



Now (for reasons we can only guess) Mike is out to do as much damage as he can by spreading what Peter S. Beagle calls "a ridiculous mash-up of selectively-edited misrepresentations & flat-out falsehoods." Since Mike refuses to stop, we have hired a lawyer and are suing for defamation. Until that is over, the

contractor for the company, and quit just before we learned he'd stolen from us.

following is all we feel needs to be said. Please read it and decide for yourself who and what to believe. For most of its existence, Conlan Press has been a one-person operation run by Connor Cochran, with occasional help from his wife, some friends and

volunteers, a few carefully-chosen freelancers, and here and there a contractor. It was originally created as a subset of a bigger effort that Connor had begun in 2001 — to help dig Peter S. Beagle out of the terrible financial and career hole he'd wound up in after decades of being cheated by publishers and studios.

Thirteen years later it is obvious that Connor has succeeded at his self-appointed task. Peter has gotten all his rights back that could be regained; has been paid all the money he was contractually owed but never got; and has had a career renaissance worthy of a New Yorker article. Not only have an extraordinary number of new Beagle works been published (with more in the pipeline, and old ones coming back into print), but work has begun on an immersive Broadway-bound musical of The Last Unicom, to be co-produced by a major actor and an international pop star (Josh and Fergie Duhamel);

and Peter and the 1982 animated version of The Last Unicom are being lauded in movie theaters around the world as part of a three-year event that will, when finished, be the single largest author signing tour/movie screening tour in history.

Along the way Connor has also (through Conlan Press) delivered more than 150,000 Beagle-related items, most of them signed and personalized, to Peter's fans around the world. This is not to say there have not been problems. Even as all these other things have been achieved, several promised Conlan Press products have been delayed, while another special customized, hand-completed product has been steadily delivered but more slowly than would be ideal.

It is important to note, however, that ... These problems involve less than half of 1% of Conlan Press's orders over 10 years, the rest of which have all been successfully delivered. Every customer who has ever asked for a refund has been sent their money.

 The reasons for the delays are external, not internal, and we have worked hard to resolve any problem as quickly as possible. The status of all delayed items has been regularly and accurately updated to customers through the company's email newsletter.

[Bonus points to anyone who gets the Dustin Hoffman movie reference in that headline.] This is not short, but it all has to be here to make things clear.

SO WHO IS MIKE BOLGER, AND WHY IS HE SAYING THOSE TERRIBLE THINGS ABOUT US?

Did you tell us you weren't going to be in today and I just forgot?

This is my resignation from Conlan Press, effective immediately.

Frankly pissed at this discovery, Connor emailed back:

Kind of blows a hole in your entire thesis.

deal. The timing is certainly suspicious enough.

First correspondent [name withheld to maintain privacy]:

email addresses of those who purchased the Extra Deluxe Hardcover."

Dear Mike:

company email addresses.

Second correspondent [lbid.]:

truth. Here it is.

And he still has 255 books to go.

holding up the process. Am I right?

Yeah. That's not tacky or weird or anything.

My advice on how to get your books:

a magnet for con men.

At his current rate, it will take him around 12.3 years to finish the remaining books.

know why? He's scanning these sketches and wants to compile them for a future book.

want to speak to the guy that's holding your book hostage there he is.

these books is like talking to Haggard about his unicom hoarding problem.

the same thing our two customers were thinking about — their security.

Today we learned about your post-resignation mass email.

necessary in our own public statement.

Meanwhile you have a choice to make.

Dear Friends:

under that byline can't be ignored. So here goes.

that you all have been waiting so long for."

security measures are going to be put in place.

DEBUNKING (PART ONE)

data back, and to protect all of you from what he has done.

For those of you who just can't wait any longer, there are options:

want via e-mail, and include your phone number.

reliable, and they'll go straight out.

mental health issues — is this part:

had to be at least fifty different people.

DEBUNKING (PART THREE)

No. What it is is just nuts.

IN CONCLUSION

Sincerely,

was correct.

Peter S. Beagle

he could. And Mike Bolger said and did nothing...

Covering a few examples should do for all.

newsletter is from Connor, too?"

fansagainstfraud.com but left their lies up untouched.

quite a different story. The Cliff Notes version:

That deal we accepted.

their mistake.

executive.

Connor never has and never will.

have gotten into trouble.

possible.

IN CONCLUSION

that are involved in the work he is doing.

that were in the Warner Brothers warehouse.

Eventually they sued, still demanding all of it.

of any such deal, and our salesman had left the company.

theft. This is not true, thank goodness, as he will soon find out.)

been any change. He just pretends the stuff he has been forced to retract was never there.

lot of money compared to paying for a small apartment and office and storage space in San Francisco.

the orders that Conlan Press has received and fulfilled during the past 10 years.

Mike, and committed (along with Connor) to making sure there is never, ever, a repeat.

With that said, I feel a need to debunk three of the numerous falsehoods in Mike's e-mail.

So this guy is holding all your unicorns hostage because he wants to sell you the same unicorns at a later date.

The next day things got significantly weirder.

company could afford it.

Back in 2011 Connor tried to find some help for the company in the usual fashion: post an ad on Craigslist, read the resumes that come in, hold interviews

and talk to references, etc. Two candidates stood out: Kat Salazar, a talented young woman with an intense passion for public relations work in publishing, and a big easy-going guy named Mike Bolger. Mike had never worked in the field, but he insisted he loved startup company challenges and that he could learn anything we might throw at him. He certainly appeared to have a good attitude and a decent sense of humor. The only slightly odd

things about Mike were that his forearms were tattooed an almost solid black, and he took pains to point out that he had a hobby he didn't want misinterpreted — he collected conspiracy theories. Not because he put any faith in them, of course, as he explained it, but because they were so funny. Wasn't it wild, he said, what crazy things people would believe?

In the end Connor decided to bring both Kat and Mike on board: Kat to work PR and Mike to help with customer service, shipping, infrastructure, and

whatever else he could learn to do that needed to be handled. Kat and Mike were both promised well above minimum wage per hour worked during a six-month trial period, plus weekly gas/toll/car expense money because Connor's rented house (which was also the Conlan Press office) was so isolated, plus a company-paid lunch every Wednesday. Both Kat and Mike made it through the six-month trial, after which their pay was boosted 50% per hour billed and they were promised more when the

proofreading, and early-stage production tasks instead of PR. Ultimately she decided to move on. (Definitely the right decision, as she is now Director of PR & Marketing at Image Comics —congratulations, Kat!) As for Mike, he never worked as efficiently as we'd hoped, but he also didn't constantly make mistakes like some of the other people who had tried to help along the way. So mostly we were glad to have him around.

were not far enough along as a company to fill her time with the kind of work she really wanted to do. She kept getting dragged into OCRing,

Kat did good work, achieving some great stuff for Conlan Press and Peter, but her commute was over 40 miles roundtrip through rush hour traffic and we

Except for the conspiracy theory stuff. As it turned out, Mike's original claim that he didn't believe any of the weird theories he spent his time reading was not true. He believed them all, and would talk at length on these matters if you let him. Name the conspiracy theory and Mike was there, all the way from Stanley Kubrick faking the moon landings for NASA to the secret Bilderberg Society actually deciding who becomes President. And more.

It got kind of heavy and weird from time to time, to be honest. But it also didn't seem to interfere with Mike's work. So we did our best to roll with it.

On Friday 9/28/2012, Mike handed Connor his invoice for the week and collected his check. The next Monday morning he didn't show up. Nor did he answer his phone or respond to emails. After noon came and went with no word, Connor called the local police and the California Highway Patrol to see if any accidents had been reported on the route between Mike's home and the Conlan Press office. There weren't any.

Worried, Connor emailed Mike as follows: Hey, Mike: Everybody here is wondering where you are and if you're okay. Haven't been able to reach you on your houseline.

At 2:49 PM Mike replied with an email entitled "Future Endeavors." It began... Dear Mr. Cochran:

and distribution of those Last Unicorn Certificates of Authenticity as one of my small victories and I think I've done all I can here. I gave it my best shot, I really did. ...and then Mike wrote a long screed accusing Connor of being a liar who was ripping off Peter S. Beagle and his fans because Connor hadn't finished a series of special drawings for customers as fast as Mike felt he should have.

Ironically, if you had come in today you would have found a stack of new XDLXs all ready to send out, along with a bunch of other things

don't understand the parts that I took so much time and trouble sharing. I had thought you more capable than that. I was wrong. Lesson learned – and it's impossible to grant credence or respect to someone who quits their job in such a cowardly, unprofessional manner.

People don't burn bridges as seriously as you just did if they're expecting to get a positive reference, so my bet is that you've already lined up your next gig. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if your 'car trouble' last week was just a cover story for taking the time off to settle your new

"I received a concerning email today regarding the Extra Deluxe Hardcover The Last Unicorn editions. It is worrisome on two accounts. The first is that it certainly holds at least a grain of truth to it which is upsetting as a customer and a fan of Mr. Beagle. The second is that a former employee of yours has evidently kept (for at least 15 months if the email is to be believed) personal information on your customer base which I can only hope is limited to just the

"I will make only one comment: To send this e-mail, 'Anonymous Former Employee' had to steal the mailing list from Conlan Press. To me, this makes his (?) allegations, at the very least, suspect. If s/he was dishonest enough to do that, I find it difficult to accept that s/he's being absolutely honest in the rest of their statements. In this case, I agree pretty much with [name withheld to maintain privacy]: I am much more concerned with the theft of information

This bounced back with an "undelivered" notice, because immediately after Mike sent his resignation message he blocked Connor's personal and

I wanted to thank you and Terri for keeping me alive for the last 15 months and welcoming me into your home to help build up your

company, I appreciate all the perks like the free lunches, DVDs, and books, I'm proud of the work that I did at Conlan, I point to the creation

Ah well I've read your complaints. While I don't like temporarily disappointing fans either, or dealing with the problems that go along with building a company out of extremely limited resources, your final conclusions are inaccurate. You don't know everything that is going on, and clearly

The day got weirder: Connor discovered that Mike had blind-cc'ed this message to Peter Beagle and to Connor's wife.

checked off our pressing task list. Just sitting there on your desk waiting for you.

Two concerned customers emailed to share an anonymous email they had just received. The title of this message was "The real status of that signed Last Unicorn book that you all have been waiting so long for," and it had been directly sent to nine different Conlan Press customers. The two people who notified us were justifiably concerned.

(I've worked in IT since 1969) than I am with the slow delivery of the book." Here's the text of the email that Mike sent out. Hello All,

Up until recently I was an employee at Conlan Press where you all bought your copies of EXTRA DELUXE LAST UNICORN

When I was hired 15 months ago Peter Beagle had long since completed his end of the handwritten pages and personalization for all the books. The impression that I got was that they had been done for a while, but I know for a fact that they have all been done for at least the last 15 months and you are just waiting on Connor and his sketches. Connor has completely blown off this project and hasn't even done a single sketch in almost 5 months now. In the 15 months that I was at Conlan he only competed 26 sketches.

HARDCOVERS — with extra handwritten story text by Peter S. Beagle and unique unicorn sketches by Connor Cochran. I just quit my job, in large part because of how Connor is handling this disaster and how honest he's being with all of you. I think you deserve to hear the

That's on top of the several years you all have already been waiting. I'll let you all meditate on those numbers for a moment. Now I'm guessing that the majority of you paid all this money for the Peter Beagle book with the Peter Beagle personalization and the Peter

Beagle handwritten pages and you could care less about the sketch by "Peter Beagle's Business Manager", especially if that's what's

Well, when customers have called in and asked for their book to be sent to them without the sketch Connor has refused. And you want to

Go public. I'm sending this email out to small groups of you at a time but I have no idea how many of you will get this email and how many will not because it gets flagged as spam. Get on facebook (I hate to promote that website but it really is one of the most efficient ways to quickly communicate with large groups of people) and air your grievances. Go to Peter Beagle's facebook page and air your grievances. Those posts will get deleted, of course, but at least that will force them to start taking you seriously.

You can call Connor directly @ 650-267-9651 and ask him to send you your book without the sketch. He will refuse, of course, but if you

Peter and Connor will be @ Comic Con in New York next week in the artist alley. Peter is a sweet old man that is oblivious to a lot of things in life, including everything on the business end of things. He's a nice enough guy, but there's just something about Peter's karma that's like

And Connor (Get it? Con-er) also really isn't a bad guy... or at least I've seen him do good. He just has a very arrogant ego the size of a small planet, a messiah complex, and possibly some mental health issues. Normal people don't act this way. Getting the guy to part with

And finally, I'd like to apologize to all of you for failing to get you your books. I gave it my best shot, I really did. And even in this psycho economy where the real unemployment is around 20% I just quit a job that was paying the bills because I felt it was the right thing to do. Good luck to you all -

UPDATE - Since handing in my letter of resignation Connor is now claiming that he "did a few books over the weekend" OK. Fine. I'll give that to him. Still does not change the fact that in the 15 months I was there he only completed 26 books and that he still has 250 some to

We're not going to address every factual misrepresentation in Mike's email here. We'll save that for the lawsuit. At the time what really concerned us was

It was now obvious that Mike had stolen a copy of our confidential customer database while contracting for us, and that he had stolen it from my personal computer, since those files were never kept on his machine. Had he taken anything else? Unfortunately there was no way for us to know for sure at the

time. (Now, of course, because of all the stolen material Mike is rewriting and misrepresenting on fansagainstfraud.com, we know the answer is "a lot.") After some discussion, Peter S. Beagle and I sent Mike the following jointly-signed message: Mike:

We are lividly angry at you for what you have done and the false and selectively-edited information you have spread, and will address it as

Quite apart from just libeling Connor, your use of stolen company information violates at least five different state and federal laws. Conlan Press's California outside counsel, John Carmichael, has been apprised of your actions and you will shortly receive a cease-and-desist

letter with a demand that you return the confidential company files that you stole. If you do so and make no more public statements, this ends here. If you say anything further in public, or send out any more emails to any of our customers, or post any kind of message about this anywhere, Conlan Press will file suit against you and protect itself and its customers to the full extent of the law. And just FYI, this is a slam-dunk case with strict liability. You have no defense. The resulting judgment will require you to pay \$10k minimum

in damages, plus costs and attorneys' fees, plus the statutory fines imposed for violating American and other privacy laws. That's between \$250 and \$750 for each separate email you sent, so you'll wind up owing us somewhere between \$100k and \$250k -- and you won't be able to declare bankruptcy to get out of it, because bankruptcy courts don't forgive monies owed as the result of intentional torts.

Your call, Mike. This is no bluff. Take one more step in the wrong direction and you will regret it for many years to come.

(To make sure you receive this message we are sending it to you from multiple email addresses.)

Mike never replied to this email, or to John Carmichael's cease-and-desist letter after it was sent.

while driving to work. Later in the day, Connor sent Mike a concerned e-mail.

The next day, after consultation with outside counsel, Peter S. Beagle wrote his own message to the nine people we knew had received Mike's anonymous screed [all third-party names removed for privacy reasons]. A message to my fans (and Conlan Press's valued customers) from Peter S. Beagle

Of all the many odd things I've had to do in my life, this is not one I ever saw coming. Having to correct the record in response to an e-mail broadside from an "anonymous former employee" makes me feel like a character in someone else's melodramatic mystery or soap-opera. Nevertheless, the rather astonishing farrago (I always wanted to use that word!) of lies and misrepresentations that have been circulated

Last Friday Mike Bolger — Conlan Press's only paid staffer — collected his weekly paycheck, smiled, said, "See you Monday" to Connor, and walked out the door. On Monday morning Mike didn't show up at 9 AM, as he had always done. After a while Connor started worrying; during Mike's fifteen months working for Conlan Press, he had always called in when illness or car trouble or a personal emergency delayed him, or made it impossible for him to come to work. Hearing nothing at all was highly unusual, Connor tried calling Mike at home twice, and left messages

both times. He even checked the news and highway patrol reports, to make sure that Mike hadn't been involved in some kind of accident

At 2:49 PM, Mike e-mailed Connor his resignation from Conlan Press, effective immediately. I've read it, because for some reason Mike bcc'ed me (even weirder, he also sent a copy to Connor's wife.) It's an odd message. Mike starts out by thanking Connor for "keeping me alive for the last 15 months and inviting me into your home to help build up your company," expresses appreciation for "all the perks like the free lunches, DVDs and books," and then spends 3400 words excoriating Connor for a long list of things Mike felt were being done wrong.

To my horror, and my quite considerable anger, I have learned that Mike did not stop there. Sometime shortly afterward, he also sent out a message to some unknown number of Conlan Press customers, identifying himself only as "anonymous former employee." (I believe it was Gandhi who wrote "Cowards can never be moral...") The headline of this e-mail was "The real status of that signed LAST UNICORN book

The contents of Mike's message are a ridiculous mash-up of selectively-edited misrepresentations and flat-out falsehoods. You can absolutely take my word for that, because — despite his peculiarly insulting characterization of me as "a sweet old man that is oblivious to a lot of things in life..." (my regular Tuesday-beer buddy, who whose nickname for me has forever been "Crabgrass." burst out laughing at hearing this), I am very much aware of what's going on. Indeed, I'm the root source of most of it. If any of you are upset about how long this particular project is taking to complete, your real beef isn't with Connor, it's with me. Which I'll come back to in a moment. Something much more important needs to be covered first.

In sending out that e-mail, Mike violated your privacy. He also broke state, federal, and (in the case of customers living outside the US)

- Immediate steps are being taken to prevent anything like this from ever happening again. Before Mike quit his job, he obviously used his password access to rip off confidential information he had no right to possess. Before anyone new is hired to replace him, tough extra

international law by illegally using secure customer data that he stole from the Conlan Press order database.

Connor and I apologize profoundly for this violation, and want you to know the following important facts right now:

— Mike was NOT able to get hold of any credit-card or bank-account information. You don't have to worry about that. Your card numbers and bank accounts are absolutely secure, because Conlan Press never even sees them when you place an order online. All that data goes straight through to the banks that handle Conlan Press's credit-card processing, and is kept in seriously-encrypted data files to which no one at Conlan Press ever has access. - Mike has been told by e-mail to cease and desist violating your privacy, and to return the data he stole. Tomorrow the same message is being sent to him as a formal letter from Conlan Press's lawyer. If Mike chooses to ignore this, Conlan Press will sue him in order to get the

It's a horrible situation, one completely unlooked-for. There's no way around that. I am very sorry it happened, deeply disappointed in

The reason it is taking so long for Connor to complete the sketches for the extra-deluxe LAST UNICORNs is that he spends 60 or 70 hours

a week, every week, taking care of my personal business, and making it possible for me to focus on writing. That's something I'm enormously grateful for — as I have been for eleven years — and selfishly don't want him to stop. I hope that any real fan of my work would be grateful for what he does, too, since pretty much everything good that has happened to me professionally in the last decade can be laid partly or entirely at his feet. (Even those deluxe hardcover LAST UNICORNs only happened because of Connor: he talked Barnes & Noble into doing the book, typeset the entire text himself, and art-directed the dust jacket, all without taking any money or public credit.) Do you like the fact that there is a national screening tour of THE LAST UNICORN movie in the works, and a new and improved soundtrack release on the way? Do you think the graphic-novel editions of THE LAST UNICORN are cool? If so, I hope you'll put that pleasure up as

a counterbalance against the delay in completing all the extra-deluxe LAST UNICORN hardcovers — because if Connor had stopped everything else to focus on just finishing the sketches, a whole bunch of other important stuff wouldn't be happening. DEBUNKING (PART TWO) Mike is dead wrong about why Connor won't send out extra-deluxe copies without sketches. Fact is, I don't want them going out without sketches. Connor is just doing what I want.

Long before he put his own creative work on hold to help me, Connor was a successful writer and artist. Nephew of three famous gallery painters as I am, I can't draw to save my soul, but I know art when I see it, and Connor's drawings are pretty damn amazing. It matters to me, if to no one else, that the last copies of this particular hardcover edition of THE LAST UNICORN have his pictures in them. He has done (and is doing) a lot for me, and I want his art in those books. That simple. I'm sorry that circumstances have made the whole thing take longer than either of us ever expected, but even so, a Connor Cochran sketch in each of these special copies is still the way I want it.

Option A) Accept a refund, with my apologies. I'll even call you, and do it in person, if you'd like. Just let me know that this is what you

Option B) Apply your purchase money to something else of mine (or several something-elses) from the Conlan Press website.

on other projects to let him jumpstart a serious return to the sketches. At the current rate that he's working, they really will all be done by the end of the year, just as it says on the Conlan Press website. In fact, if Mike had come to work on Monday, instead of quitting without notice, he would have found ten newly-finished copies ready to mail [names withheld for privacy reasons]

If your name is on that list, please e-mail contact@conlanpress.com to confirm your current mailing address, so Connor can safely ship them out. And while I'm at it, if [Ibid.] and [Ibid.] are reading this, your books have been done for ages, but Mike told Connor that he hadn't been able to confirm your mailing addresses by e-mail, phone or Google research. So they haven't yet been shipped. Give us something

In the entirety of Mike's rant, the silliest thing — apart from watching someone who sole confidential data suggest that someone else has

"Well, when customers have called in and asked for their book to be sent to them without the sketch, Connor has refused. And you want to know why? He's scanning those sketches, and wants to compile them for a future book. So this guy is holding all your unicoms hostage

Is there going to be a book of these sketches? Absolutely. I was there when the idea first came up. It was at our Dragon Con table, a few years ago. Connor and I delivered sketches in books to about a dozen customers who were also there, and while one recipient was oohing and ahhing over Connor's sketch, she said, "Gee, I wish I could see everyone else's drawing as well as mine." That seemed like a pretty good notion to me, as it did to Connor; and it seemed like a pretty good notion to everyone else whom we ran it by that weekend — which

I mean, why not? As a set the drawings will be amazingly cool; everyone gets to see all of them; the people whose sketches are included get their copies for free (plus their name and image suggestion included in the book, if they want); and Connor has every right in the world

because he wants to sell you the same unicorns at a later date. Yeah. That's not tacky or weird or anything?"

Option C) Wait a little longer. And not that much longer, really; because just before Mike bailed, Connor had finally finished enough work

to do it, since he owns the copyright in his own artwork, as a basic matter of law. Win-win, all the way around. What makes Mike's statement seriously crazy is that eventually publishing a Big Book Of Unicorn Sketches is incentive to get them all finished sooner, not later. Bottom line: nobody is "holding all your unicorns hostage." Once a book's sketch is finished, the book gets sent out, just as fast as an up-to-date mailing address can be verified. And that's honestly all there is to it.

I've spent more time on this than I originally intended. But it's a serious matter; and, as I said at the top, I can't ignore it. Your privacy was violated by someone who thinks it's cool to lie and steal — supposedly on my behalf, and in my name — and I am bloody furious about it.

Connor and I are totally committed to correcting Mike's violation of your privacy, and the unintended-delivery delay. As part of that process, we'd like to talk with any of you who would like to discuss it with us. Just say the word by e-mail, and we'll put a serious of reasonably-sized

Peter was overly optimistic about the rate of completion, unfortunately. With Mike gone Conlan Press was a one-man shop again, and thanks to new Beagle business and other client responsibilities Connor's workload shot up to 90+ hours every week (sometimes as much as 100). But in all else Peter

That is where things apparently stopped. The Screening Tour got very real. Other business, like the musical, needed attending. Conlan Press shipped out online and tour orders just as fast as inventory deliveries and Peter's signing schedule allowed. Connor fit more book drawings into his schedule as best

Until September of this year, that is, when he launched fansagainstfraud.com. (Possibly because he thought he was past the statute of limitations on his

(Mike, if you are reading this, you did a Very Bad Thing, and you need to take steps to set it right. I hope you will.)

conference calls up on the schedule, so we can manage to include everyone as quickly as possible.

WHAT MIKE BOLGER SAYS VS. THE TRUTH The content at Mike's site is so fraught with falsehoods and misrepresentations that it is pointless to attempt to address every deception here. That will be saved for the defamation lawsuit.

1) The blog/Twitter/email quotes that Mike presents are highly selective (omitting anything which does not fit his narrative) and appear to mostly be used without permission. If you watch his posts over time you will see sections alter as people demand he remove material, and he never admits there has

2) Mike constantly exaggerates or misrepresents in order to mislead. For example, he lists five different titles as having been promised but undelivered, but three of them are actually the same thing, and two of them have been partly delivered already, with more being shipped on a steady basis. He also pretends there aren't valid external reasons for the delays; and he doesn't tell anyone that these delayed items represent less than half of one percent of

3) In another example of misrepresentation, Mike repeatedly claims that Peter S. Beagle says he is "not really connected to" Conlan Press. But as Mike's own link shows, that isn't what Peter said at all! Peter was participating in a Reddit AMA session from the Conlan Press office, with Connor helping him handle the tech and look up supporting material for answers from the company's files. When a fan asked "What is the current status of Writing Sarek?," Peter typed back "It's held up by some matters at the publishing house that I'm not really connected to. But I do know it will come out someday." Peter wasn't saying he had no connection to Conlan Press (an absurd statement on the face of it) but that he had no connection to the matters that were holding the book up. Which is absolutely true. As stated in the updates section of our most recent email newsletter, "new research sources have become available which might require changes in [the Writing Sarek] manuscript. We're looking at them now to see if that's the case." Why does Mike think it is a bad thing that Peter and Connor want the text of Writing Sarek to be as accurate as possible, and contain no accidental errors, omissions, or oversights?

4) Mike published Connor's home address and phone number without permission (a violation of privacy rights). He did this to support his false claim that Connor is ripping people off to make himself rich, because — conveniently for Mike's charade — Connor and his wife were lucky enough to find a pretty cool-looking house to live in. But they are tenants in the house, not owners; the value of the building and the amount of the monthly rent are both a lot less than Mike claims; and even so the only thing that has made living there manageable is the fact that the rent is shared. Mike presents Connor's 2009 change of residence as evidence of wealth, but in fact it was a cost-saving measure. Consolidating in one house in a rural part of the Bay Area saved a

5) Mike says Connor "constantly acts as if Beagle is in poverty, and begs us to support him." That's one of the flat-out lies. Connor did tell the truth about Peter's poverty and asked for support in the fight for Peter's rights while Peter actually was poor...but when Connor finally won the big Last Unicom contract/money fight for Peter back in early 2011, and Peter got all that he was owed, that stopped because Peter wasn't poor any more. Which Mike Bolger knows perfectly well because he started work for Conlan Press after the big win happened. (Indeed, it was the big win that freed up enough money to pay him for his work!)

6) Some of Mike's stuff is just nutty. He posts the picture of Peter and Connor that is sometimes on the top of their joint newsletter, and captions it "Cochran on left - placing himself on Beagle's level in his messages to the fan email list." Leaving aside the fact that Connor's image is actually smaller and further back in the picture, what are Peter and Connor supposed to do in a joint message? Put up a picture of Peter holding a sign that says "this

7) Mike seriously libels Charles E. Petit, who has done more to help Peter over the last decade than anyone other than Connor. (No fooling: Charlie's knowledge was an invaluable part of untangling a dozen different messes for Peter, from stopping a guy who was trying to steal the stage musical rights to one of Peter's books all the way to uncovering and fixing a case of identity theft.) This set of lies may well be the subject of an entirely separate defamation suit (that's up to Charlie). Suffice to say that Mike clearly does not understand any of the actual issues involved in Charlie's temporary suspension - an entirely different thing than "losing his license" - or what suspension is, how it works, what restrictions it places on an attorney, etc. (He clearly doesn't know, for example, that every state allows a suspended attorney to do work for another lawyer just so long as the lawyer gets permission from the client.) Instead Mike wrote his blast against Charlie based on the bullshit claims of an author-scamming site called "The Write Agenda," who have an animus against Charlie because he has been involved in helping put some of their equally nasty associates in jail. When multiple people pointed

out to Mike that being hated by The Write Agenda makes you one of the Good Guys, he promptly scrubbed all mention of The Write Agenda from

8) Mike shouts "Cochran has been sued for scamming publishers and authors," and cites three lawsuits. But he doesn't reveal either the details or the outcome of those lawsuits, since the facts don't support his deceptive agenda. For the record... - "\$25,000 was stolen from an author. She paid Cochran to publish her, but he kept the money and delivered nothing. (PDF court doc): Sydney Gurewitz Clemens v. Connor Cochran" FAIL. Mike presents a link to the opposing side's claim (which he actually misrepresents) but deliberately does not offer links to Conlan Press's cross-claim or the court document showing that the whole case was finally dismissed with prejudice after both sides agreed to drop the entire dispute and leave each other alone. — \$6000+ unpaid bill: Baker & Taylor Incorporated Vs. Conlan Press. FAIL. This is some serious bullshit. Mike wants the mere fact of a

lawsuit to make people think Conlan Press is an evil organization, but anyone taking the time to read the documents at the link will discover

We passed because we could not afford to buy all of them, and because it would take years to sell that many to Peter's fans.

The salesman then offered to ship them to us for nothing and let us pay month by month as they sold.

1. A salesman at media distributor Baker & Taylor offered Conlan Press all the remaining DVD copies of the 1978 animated Lord of the Rings

6. We explained to the credit manager that our salesman had offered different terms. The answer that came back was that they had no record

pointed out that we never agreed to this order and Baker & Taylor could have everything back the minute they agreed not to charge us for

11. Our outside counsel and I prepped for the trial. During that prep we discovered that Baker & Taylor's claim that our salesman had left the company and was unavailable for a deposition was a lie. Indeed, he had been with the company all along, but was now a high-level

12. We were ready to hit them hard with lying to the court in their filings, but the morning of the trial their attorney abruptly withdrew the lawsuit

Connor agreed to buy the ones that had already been sent, then canceled the rest of the order. 8. Baker & Taylor ignored the cancellation and sent all the rest of the DVDs anyway. Then, because the total shipment was well over our credit limit, they demanded instant full payment. Connor refused and insisted they take them back. Baker & Taylor agreed to do this, but only if Conlan Press paid the shipping and an exorbitant restocking fee. 9. We (obviously) refused. Baker & Taylor ultimately sent three different collection agencies after us to demand full payment. Each time we

Baker & Taylor promptly sent one-third of the DVDs and stopped, saying that shipping any more would put us over our credit limit.

and we've never heard another peep since. - \$3000+ unpaid bill: Penguin Group (usa) Inc v. Conlan Press Inc. More b.s. Penguin failed to process a credit card payment we made over the phone. Because of the internal confusion (possibly caused by the Random House/Penguin merger) they lost track of our payment attempt, assumed we hadn't tried, and sued us. We pointed out that we had tendered payment, they said oops and took our company card over the phone (actually processing it this time) and dropped the suit. End of story.

9) Next up, more lies. Mike claims "Cochran ripped off over \$10,000 in unpaid wages from a worker." But that simply isn't the case. We've always paid everyone exactly what we promised to pay them. (You'll notice Mike names no names and offers no evidence. That's because he can't.) He also claims Connor sent emails posing as former employees, which is another complete lie. Mike is the one who deals in pseudonyms and anonymous assertions.

10) Connor is particularly offended by the section Mike headlines "IS COCHRAN IN THE BUSINESS OF TAKING ESTATES FROM ELDERLY AUTHORS?" Why? Because everything Connor has done professionally in the last 13 years has been about helping authors, artists, and estates that

The malicious reference to Edgar and Mary Pangborn is easy to dismiss — Connor started working on those estate problems because Peter S. Beagle inherited that literary estate when Mary Pangborn died in 2003. Because Peter was already Connor's client, developing that material became Connor's responsibility as a simple matter of course. But the implication of sordid activity involving Parke Godwin is simply vile.

Parke never envisioned a universe in which his body was still alive, but his mind was gone. But that's what happened, By the time Connor untangled all the lost rights and bankruptcy issues and got all of Parke's work back for him, Parke had slipped into a state of complete alcoholic dementia. When the senior apartment complex he lived in judged him unsafe to stay in their building the state moved him into a close care facility and Connor had to spend months of time and a lot of money getting the state to name him Parke's conservator, just so the bills could continue to be paid and the best possible standard of care maintained. Connor visited Parke regularly and did everything he could to make this horrible situation as comfortable for Parke as

Parke Godwin asked Connor to help him in May 2006. At that point Parke was 77 years old and a serious alcoholic. His health was bad, his literary affairs were a complete mess, his best books were tangled up in the ibooks bankruptcy, and his agent and all his publishers had abandoned him years before. After several years of working on Parke's problems for free, Parke named Connor his literary executor and gave him power of attorney for emergency medical situations, since he didn't have anyone else he trusted to fulfill those roles. (The relative he left everything to in his will was in her 60s, lived in New York state, and was already frail herself from a stroke. In the case of an emergency there was nothing she would be able to do to help, and Parke

And just for the record, the total sum that Parke Godwin paid Connor for his work from 2006 through 2013 was less than three hundred dollars. Meanwhile the out-of-pocket money Connor spent on helping Parke was easily twenty times that, and the hours and emotion involved can't be given a

Connor's final visit was on the day Parke finally died, June 19th 2013, and he still keeps the photos he took in his cell phone as a reminder of the stakes

knows. Maybe we'll find out the answer after we have him under oath in a courtroom. Meanwhile there is important work to continue for Peter S. Beagle and other clients, and we're going back to it. If you have any questions about Mike's claims that you feel like asking, or if you are one of the small number of Conlan Press customers with a delayed order and want a refund, just email contact@conlanpress.com or call either 650-728-8098 (the company number) or 650-267-9651 (Connor's cell).

Mike Bolger has posted lots more lies and libelous misrepresentations than just these on fansagainstfraud.com. Why is he doing it? Lord

Unlike Mike Bolger we have absolutely nothing to hide.