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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Anthony Ortega, Kal Korff and "The Hack and the

From: ParadigmRG <ParadigmRG@aol.com>
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Fwd Date: Wed, 11 Mar 1998 09:40:27 -0500
Subject: Anthony Ortega, Kal Korff and "The Hack and the

As a consequence of additional posts to Updates by Mr. Kal Korff, please indulge a consolidation and expansion of two previous posts of mine. Repost or reprint as you like.

ANTHONY ORTEGA, KAL KORFF AND "THE HACK AND THE QUACK"

The circumstances regarding the publishing of Anthony Ortega's "Phoenix New Times" article, "The Hack and the Quack" and the involvement and subsequent follow-up by Mr. Kal Korff are not unprecedented. We have been through this before, many times. What is at issue here is not spirited disagreement over the research and viewpoints of others. What is at issue here is McCarthyism.

For those not old enough to recall this episode of eponymous demagoguery, it concerned the use of ideological differences to justify disrupting the rights and opportunities of others. It utilized the tools of innuendo, guilt by association, lies, implied threats, invasion of privacy, economic sanction and much more. You may also recall that it was not merely the agenda of its namesake, but the actions of many dispersed throughout the political, military and entertainment communities.

Can you here the sucking sound as the time, attention and resources are directed toward new acts of disruption and distraction?

Mr. Korff's well established game has been given the imprimatur of a newspaper article which significantly relied on Mr. Korff's published works as well as his interview with Ortega. This article was much more than a broad attack on Jim Dilettoso, it was clearly intentioned to show the Laughlin Conference in the worst possible light, attack as many people as space would permit within the context of the article, and above all, to damage the efforts of Frances Emma Barwood to seek the office of Secretary of State of Arizona.

This is real politik. You are seeing an interactive process between mainstream media and certain elements within the general field of ufology which is designed to feed on itself and do damage. This damage will have consequences. I am a believer that the work is primary, the internecine personal conflicts secondary. However, there will be times, and this is one, when the majority camp of this field must step forward and speak out.

It is fortunate that after 50 years, the extraordinarily complex substance and history that represents the extraterrestrial enigma and its pursuit by fallible human beings has finally been clarified via the multi-month research effort of Mr. Ortega. Of equal benefit to our understanding was the further clarification by Mr. Korff.

In his initial post New Timeis article diatribe, he claimed that ufology is now divided into two "schools of thought," "two basic camps" - those who think critically and those who do not.

There are not two but many "schools of thought" among the thousands of individuals addressing the ongoing phenomena we awkwardly call ufology. However, "two basic camps" can, indeed, be discerned.

The majority camp consists of a broad array of people from all ranks and stations who have elected to invest a significant portion of their one and only life to somehow understand and deal with the most extraordinary event in human history. People with limited resources, mismatched educations, conflicting life demands and little social support moving against great resistance, making many mistakes, but pressing forward when every institution that human civilization has brought forth (academia, journalism, science, political agencies, elected bodies, the church, the military) has elected to either stand down or subvert understanding for ulterior agendas.

The minority camp consists of arrogant, self-serving, self-absorbed, self-aggrandizing and self-appointed purveyors of aggressive invective, libel, slander and personal attacks. Individuals who, by chance or design, found themselves nicely positioned in the gap between an amazing citizen science initiative and a confounded and cowering scientific establishment, and elected to feast on the mistakes and imperfections of the former for no other reason than the targets were easy. Individuals who are less concerned with the impact of the unfolding truths on the global public than gorging themselves on their own self-importance as critics, executioners, debunkers and McCarthyesque holders of lists of the "unworthy and misguided."

This minority camp persists because the larger, greater work is too demanding, the cascade of events too compelling, available funds too limited to afford the waste of time and money required to properly address their games.

In the post-paradigm world we inevitably approach, there will be time enough for chroniclers of history to document which of these camps served humanity and which served themselves.

Stephen Bassett

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