

EDITORIAL

"In cyberspace, invisible peddlers of information grind out fiction undifferentiated from fact, all stored online indefinitely."

Time to dial down the rhetoric

Oh, the Irony of it all :)

BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The internet and the World Wide Web were brilliant ideas, but of course, the Law of Unintended Consequences lay in ambush, and along with the good came unbridled extremism, cyber-bullying, identity theft, Nigerian money transfers, expensive counterfeit romance, phony IRS collection schemes and "fake news," to name just a few. Accordingly, we have become, and now have to be, suspicious of everything.

And "everything" is what the internet is fast becoming: the repository of the whole truth, the half-truth and the untruth. In cyberspace, invisible peddlers of information grind out fiction undifferentiated from fact, all stored online indefinitely.

Locally, a one-man blog and self-described "newspaper" identifying itself with the possible illegal use of the community name has been focusing mystifying scrutiny on Big Canoe with inflammatory headlines

and conspiracy theories. Ironically, this voice of investigative authority, the mysterious signatory "David/Publisher," is a Big Canoe property owner with an investment at risk in the community whose reputation he seems determined to destroy. Equally mystifying is his motive; the author remains curiously out of sight behind his keyboard.

In our opinion, this individual is on a crusade to turn molehills into mountains. He churns out factually dishonest conclusions that are often lost in a conspiratorial swirl of righteous indignation, amateurish personal attacks and reckless allegations. We are told that some of his threats in the recent past have made him no stranger to law enforcement. He knows that naming names and dropping words like "collusion," "fraud," "criminal," and "lawsuit" have potentially worrying implications.

Lacking any coherent expressed purpose, we lean toward the simple conclusion that this blog exists primarily as a conduit to feed a hungry

ego. A strong clue: "David/Publisher" is not bashful about bragging on his purported accomplishments. He has even boasted that what he has planned for Big Canoe will make 9/11 pale in comparison. Please...

Unfortunately, his fantasies have forced the POA to spend thousands in community funds investigating the assertions. Perhaps it's time for the POA to return the favor.

First, our cause is not to silence a voice, as if we could, but to ask our readers to put the rants and name-calling in perspective and ask, "Is this reasonable? Does this make sense?"

Second, there is a serious need to calm down and end the allegations and threats.

Third, we call on the man behind the cyber-curtain to come forward and accept the generous invitation extended by the POA to speak and engage in the process of positive democratic face-to-face community governance.

Big Canoe may not be perfect,

and there can be genuine concerns, but there are ways to cope without animus and rancor. There are so many more good reasons here than bad ones to do this.

We recognize that "David/Publisher" is baiting us with lame name-calling, and that a word from us is probably just what he hopes for, giving him the opening to unleash a familiar barrage of invective, the real purpose of which is just to bring even more attention on himself. We all know who he is.

Ed. Note: Smoke Signals is an independent stand-alone publication of Smoke Signals Community Services, Inc., a non-profit corporation organized under IRS code section 501(c)4. Smoke Signals is staffed largely by residents of Big Canoe, but does not now have, nor at any time in the past had, an organizational or operational relationship with either the Big Canoe Property Owner's Association or the developer.

While a masterpiece of allegorical drama - the "editorial" contains not a single whiff of factual reference. It is simply an uncivil, untruthful, character assassination - a dagger embroidered with flowery and cowardly words - the entire article ironically "Dialing UP the Rhetoric" - and continuing a sad pattern of avoiding discussion of Actual News.