

Markstein is Acting Like an Obnoxious Jerk (But So What Else is New?)

from Rich Lynch for SFPA 223, in response to Markstein's latest tirade

I regret this is necessary, but the first page of Markstein's fanzine in SFPA 222, with its truth-distorting sniping, has misrepresented what has happened in regards to Lester Boutillier's article "Secret Sam," about the now-legendary New Orleans fan Don Walsh, that appeared in *Mimosa* 10. If you're not morbidly curious, or if you already agree with my opinion of Markstein as expressed in the title above, then just skip this entirely. I'll try to keep it short.

The web address for the article is: http://www.jophan.org/mimosa/m10/m10_p16.htm Lester's article originally appeared in SFPA, and was reprinted in *M10*. We did receive a note from Markstein afterwards, but there were no criticisms of any specific points of information in it, just a broad request to never mention his name in *Mimosa* again (which we've been able to do without any difficulty at all). If you read Lester's article, you'd probably come to the conclusion that what Markstein found objectionable was the section where he was described as once being the manager of a porno movie theater somewhere in the New Orleans area, and having once been arrested in a police raid. (There is already credible evidence, based on information from several New Orleans fans, that Markstein was in fact the night manager of a porno theater.)

At any rate, on June 28th, we once again received a note from Markstein, this time via email. Since he feels this is a topic for discussion in SFPA, I'm reprinting his email below so you can see just how much an egomaniac he is.

From: "Donald Markstein" <ddmarkstein@home.com>
To: <jophan@zdnetwork.com>
Subject: Libelous falsehoods
Date: Thu, 28 Jun 2001

Several years ago, you published an article in *Mimosa*, by Lester Boutillier, which contained false and libelous statements about me. I objected at the time, asking you to kindly never mention my name in your fanzine again. It was bad enough to see such a thing in a fanzine, but at least a fanzine's capacity for damaging my professional reputation is limited. Now, however, you've put that article on the Web, where anyone in the entire world can read it. I'm sure that pathetic little man, who displays such intense jealousy of me, is very pleased. I, however, am not. Please remove it.
-- Donald D. Markstein

What Markstein doesn't seem to realize is that he is, in fact, nothing more than a minnow. I mean, who in the world would actually give a damn about what Markstein did years ago? And that anybody might actually feel "such intense jealousy" of Markstein is just mind-boggling, totally beyond comprehension.

But all of this is besides the point. The *same day* we received Markstein's email, we *did*, in fact, change the *Mimosa* web site, not by removing the article, but by blacking out his name wherever it appeared (i.e., every occurrence of 'Don Markstein' was changed to '*** *****'; his name was no longer anywhere on the *Mimosa* web site as of June 28th). I'm reprinting a screen-shot of the server directory of the *Mimosa* web site on the other side of this page so you can see that the dates of the files on the web server for pages 16-18 are June 28th. The OO of SFPA indicates Markstein's fanzine was mailed to the OE in late July, about a month after his email and a month after the change to the *Mimosa* web site was made. From this, I conclude that Markstein is either so caught up with the thrill of thinking he's found another hobbyhorse to climb on that he's lost sight of the truth, or else he is so stupid that he didn't check the *Mimosa* web site again to see if there had been any changes in response to his email.

As for how accurate Lester's article is, we are going to do some investigation. I am not about to take Markstein's word on anything, so I have asked Guy Lillian to do some research to see if he can determine if there is any incorrect information in the article. If there is, we will add a pop-up hyperlink to every occurrence of '*** *****' (and the asterisks will stay) with a disclaimer, detailing whatever Guy is able to find out (and I encourage him to publish it in his SFPazine). If, on the other hand, it turns out that Markstein has been indulging in some revisionist spin-doctoring, we might take some other action.

And with that, I'm done. While Markstein's demand that the "Secret Sam" article be removed is unreasonable (the article is about Don Walsh, not him), his request that his name be removed has been honored. I expect he will have some response, but I won't reply any further; I would hope that everybody will consider the source from now before paying much credulity to anything he says.

Local System

c:\mimosaweb\m10

^	Name	Date	Size	ChgDir
	m10_p06.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p07.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p08.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p09.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p10.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p11.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p12.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p13.htm	980301 00:00		
	m10_p14.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p15.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p16.htm	010628 12:12		
	m10_p17.htm	010628 12:15		
	m10_p18.htm	010628 12:13		
	m10_p19.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p20.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p21.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p22.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p23.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p24.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p25.htm	980228 00:00		
	m10_p26.htm	980228 00:00		

Remote Site

/Documents/mimosa/m10

^	Name	Date	Size	ChgDir
	m10_p04.htm	000813 00:00		
	m10_p05.htm	000813 00:00		
	m10_p06.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p07.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p08.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p09.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p10.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p11.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p12.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p13.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p14.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p15.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p16.htm	010628 12:12		
	m10_p17.htm	010628 12:15		
	m10_p18.htm	010628 12:13		
	m10_p19.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p20.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p21.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p22.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p23.htm	000908 00:00		
	m10_p24.htm	000908 00:00		

ASCII Binary Auto

150 Opening ASCII mode data connection for /bin/ls.
Received 6482 bytes in 1.4 secs. (44.37 Kbps), transfer succeeded
226 Listing completed.