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Response To Concerns Over IUFOMRC In Roswell

From: **Bob Bush** <Webmaster@IUFOMRC.org>
Date: Sun, 31 Jan 1999 12:21:05 -0700
Fwd Date: Mon, 01 Feb 1999 10:50:33 -0500
Subject: Response To Concerns Over IUFOMRC In Roswell

[Non-Subscriber Post]

This posting is submitted at the request of the IUFOMRC:

RESPONSE TO ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL UFO MUSEUM AND RESEARCH CENTER (IUFOMRC) IN ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO

Recently, several letters, ads, articles, etc. have surfaced on the net and in print, concerning the IUFOMRC. This response is a one-time and one-time only effort. Any additional letters, ads, articles, etc. will not be addressed.

On September 28, 1998, the Museum hired an Office Coordinator, with Board approval. The decision to hire a new Director was put on the back burner until the business end of running the Museum could be organized. The Museum, recognized locally as a mom and pop organization, wanted to change its image into a professionally run organization. The Board recognized the need to instill policies and procedures in preparation for continued growth and the potential need for additional staff.

The new Office Coordinator's credentials include, but are not limited to, the following:

- * BA in Sociology from Loyola-Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.
- * MA in Human Resources Development from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.
- * MA in Human Resources Management from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.
- * MA in Computer Resources Management from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

At no time has the Office Coordinator been addressed as the Director, Acting Director, or Interim Director. In fact, when approached with the idea of possibly working into the Director position, the Office Coordinator let the co-founders know she was not interested.

Everyone at the Museum pitches in when needed, to perform the duties of a Director.

On October 28, 1998, one employee was terminated; severance pay was given.

One volunteer was asked to sever all ties with the museum. This particular volunteer had been asked to leave on two previous occasions, and at no time was ever a paid employee.

These two departures were not the decision of one individual. The decision to terminate the employee and to sever ties with the volunteer was unanimously voted on by an Executive Committee. This committee included the three co-founders and a Board representative as well as other staff members.

On November 4, 1998, the agreement with our then webmaster was terminated (with severance pay). This termination was due to the fact that the webmaster carried out a directive from the volunteer who was no longer associated with the Museum and did so without notifying the Museum.

At this time, the Museum had also learned that the website domain was actually registered to the webmaster instead of to the Museum. This was unacceptable, as we were paying her to maintain the Museum's website, not her own. The Museum would have corrected this problem whether or not the webmaster was to be terminated.

In changing the domain name, proper procedure was followed. There is nothing unethical or deceptive about this procedure. You simply request a form, fill it out, notarize it, and send it in. Internic either approves the change or not. In our case, Internic approved the change.

In addition, the Museum is now facing a lawsuit that could have been avoided had the webmaster followed through with her assigned responsibility of notifying the Museum when questionable material was about to be placed on the net.

The decision to terminate this webmaster and hire a new one, was once again an Executive Committee's decision.

The Museum made a verbal request of the webmaster, for a listing of copyrighted material to include the dates of the copyright. She was informed that any copyrighted material, that was not a "work for hire", would be taken off the website.

No list was ever received.

Yes, we currently have two websites. However, the general public is not aware of this. The old site has been left up while the new site is under construction. As soon as we are ready to make the switch to the new site, anyone calling up iufomrc.com will either get a message containing our new address, or will simply receive the new site.

As for the former Director, in her resignation letter to the Board dated August 18, 1998, she states that her resignation, effective August 20, 1998, was due to her new assignment with the Ronald McDonald House in Lubbock, Texas.

As for "heavy-handed" or "Gestapo" tactics at the museum:

- * It is the Museum's policy to have the Office Coordinator open and appropriately disburse the mail. This policy applies to all mail received at the Museum unless it is stamped "Personal and Confidential."

- * It is the policy of the Museum that all matters concerning personnel issues, overheard conversations, or any information gained not be disclosed to others, inside or outside, the Museum.

- * As far as looking through everyone's hard drives and e-mail, this is not true. Not only is this statement ridiculous, but there's not enough time in a day for this kind of policing of the staff.

- * One researcher, visiting the library, was asked to leave by one of the Museum's co-founders. This co-founder was well within rights, as the researcher was involving herself in personnel issues, which were none of her concern.

Other allegations:

- * Based on the current level of information being issued over the net, should other ufologists choose to not visit the world's largest and most complete UFO library, it's their loss.

* What other professional would develop a product for a client worth \$300,000.00 and then settle for a mere \$200.00 a month as compensation?

* The current Office Coordinator makes almost 50% less income than at her previous position.

* It does not take a ufologist to manage the Museum offices. However, knowledge of the Roswell Incident and other data pertaining to UFO's in general, has increased tremendously since starting at the Museum.

In summary:

The Museum is doing fine and attendance is still high. There were 185,713 visitors through the Museum in 1998. On an average, we had 357 visitors per day. We also averaged visitors from 25 states and 5 countries per day.

The library project is moving right along, and we should be announcing our grand opening early in the spring. Mr. George Fawcett, one of the Museum's benefactors, is scheduled to be here in February and will be our guest lecturer on Saturday night, February 13th. Mr. Sabo, one of our other benefactors, recently sent us a sizeable donation, earmarked for the new library.

As for those who want to continue trying to smear the names of those associated with the Museum and who wish to continue making allegations: life is, fortunately or unfortunately, all about choices. Your choice is unfortunate.

The choice to believe or not to believe, is fortunately, our right.

To reiterate, no further response will be forthcoming from the IUFOMRC.

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