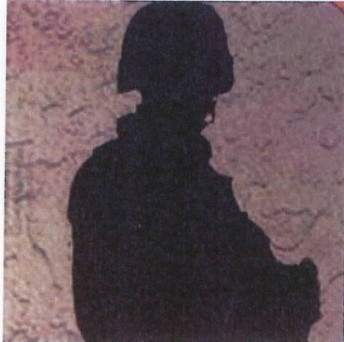


Shady Maple open to everyone



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As the internet becomes a bigger part of our world we are constantly reminded of the evils that come with it. CBS 21 is live at a local restaurant that knows first hand the downside of the web.

Shady Maple is among the largest smorgasbords in America. Every week 35,000 people dine here. But, according to a widely spread online rumor, certain people are not allowed.

"It just seems odd and weird, but it gives us a chance to tell [our story](#)," said the restaurant's General Manager, Herb Noll.

And that story is a popular one. For nearly 30 years, Shady Maple has been an eater's paradise, offering its [customers](#) a near endless chain of whatever they're hungry for.

But an unfounded rumor has lead some to believe it's not the paradise many think it is. According to General Manager, Herb Noll, it started about 20 years ago during the first Gulf War.

Someone spread the rumor that Shady Maple will not serve military personnel since it's owned by the Mennonite who are a peaceful people. And once that rumor made it onto the internet, it just won't go away.

Last week alone, Noll received 25 emails and phone calls about it. But, he doesn't get frustrated.

"Everyone is welcome, Noll explained. "This is our [business](#), the hospitality business. We welcome everybody for dining out here."

But, what can be used to hurt you can also help. This military situation has gotten so bad; Shady Maple has sought the aid of the internet and added a page to its website.

"We use the internet and the website anytime we can to get information out to the public and this certainly seemed wise to put a section on the website and be proactive and say this is not a new story," Noll also said today.

Just to show how false this rumor is, a soldier who is leaving for duty overseas had his send-off party here tonight. Tomorrow 55 vets are dining here on a trip.

But unfortunately once something gets put on the internet it is, many times, there for good. So Shady Maple will most likely be dealing with this issue for a long time.

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