

TRENDY WAL★MART NEWS WRITER FEARS HE HAS COMMITTED IRREVERSIBLE LITERARY SUICIDE

Mark Lee Golden Copyright 2005

Spokane, Wa

Spokane, Washington resident and humorist Mark L. Golden, is a writer specializing in WAL★MART parodies. His readership recently inched its way to nearly topping a dozen, with chuckling fans in Spokane, WA; Portland, OR; Los Angeles, CA and one puzzled cousin in an undisclosed location in Pennsylvania. The startling confession, as the headline reads, came out in a self-interview of Mark by himself and is posted on his non-existent website. He stresses that “having a non-existent website can be more trouble than it is worth!”

What is the trouble and why bring in that wrenching term “suicide?” He says, “I started doing harmless parodies and satires of shopping at WAL★MART. I only did it as a hobby, figuring to amuse myself and some friends by email. As I expected, I had a knack for these fairy tales of modern consumerism.” He went on, “I received encouraging emails back from an ever expanding fan base that had doubled in a short time from three to six or *perhaps even seven!* I was well pleased by my efforts. Given time, I could easily see pushing two dozen by year’s end. My dream of someday appearing on Oprah – though in the far distance, wasn’t out of sight like before!”

Enter the trouble. He stated, “I enjoy looking around the Internet as much as anyone. There is so much to see and read. I know my small fan base rather well (one thing that I have over your average celebrity superstar). On occasion, I would send a link to, or copy and paste, an interesting article; forwarding this to one or two close friends.” Mark teared up at this point during the interview, “I began to see a fateful pattern emerging. Not only did I receive an occasional response from a WAL★MART NEWS recipient questioning its truthfulness, but the links to real articles were questioned as to whether *I made those up too?*

“The integrity of my writing skills and the veracity of my content are now in question. Meaning that whatever I write to anybody these days is considered suspect and then its truthfulness soundly dismissed. I am in the irreversible Chicken Little syndrome of having said too many times that the ‘sky (WAL★MART in this case) is falling!’ Now no one believes me, no matter what I write!”

Is “literary suicide” too strong a term? Not according to Mark. He firmly believes that his “run of fun”, as he calls it, is now permanently polluted! Again he bemoans, “Everyone now questions everything that I say, do or propose. I have no credibility anymore, except with total strangers! I am a marked Mark.” He quickly added, “No pun intended, really!”

So, what's his future and, more importantly, the future of his column of WAL★MART NEWS? He refuses to say anything at this point, firmly believing that whatever he says will be taken in the wrong way, doubted, or considered merely one of his parodies.

He is currently on voluntary Literary Suicide Watch (LSW).

Another story from REAL LIFE (that I made up!)

This parody news story is for amusement. Any similarity to real people, places or things is fictitious and not to be taken as fact.