of the administrator's review may be sent to me at;

**wmunns@gte.net**

**Sincerely,**

**Bill Munns**

(End, letter to JREF Administrator)

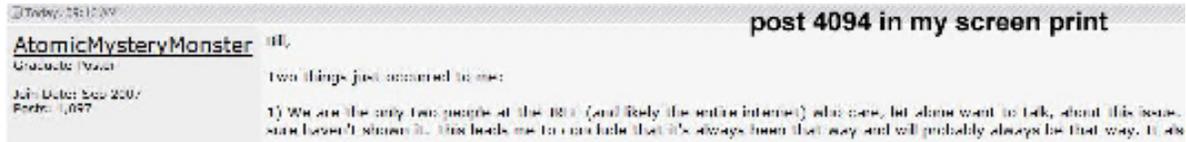
Now, as to status, the JREF forum itself, and all it's actively displayed and publicly viewable posts will be "Exhibit #1" collectively. So any person posting there, and making any remarks using "Bill Munns", "Munns" or even "Munn" are providing evidence easily searchable as investigation continues. Whether that evidence supports me or damns others depends on the remark. Suffice to say, the person's of concern here are basically providing the evidence against themselves, by their own remarks.

As example,

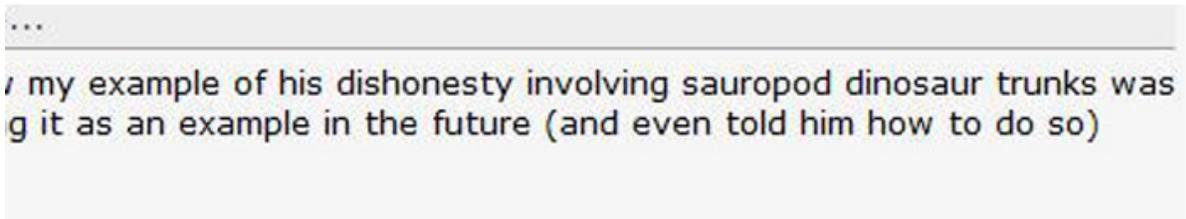
AMM

You write:

**"We are the only two people on the JREF (and likely the entire internet) who care, let alone want to talk, about this issue."**



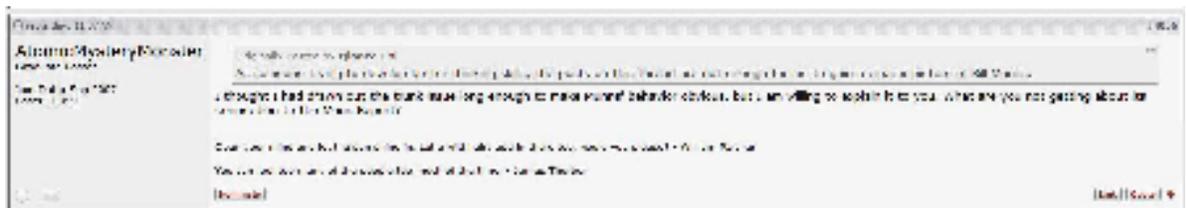
Yet you accuse me of being dishonest, in the public forum so other people will know of your accusation, and thus forcing me to debate with you a topic nobody wants to know about, to defend my honesty.



Then you take it upon yourself to tell a new member about this issue, in post #4056, to make sure your criticism is noted in the mind of a person with absolutely no demonstrated interest or background to appreciate the topic, or make an independent judgment.

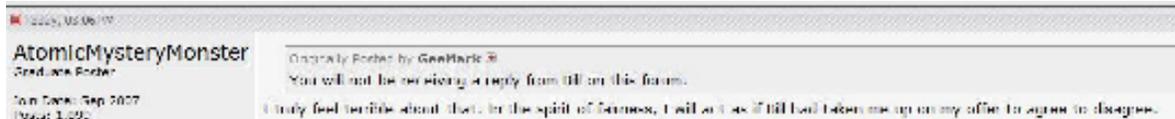
You say:

**"I thought I had drawn out the trunk issue long enough to make Munns' behavior obvious, but I am willing to explain it to you."**



You admit you have drawn out the issue that you admit nobody else has interest in (an obsessive behavior). So you have drawn it out for your own personal agenda. And then this lament after I was banned, where you say:

**"I feel truly terrible about this. In the spirit of fairness, I will act as if Bill had taken me up on my offer to agree to disagree."**



So, do you truly feel terrible for accusing me of being dishonest? Where was your spirit of fairness, when I asked you to give it a rest? Why did you not then "agree to disagree" and let go?"

Weren't you even warned, along with the other viewers, by moderator jhunter in post #3963 to:

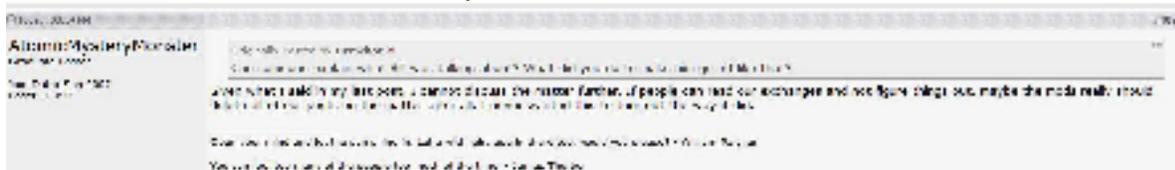
**"Address the argument, not the arguer, and keep the topic at hand. And for the record, the topic at hand is NEVER another poster."**



You did none of the above because your obsession to accuse me of being dishonest must come first.

And then you have the audacity to express regrets for the outcome, saying:

"I never wanted it to turn out the way it did."

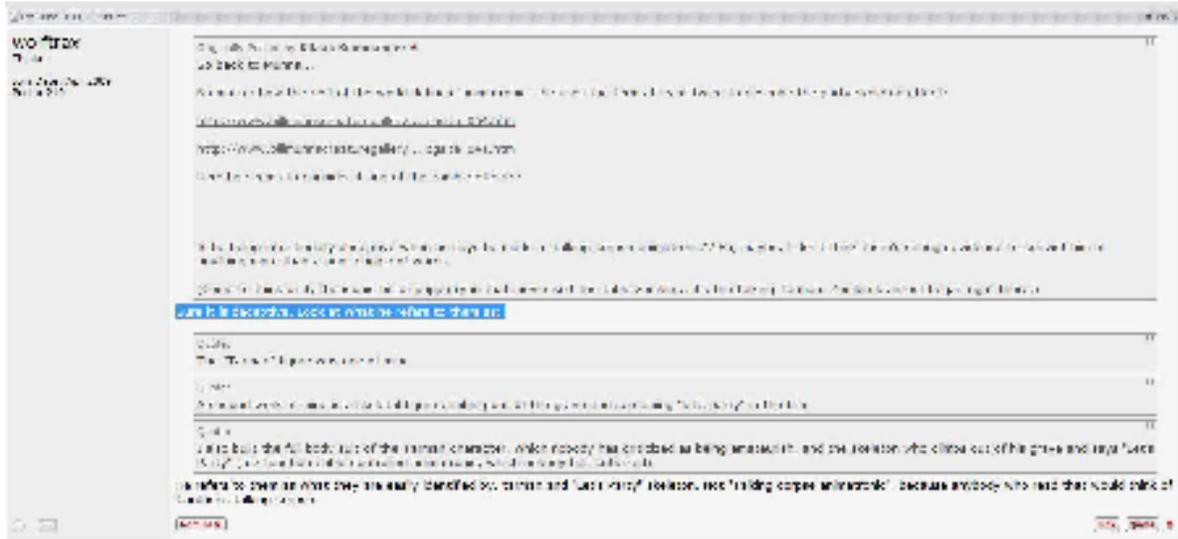


Apparently you have a reckless disregard for the many warning remarks I made and a reckless disregard for my reputation when you incessantly bring up the topic so often when my name is mentioned (as will be documented by additional screen captures), so you are simply obsessed with discrediting me. You will be held accountable for your obsessive behavior, and your libelous accusation of my being dishonest.

Wolftrax

You have been obsessing about the line in the LinkedIn page for weeks now, and multiple posts document this. You were told I did not create the page or write the words, that another person did for me as a gesture of helpfulness, and said person made an innocent choice of words that could

be ambiguous in a way she couldn't possibly know. I told you I had no access to edit the page, and after knowing all this, you say in post #3953 the entry is "DECEPTIVE"

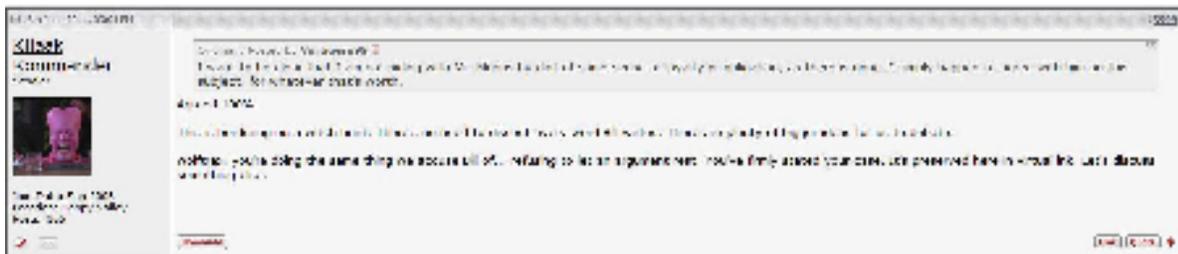


despite knowing it was posted by a third party, knowing I had no access to edit, and thus no "deception".

And you keep harping on the complaint until persons who don't even like me had enough of your malicious action.

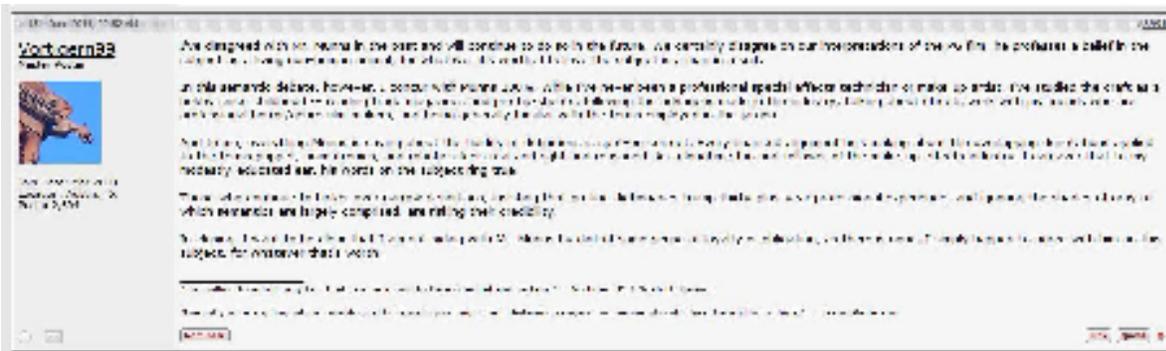
Kilaak Kommander notes in post #3999:

"This is bordering on a witch hunt."



You were advised the wording was ambiguous, but you did not heed the advice.

Vortigern99's remarks in #3991 should also reflect that persons who disagree with my PGF analysis none the less find your pedantic obsession with narrowing the definition of a word until you can achieve a criticism of me is damaging your own credibility.



Everything you claim or have concern for hinges on semantics, and this forum member who acknowledges he disagrees with me about my PGF effort still states, **"In this semantics debate, however, I concur with Munns 100%"**

For the record, on this issue, I will repeat what I previously posted, in essence:

It talks, it is a corpse, and it is an animatronic by common usage of the word among movie people, so the statement is truthful. I noted this in one of my forum postings as well, and you still would not let go of this. The deception is in your mind, and will not stand up to any court judgment. Furthermore, **I will allow the current listing on that LinkedIn page to stand as it is, with no attempt to correct it**, (bolding mine) because I am confident that it is not deceptive and I see no reason to hide it.

Let us now examine your motive. Are you empowered by Tony Gardner to protect his reputation? If so, please show how and to what extent. As you've said nothing to that effect, the presumption stands that no, you do not fight for him.

Are you simply an upstanding citizen who ferret out falsehood and champions truth? Then why did you ignore the truth of the fact I didn't write it, and the person who did write it had no intent to deceive?

Do you have any stake in the outcome if you were to prevail, and some truly impartial judicial body found that yes, you were correct? What would you win? A financial award of damages? A restitution of something lost? Is there anything you stand to gain by this except bragging rights that you proved I was deceptive?

If you are right, I guess you may claim that as your vindication. If you are wrong, you will be found to be obsessed and harassing. As I am confident in the latter, I will say, Persist with your harassment, and it will go to court.

Bobbie:

Enough of this crap. The massacre BS is laughable enough as it stands, but trying to drag me in as some kind of accomplice, or imply I am hiding anything by cropping frames to hide the so-called "truth" you describe, is attacking my integrity. I will be collecting screen captures of your posts soon as well. Keep up the attack and I will see you in court.

Others in the forum have demonstrated at least a sense of fairness, even though the forum archives would show them as having a history of disagreeing with my work. I wish to acknowledge that they are to be commended for demonstrating fairness. Thankfully, your remarks are also well documented.

All of you who post, in any thread, and use the words "Bill Munns", "Munns" or even "Munn" should now consider how your remarks will sound in a legal proceeding. They are evidence and once posted, are public record.

So one and all are hereby advised, that your public comments are potentially evidence, either of the appraisals of the situation, or if defamatory of me, evidence of your potential libel.

There is an old but ever so true saying, "Give them enough rope and they will hang themselves".

To those of you who are so obsessed with discrediting me that you pour through my resume in desperate attempts to find a word you can fight over, I am giving you enough rope. Do with it as you will.

Anything you now post on the JREF about me is evidence that you are either fair and focused on ideas, or part of the problem (and potentially defendants) or part of the solution. Everything you have posted in the past is also part of that evidence resource. It will be examined in the context of this matter.

If you post, from this day on, assume you are posting to a court transcript, with full legal consequences for what you write, and your true legal identity subject to exposure, if you are adjudged to be defaming another person.

**"The protection of the right to communicate anonymously must be balanced against the need to assure that those persons who choose to abuse the opportunities presented by this medium can be made to answer for such transgressions," the judge said, quoting the Virginia decision.**

Bill Munns