Thursday, November 15. 2007

Martin: unprofessionally representing Activeworlds, Inc.

I have a lot of respect for how Activeworlds, Inc. handled the last election, but actions this morning have caused me to question that respect. The voting was fair and honest, the results were announced publicly, and the schedule was followed as prescribed. Flagg definitely knows what he's doing, communicates well with Citizens, and he is a great asset to the community. However, one of AWI's other employees, Martin, has not been as understanding.

After the election concluded, there was some discussion in the AW forums about how to improve the political process after Strike's term concludes. Nobody was inciting "revolution" or even stating the current results should be changed. Instead, there was what many considered a simple debate of process and procedure on how to improve the elections system in the future. Several citizens even posted real-world examples of different types of voting systems, comparing and contrasting the advantages and disadvantages of each. There wasn't any hint that anyone considered the results to be illegitimate.

Then Martin inappropriately decided to end all discussion by locking threads of which he (personally) disapproved.

I've noticed Martin lock other threads needlessly before, and there seems to be little reason for his doing so. Nothing in any of the threads he has locked in the AWTeen forums over the past month has violated the Universe's content guidelines - unless suggesting that AWI might have room for improvement or joking around about polls are violations. It would be easy to understand if profanity were posted or lewd pictures were offered up, but the targets of his locking lack any consistency. Martin seems to have no problem leaving threads open where personal attacks proliferate and people seem ready to kill each other, yet he locks threads where actual constructive discussion is occurring. He also inserts off-topic and irrelevant comments randomly in many threads that contribute little or nothing to the discussion.

Furthermore, Martin's actions are in conflict with Flagg's own stated policies for ejection in AWTeen. Flagg stated that ejection was to be the only punishment for "misbehavior," and that banning from chat is not permitted. Here, Martin hasn't even warned anyone that he saw a problem with what they were posting, and then he locked threads to which many people were contributing, effectively "banning people from chat." In one thread, JerMe's post obviously angered Martin, so why didn't Martin send a telegram to JerMe and talk to him about the issue rather than overreacting by silencing the discussion?

I thought the idea of having AWTeen discussion boards was to have a place for people to discuss things without those in charge interfering? JerMe used to lock threads in his forums all the time, so Brock started new forums where he never interfered with anything anyone had to say - and Brock's forums became very popular. Now we don't have to worry about a Governor limiting speech, so we instead have to worry about abuse of power from AWI representatives?

Martin's actions are unprofessional of an AWI representative and are not representing the company in a good light.

Posted by Brant in Commentary at 09:35

sigh

Brant, you really need to STFU.

Then you wouldn't see the reason for Martin locking your one thread as unprofessional.
Anonymous on Nov 15 2007, 21:48

*Corrected because SimPlaza.net, not Strike, was the real author of the comment.

Sim, you aren't helping people's opinions by criticizing me for this post. Here you are, again, supporting the silencing of those who say anything that you even remotely disagree with.

Martin locked more than one thread over the past month, and one of those threads was even started by Flagg.

By the way, I don't plan on shutting up any time soon. I'll voice my opinion as I see fit, but you won't ever see me telling others not to voice theirs.
Anonymous on Nov 16 2007, 08:32

"I was starting to think that maybe I was wrong in labeling you a "Crusher" of free speech."

Ah, the guilt trip card.

Wrong person, matey.

It's not so much the case of voicing your opinion, more like casting a wrongfully negative light and sounding like a child who got their ass kicked.

A little misleading for an AWTeen blog too, no? But hey, your discretion as to what ever you throw up on here.
Anonymous on Nov 16 2007, 11:41

I apologize for directing the comment at Strike, but I don't apologize for criticizing you, SimPlaza, about your stance on locking of threads here.

Martin has locked other threads than just this one discussion about election systems, and my opinion has nothing to do with the topic of the threads. He locked one joke poll that he felt wasn't appropriate, but left other similar joke polls open. I hated those joke poll threads, but Martin should still not have locked them.
Anonymous on Nov 16 2007, 12:27