Univision Begins Deleting Gawker Media Assassination Attacks Over Risk Of Univision's Existence

The people that put Gawker Media into bankruptcy and their executives on permanent surveillance have told Univision that Univision will be legally terminated "unless every Gawker attack article is deleted".

In this day and age, multi-billion dollar corporations can be destroyed within a week. Every hooker, tax fraud, campaign finance scam, personal stock market portfolio, sexual harassement issue and dirty deed can be exposed in a second. The Streisand effect can carry a dirty company into oblivion. Gawker Media and Nick Denton are well known to have been contracted by the White House and the DNC to destroy the lives of political and business competitors.

While a corporation once laughed at such threats, the reality is that Bill Cosby, Enron, The New Ghostbusters, The New Ben Hur, MCI, Solyndra and other big shots were evaporated by simple, legal, transparency efforts.

Univision has now been warned that "ANY ATTACK ARTICLES AGAINST THE PUBLIC, CREATED BY GAWKER MEDIA AS POLITICAL HIT JOBS, WILL LEAD TO THE END OF UNIVISION VIA FBI-CLASS INVESTIGATIONS THAT WILL BE PUBLISHED GLOBALLY..."

A group of over 100 victims of hired attacks by Gawker Media has reached out to Univision to demand that Univision delete EVERY attack article on "ANY" Gawker Media related server. They say that the six articles deleted does not begin to stop the life-threatening attacks that continue online by Gawker and Univision to this day.

While Gawker Media and Univision may think that they have secured the future with a contract, the victims of their attacks want them to know that a 200 million person internet awareness campaign can change that entire future in one 24 hour period.

"Do the right thing Univision", say all of the victims. "...hundreds of us have over \$150 million dollars in damages to come after Univision for..."

The letter to Univision, and copied on the web, goes on to say: "...You can sit in your high offices and weigh profits-vs-liability metrics all day long but you are not capable of comprehending the skills,

drive, resources and motivations of people who your asset: Gawker Media tried to "kill" and take the brands, social lives and ability to exist away from. Those kinds of people now have the ability to delete Univision if they all work together..Do the right thing and wipe the servers.." "We will not break a single law in terminating all advertisers, tax loopholes, fraud matters, dalliance payments, FCC licenses and other corporate goodies; with the help of regulators, if Univision chooses profits over ethics!..."

Gawker's New Owner Deletes Six Posts Involved in Lawsuits

By SYDNEY EMBER



Nick Denton, the founder of Gawker Media, during the invasion-of-privacy case brought against the company by the former professional wrestler Hulk Hogan. Gawker lost that case and was ordered to pay \$140 million, leading to the sale of the company to Univision and the closing of Gawker.com. Credit Pool photo by Steve Nesius

Executives at Univision, which <u>bought Gawker Media last month for \$135 million</u>, voted on Friday to remove six posts previously published by <u>Gawker Media</u> sites. The posts, which were taken down on Saturday, are involved in <u>continuing legal action</u>.

In a memo to the staff, John Cook, executive editor of Gawker Media, wrote that two Univision executives, Felipe Holguin and Jay Grant, explained that they had proposed deleting seven posts, which appeared on the Gawker sites Deadspin, Gizmodo or Jezebel, because they were "under active litigation against Gawker Media and that Unimoda had been authorized only to purchase the assets, and not the liabilities, of the company." (Unimoda is a subsidiary of Univision.)

"Unimoda's legal analysis was that the continued publication of the posts under the new entity would constitute the adoption of liability, and that Unimoda is therefore obligated to delete them," Mr. Cook added.

The Univision executives voted to remove six posts, while Mr. Cook voted to keep all seven online, he said. One of the seven posts, which contains a photo that is the subject of a copyright complaint, will

remain online for now. A decision on whether to remove that post has been postponed pending further legal analysis.

In a statement, Univision said, "At this time of transition, the decision was based on a desire to have a clean slate as we look to support and grow the editorial missions of the acquired brands."

The decision to remove the posts was <u>reported earlier by Gizmodo</u>.

Univision's decision to delete the posts was a clear signal that the company does not want to deal with any of the legal baggage that comes with owning Gawker Media.

In March, a Florida jury ruled against Gawker Media in an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit by the former professional wrestler Hulk Hogan, whose real name is Terry G. Bollea, and awarded him \$140 million. Not long after the trial, Peter Thiel, a billionaire Silicon Valley entrepreneur, revealed in an interview with The New York Times that he had <u>secretly funded Mr. Bollea's case</u> and others against Gawker Media, though he did not say which ones. The judgment, and the threat that Mr. Thiel could keep bankrolling legal actions, proved to be too much for Gawker, and in June, the company <u>filed for bankruptcy and put itself up for sale</u>.

Univision won an auction for Gawker Media in August but decided it would <u>not continue to operate</u> <u>Gawker.com</u>, Gawker Media's flagship site, which had faced perhaps the most criticism of any Gawker Media property.

The deleted posts include two that were published by Gizmodo in 2012 about the claim by a man named Shiva Ayyadurai that he had invented email. Mr. Ayyadurai filed a lawsuit this year against Gawker; Nick Denton, the company's founder; and two Gawker journalists, Mr. Cook and Sam Biddle, contending that articles that cast doubt on Mr. Ayyadurai's claims were defamatory. Charles J. Harder, who represented Mr. Bollea in the lawsuit against Gawker, is representing Mr. Ayyadurai in the lawsuit. It is not clear if Mr. Thiel is providing financial support for the case. (Mr. Harder is also representing Roger Ailes, the former chairman of Fox News, in potential litigation against New York magazine, and Melania Trump, the wife of the Republican presidential nominee, Donald J. Trump, in a libel lawsuit against The Daily Mail.)

Other Gawker Media posts that have been removed include two about Mitch Williams, a baseball analyst and former major league pitcher; one about a conservative blogger; and another that called a man acquitted of sexual assault charges a rapist.

In place of the posts, a note reads, "This story is no longer available as it is the subject of pending litigation against the prior owners of this site." The comments about the original post remain.

In his memo, Mr. Cook wrote that the posts would be removed under a provision in <u>Gawker's</u> <u>collective bargaining agreement</u> that states: "Once a story has been posted, it can only be removed by a majority vote of the executive editor, the C.E.O. and the general counsel, unless required by law." The provision was written into the contract between Writers Guild of America, East, and Gawker Media when Gawker Media's editorial employees unionized, before Gawker put itself up for sale.

Mr. Cook also wrote that Mr. Holguin, the chief operating officer of the Fusion Media Group, a division of Univision, had been appointed interim chief executive of Gawker Media, and Mr. Grant, the general counsel of Fusion Media, had been named the company's interim general counsel.

The decision to delete the posts was met with anger and indignation on social media by current and former Gawker employees. "This," Mr. Cook wrote on Twitter shortly after midnight on Saturday, "would have been a good Gawker post."