

Letters

Continued from page 6

notice. Which means to me she was terminated.

Thank you for the opportunity to write to the Editor and know that it will be printed for all to see.

— Robert Furlani
Phoenix, AZ

[The writer is the Assistant Publisher of the Gay Community Yellow Pages.]

cc: Q-Notes

To: Jeff Ofstedahl, *Echo Magazine*

I was shocked and disappointed concerning the allegations contained in the recent *Echo* report titled *As the Gay Community Yellow Pages World Turns*. Much of the report reshapes what was published in your July 24, 1997 article which you know I contend is inaccurate and untrue, and to which I responded (subsequent article *The Community Yellow Pages Speaks Out — Marci Alt's Response*). However, I was particularly disturbed with the allegations that somehow either my company or I had anything to do with the alleged kidnapping of Jamie Kent, a Perennial Publications employee and telemarketing manager. I unequivocally deny that I have any knowledge of, or involvement in any manner, with the incident. Moreover, I emphatically deny that either I or the Community Yellow Pages arranged or conspired with any person to commit the alleged kidnapping.

However, since, in my opinion, the allegations and content of your report are inaccurate, unfair and omit important information (some of which has been relayed to you by my attorney), and because your articles have hurt me both personally and have damaged my business reputation, I want to extend again to Paula McDonald and Perennial Publications, Inc. virtually the same offer (which has been previously ignored) in order to put this matter to rest.

I had previously instructed my Florida attorneys to discuss possible settlement of all lawsuits and potential counterclaims involving Perennial Publications, Inc. Paula McDonald and other Plaintiffs in the Florida and Georgia lawsuits ("Plaintiffs"). It was my understanding that the Plaintiffs were interested in discussing settlement possibilities in an informal setting. Among other settlement options explored, my attorneys communicated to Plaintiff's attorneys that I would be willing (as would some of my employees or friends), if Paula McDonald would, to take a polygraph examination to resolve questions that are at the heart of the Florida and Georgia lawsuits, including the Tampa incident [involvement in the kidnapping of Jamie Kent]. My attorney repeatedly contacted Plaintiffs' council, but was essentially met with no response, which was confirmed in a recent letter to Plaintiffs' counsel. I can only conclude that Plaintiffs are reluctant to take a polygraph examination. If, however, somehow I or my attorneys have misinterpreted Plaintiffs' lack of response, I will reiterate in exact terms my proposed offer:

I, Marci Alt, will agree, if Paula McDonald will so agree (including all the other persons and corporations involved in the Florida and Georgia lawsuits), to within 60 days after publication in *Echo*, to take a polygraph examination (to include for examination one or two other persons of the other side's choosing) which will address the issues in the Florida and Georgia lawsuits (to also comprise counterclaims and all other claims between the parties, including the Tampa incident). I will instruct my attorneys, on my behalf, to enter into a mutually agreeable settlement agreement dependent on the outcome of the polygraph examination with such terms and conditions, including but not limited to the selection of a mutually agreeable polygraph examiner, agreement as to the number of questions, content of questions, and any stipulation to judgment (including money damages) and other terms depending on the outcome of the testing, if Paula McDonald (and all other persons and corporations involved in the Florida and Georgia lawsuits) will so agree, and instruct her attorneys accordingly.

I make the above offer because I am confident of the outcome and because I believe that this is the only quick, effective means to prevent the continuing damage to my personal and business reputation.

The world still waits. ▼

— Marci Alt
Phoenix, AZ

[The writer is the owner and CEO of Chapter 2 Publishing which produces *The Gay Community Yellow Pages*.]


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