

THE PAUL DUNN STORIES

ON 16 FEBRUARY 1991, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC reported that many of Elder Paul H. Dunn's baseball and war stories had serious factual problems. The highlights of the report were that Harold Brown did not die in Dunn's arms as Dunn had repeatedly told audiences, but is still living in Odessa, Missouri; and that Dunn never played for the St. Louis Cardinals. The story was printed in newspapers across the nation and was widely discussed by the Utah Saints. Some were angry at Elder Dunn; others defended him. Interestingly, some of the strongest hostility was directed toward Lynn Packer, the reporter who uncovered the story and sold his research to the *Republic* and to a Salt Lake television station. There was also a lot of finger pointing among the press as to why the Utah media sat on the story and waited for the *Republic* to break it.

In a statement issued at the time of the *Republic* story, the LDS church stated that it could not confirm the allegations in the *Republic*. It did affirm that Dunn was made an emeritus general authority for health reasons. Reporters contacted Dunn, who expressed sorrow over the pain the revelations had caused the Church and said his stories were created simply to illustrate moral points, as did Jesus' parables.

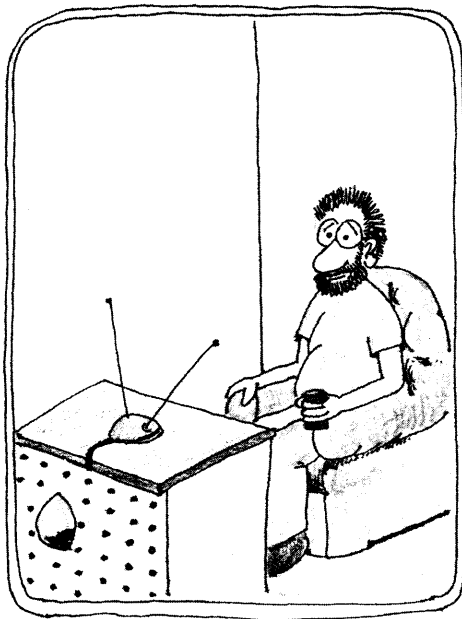
editor; some featured cartoons and editorials. The *Davis County Clipper*, headquartered in the conservative Utah Mormon community of Bountiful, ran strong critical opinion columns and cartoons.

As expected, the Mormon folk culture immediately began assuaging the tension of the event through humor. Perhaps the most common joke was about document forger Mark Hofmann making Paul Dunn Cardinals baseball cards. Other jokes placed Dunn in unlikely settings, such as catching BYU Heisman quarterback Ty Detmer's first touch-down pass. Several individuals submitted unsolicited cartoons to SUNSTONE.

SUNSTONE believes that this event should be confronted so as not to be forgotten and perhaps repeated. The articles we have gathered concerning the Paul Dunn episode are grouped into three general sections: (1) reprints of news accounts which reported the event, including the original *Arizona Republic* story; (2) an edited version of the original Lynn Packer story, which he wrote for the 1989 Salt Lake Sunstone symposium but did not give because SUNSTONE felt the story needed to be put into a broader context; and (3) essays responding to the episode. Examples of the community's effort to deal with the event through humor are interspersed throughout the articles.

Although this episode is a painful one, we believe that a sympathetic yet thorough inquiry into the matter is salutary, helping us to become a stronger and more honest community.

THE EDITORS



(on the T.V.)

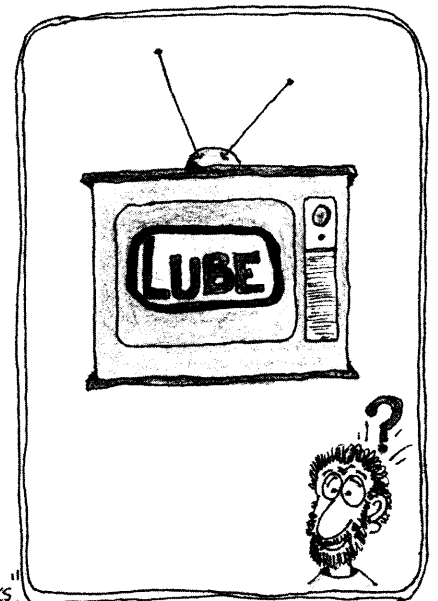
"In 1945 a young man was sent to fight in Okinawa."

Newspapers printed numerous letters to the



It was literally a 100 yard dash for life!

"Upon returning, he embellished a few stories and became successful giving inspirational talks and writing books."



"Some people want to change the facts... we just want to change your oil."

MORMON LEADER ADMITS EXAGGERATING STORIES

By Richard R. Robertson
The Arizona Republic, 16 February 1991

SALT LAKE CITY—Among Mormons, Elder Paul H. Dunn is a popular teacher, author and role model. As a prominent leader of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for more than 25 years, he has told countless inspirational stories about his life:

Like the time his best friend died in his arms during a World War II battle, while imploring Dunn to teach America's youth about patriotism.

Or how God protected him as enemy machine-gun bullets ripped away his clothing, gear and helmet without ever touching his skin.

Or how perseverance and Mormon values led him to play major-league baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals.

But these stories are not true.

Dunn's "dead" best friend isn't dead; only the heel of Dunn's boot caught a bullet; and he never played for the St. Louis Cardinals or any other major-league team.

Dunn acknowledged that those stories and others were untrue, but he defends fabrications as necessary to illustrate his theological and moral points.

He compares his stories to the parables told by Jesus—acknowledging, however, that Jesus' parables weren't about himself.

One of the Mormons' "Thirteen Articles of Faith" deals with honesty.

Other Mormon leaders apparently were concerned about this in September 1989, because, within weeks of investigating allegations that his war and sports stories were fabricated, they quietly placed Dunn, 66, on "emeritus" status "for health reasons."

As a "general authority" since 1964, Dunn had been among the top 90 men who govern the 7.3 million-member world-wide church.

The church also pressured Salt Lake City freelance writer Lynn Packer, a Mormon, not to publish stories about Dunn's fabrications. In the fall, after the church had terminated Packer's teaching contract at Brigham Young University for pursuing the story, he provided information he has collected over the past four years to *The Republic*.

Despite Dunn's "retirement," his grandfatherly demeanor and down-home, self-deprecating storytelling style continue to make him a popular public speaker and author.

He also remains the most prolific author among current and former church leaders. He receives royalties from 23 inspirational cassette tapes and 28 books, many of which contain his exaggerated war and baseball stories. They are among the more popular items in LDS bookstores.

Relying partly on his reputation as a former professional athlete, Dunn also is promoting his new business, Sports-Values Training Centers, which brings professional athletes and teenage boys together for inspirational workshops. One such workshop is tentatively planned in Mesa for this spring.

Dunn, 66, who has a doctorate in education, said he doesn't consider it deceitful to exaggerate or alter facts.

He said his technique is to "combine" elements of several true stories to create a single story that will better convey a message and capture an audience's interest.

In the case of his false claim to have played for the St. Louis Cardinals, he said youngsters can relate better to a major-league team than to the farm teams for which he briefly played.

"The combining of stories seems justifiable in terms of illustrating a point. My motives are pure and innocent," Dunn said during an interview in Salt Lake City attended by his attorney and a friend.

"I haven't purposely tried to embellish or rewrite history. I've tried to illustrate points that

were not advised of its conclusions. He denied that it was connected to his retirement, which he insisted was for poor health that has since improved.

FIRED FOR CRITICIZING
ELDER

At the same time, however, the university terminated Packer's teaching contract, in part because he wanted to publish a story about his findings.

Gordon Whiting, then chairman of the BYU communications department, had warned Packer in a memo that "publication of

FIRST PRESIDENCY STATEMENT

The First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints issued the following statement Friday:

"In consideration of factors of age and health, Elder Paul H. Dunn was given emeritus status on Sept. 30, 1989, along with seven other General Authorities.

"We have had no way of fully or finally verifying the accuracy or inaccuracy of the current allegations or accounts that are now under challenge. We are naturally concerned about the well-being of Elder Dunn and his family during this stressful time.

"We appreciate the service Elder Dunn has given and the sacrifices he and his family have made, often at the cost of their own comfort and health." (*Deseret News*, Saturday, February 16, 1991)

would create interest," Dunn explained, "Combining war stories is simply putting history in little, finer packages."

But concerns about Dunn's rewriting of history prompted BYU faculty editors to delete segments about Dunn from a now-released book about Mormon soldiers, titled *A Time to Kill: Reflections of War*.

"Elder Dunn's stories didn't match military history documents," explained one of the editors, Grant P. Skabelund.

And Dunn's retirement occurred within two weeks of the probe into his storytelling practices by top church officials, who had been given copies of Packer's findings.

Dunn said he cooperated with the church's investigation but

the Paul Dunn article will damage the church will damage the university, will damage the department and will damage you."

Whiting acknowledged that Packer's contract was not renewed for the 1990-91 school year in part because Packer was violating church and university policies that prohibit public criticism of church leaders, even if the criticism is true.

BUDDY'S STIRRING
LAST WORDS

One of Dunn's most dramatic embellished stories, told on a tape titled *War Experiences*, is about the combat death of his closest wartime buddy, Harold Lester Brown.

Dunn, who was a private in an anti-tank platoon, vividly described how he and Brown were

FURTHER STORIES OF ELDER'S CAREER

ELDER PAUL H. DUNN'S exaggerated stories mention that he:

- Was the sole survivor among 11 infantrymen in a 100-yard race against death, during which one burst of machine-gun fire ripped his right boot off, another tore off his ammunition and canteen belt and yet another split his helmet in half—all without wounding him.
- Kept a Japanese prisoner from being butchered by GIs bent on revenge for the torture-slayings of American soldiers.
- Wrestled a dynamite pack off a child kamikaze infiltrator, saving himself and the child.
- Miraculously survived being run over by an enemy tank, while others were crushed.
- Was one of only six in his 1,000-man combat group who survived, and was the only one of the six who wasn't wounded.

He has since acknowledged that only 30 soldiers in his unit died during the entire war, but he said the exaggeration of numbers is unimportant.

"The thing I'm trying to say is that there was a power higher than my own . . . a wonderful spiritual force out there."

pinned down for the night in separate foxholes on Okinawa.

"Unfortunately, one of the (mortar) shells caught a direct hit on the foxhole of my friend . . . and I could hear him call out when that shell first hit," Dunn recounted. He said he listened all night to Brown's moans, while fighting off "two or three banzai attacks and artillery attacks."

At daybreak, Dunn said, he was able to rush to his friend's rain-filled foxhole, where he found Brown's head barely above the water.

"How in the world he lived that night I don't know. I counted, after his death, 67 shrapnel wounds, some large enough where you could put your whole hand in," Dunn said.

Brown's last words, as recounted by Dunn, were:

"I know this is the end. . . . If you ever have an opportunity . . . to talk to the young people of America, will you tell them for me that it's a privilege to lay down my life for them?"

"And with that testimony on his lips, he died!"

FRIEND NEVER HEARD STORY

The problem with the story, Packer discovered, is that Brown didn't die on Okinawa.

In fact, he hasn't died yet.

Brown said from his home in Odessa, Mo., that he was perplexed by Dunn's story.

"Maybe he got me mixed up with someone else," Brown speculated, although he noted that he and Dunn have stayed in contact since the war—even visiting occasionally and exchanging Christmas cards.

Dunn never has mentioned the story to him, he said.

Dunn didn't get mixed up. It's

"combined," he said.

He said he based the story loosely on the death of another soldier, Ralph Cocroft, who was mortally wounded in a mortar attack that Dunn said he witnessed.

Cocroft didn't live through the night or die in his arms, Dunn admitted.

Military records confirm that Cocroft died on Okinawa on May 15, 1945.

"I came home many months later, talking to kids in a teaching situation," Dunn said. "All I did was take Harold Brown's relationship (with me) and combine it with Ralph Cocroft's dying."

Once he had told the fabricated version of the story, Dunn said, he couldn't change it.

"Rather than go back and change something where it would be deceitful, I just kept it the same," he explained.

LEGENDS OF

BASEBALL, FAMILY

Dunn's baseball stories are as legendary as his war stories.

He has written and told audiences that he signed a contract to play for the St. Louis Cardinals after graduating from high school.

the St. Louis Cardinals. Now it takes a lot of preparation to become a big-league ball player," he wrote in one book, *You & Your World*.

But in truth, Dunn never played a game for the St. Louis Cardinals or any major-league team.

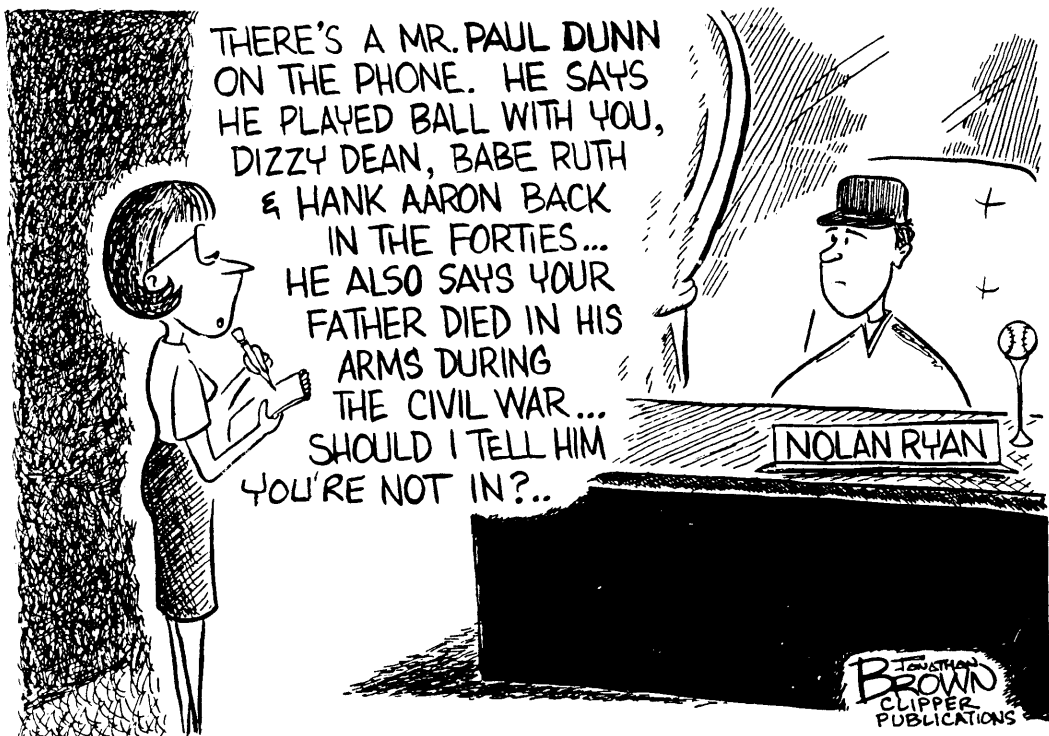
The closest he came was playing six weeks "off-roster" in several practice and exhibition games in 1942 for the Pocatello (Idaho) Cardinals, a St. Louis Cardinal farm team. He was cut.

Baseball records show that Dunn signed a professional player contract in 1947 with the Ontario Orioles, in California's "Class C" Sunset League. But he practiced only a few weeks, played only in the first regular game and then was released.

Most of Dunn's recent books and tapes contain no references to either using war or baseball. He said he stopped using them because his audiences want to hear new material.

He uses new stories, including many humorous and touching ones about his family, to illustrate his religious points.

Some of those stories, too, are "combined," Dunn acknowledged.



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DUNN STORY PROVES COSTLY FOR VETERAN JOURNALIST

By Vern Anderson
Associated Press Writer
Salt Lake Tribune, 21 February 1991

LYNN PACKER was serving a Mormon mission in Germany in 1964 when he heard 39-year-old Paul H. Dunn had been appointed to the church's hierarchy.

"I clearly remember my impression—youthful, Southern California, baseball player, and it's about time. Here's someone we can identify with. It says youth. It says real person," Packer recalled.

More than a quarter century later, the veteran broadcast journalist's reminiscence is rich in irony.

For it was Packer's relentless pursuit of Dunn over most of the 1980s that led to Saturday's revelation by the *Arizona Republic*: the churchman had fabricated many of the personal war and baseball stories that had fed his reputation as the faith's most spellbinding speaker and popular author.

Dunn, 66, was placed on emeritus status on Oct. 1, 1989, for what the church said were "factors of age and health." The church said it had no way of verifying the accuracy of the *Republic* story.

Packer himself paid a high professional price for the research on Dunn that he sold to the *Republic*, only a small portion of which formed the basis of the newspaper's story.

He ultimately lost his teaching position at church-owned Brigham Young University and today, working on a one-year contract at the University of Dortmund in Germany, feels beaten "to a pulp."

Why did the story that *Republic* reporter Richard Robertson

calls "the worst-kept secret in Salt Lake" take so long to come out?"

The answer appears to lie in the church's efforts to avoid a scandal and in Packer's own vulnerability as a BYU employee without tenure whose wife had been diagnosed with cancer early in 1987.

The combination led, on Sept. 30, 1987, to a "deal" between Packer and a "high church official" in which he withdrew the story he had submitted to United Press International in exchange for a guarantee of continued employment at BYU, according to Packer.

Packer declined to identify the official, but has told others it was his uncle, Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

"Lynn claims he had an agreement with his uncle through his father," said BYU spokesman Paul Richards. "That the agreement fell apart when he continued to ask questions about Paul Dunn. When he continued to ask questions, Elder Packer felt he had not been true to the agreement."

Through spokesman Jerry Cahill, Boyd Packer said Wednesday, "There was nothing ever stated. It never happened. There was no such agreement that Lynn Packer would be retained in exchange for no publication."

In 1986, Lynn Packer had been dividing his time since 1981 between reporting at KSL-TV and teaching journalism at BYU. When he lost the KSL job, he decided to freelance a story on

Dunn's involvement with AFCO Enterprises, which had gone bankrupt in 1982 in the biggest real estate development fraud in Utah history.

Dunn, then a member of the church's First Quorum of the Seventy, claimed his tenure as an AFCO director had ended in 1978; Packer sought to prove it had lasted much longer. He also began looking at the veracity of Dunn's stories—long familiar to Mormon audiences—about having played major league baseball and having survived many brushes with death in World War II.

"There isn't a single significant baseball or war story I could find that was true," said Packer, who in September 1987 complied under pressure with a BYU administrative request that he inform the church of his allegations.

After an unsuccessful attempt to market the story with Utah

Holiday magazine, Packer took it to UPI. The wire service was preparing to run it when Packer's department chairman at BYU, Gordon Whiting, told him in a memo dated 30 September 1987 that he should permit church leaders to deal privately with the Dunn matter.

"After providing the information, we accept the judgment of those responsible. We will not take accusations against a General Authority to the media," Whiting wrote, adding that publication "will damage the church, will damage the university and will damage you."

Fearing for his job, Packer agreed to the deal he said was offered him that night: don't publish the story and you can teach at BYU as long as you want.

Packer bristles at suggestions by BYU officials that he was using coercion.

"They can never give you a time or a place when I went to

PAUL H. DUNN'S STATEMENT

ELDER PAUL H. DUNN today issued the following statement in response to the article which appeared in *The Arizona Republic* Saturday, February 16, 1991.

I was deeply sorrowed to read the article which aims at a great institution and those officers who represent it. Unfortunately the article chose to base its headline and conclusions on just a few stories taken from over 40 years of speaking and writing. Over the years as a teacher and an officer of the LDS Church, I have shared my personal experiences in order to teach and motivate people. In that capacity, I have used hundreds of illustrations from a variety of sources including my own life. The places and events from my own life I have described, including my war assignments and minor league baseball affiliations, were actual experiences. As I stated to the reporter in the interview, I have on some occasions changed the names of people involved to provide confidentiality, combined events to try to make a more pointed or vivid illustration, and added emphasis or detail to stories to increase their teaching impact. I did not state that I fabricated those stories because I had been in the places and experienced the events. It has always been my objective to teach more effectively. In so doing, I have never intended to mislead or to aggrandize my own circumstances, and I regret if such an impression may have been given.

anybody with that story and said, 'Do this for me or else,' " he said. "And I can show you the times and places and dates when they told it just the opposite: 'Do the story and you're history.' "

Packer maintains that Elders James E. Faust and David B. Haight, Quorum of the Twelve, were aware of the arrangement. Like Boyd K. Packer, the pair declined to be interviewed, but denied through spokesman Bruce Olsen there was any deal.

"I guess it boils down to what people are going to believe—what Lynn Packer had to say or what the general authorities have to say," Olsen said.

He said Faust and Haight told Lynn Packer "clearly and forcefully on two occasions there is no quid pro quo attached to this." The two officials did tell Packer they were willing to "encourage BYU to keep you on" out of consideration for his wife's health, Olsen said.

"They were trying as members of the Twelve to help out a brother," he said.

And yet, in a memo to church spokesman Richard Lindsay after the alleged deal was struck, Packer wrote: "I had received assurances, prior to my decision, that my job at BYU would be secure for the indefinite future if I withdrew the story."

At BYU, Whiting decided in early 1988 not to renew Packer's contract for the 1988-1989 school year, a step he first had wanted to take in 1986 out of concern about Packer's continued year-to-year status without retirement and other benefits.

"I thought the decision was mine to make," Whiting said.

After being told his contract would not be renewed, Packer said he met "with the 'high church official' and reaffirmed the alleged prior understanding.

A subsequent memo from department chairman Whiting told

Packer that BYU administrators had asked him to reconsider his decision "after study of reports about the signals and communications you have received." The contract was renewed.

The following year, "after consultation with the appropriate people," Whiting offered Packer "a final year's contract" for 1989-1990.

BYU's Richards says that when Rex Lee took over as the school's president in 1989, he was determined to end the part-time relationship with Packer, who has no advance degree.

"I don't care if he publishes it or not," Lee said at the time.

Whiting has said the final decision not to renew Packer's contract came, in part, because Packer was violating church and university policies that prohibit public criticism of church leaders, even if the criticism is true.

When Packer completed his teaching duties in August 1990, he was given a year's salary as severance pay, a move that surprised Whiting since it didn't come out of his departmental budget.

"I think it probably looks to many people . . . like an effort to bribe him not to go with the Paul Dunn story," Whiting said.

But Lee said it clearly was not a bribe since Packer was told he was free to publish the Dunn story with no strings attached.

"It seemed like the decent thing to do. Lynn didn't have another job and was facing personal problems," Lee said.

For his part, Whiting said he was pained by "the degree to which the university has been pulled into this situation. And I guess I'm also pained at the church being pulled in.

"But the church will have to fend for itself and do what it can to rescue its reputation for honesty and integrity."

LYNN PACKER COMMENTS

SUNSTONE invited Lynn Packer to comment on the stories in the press about his involvement with Brigham Young University; his comments follow.

BYU comments to the press were outrageous. Through my attorney, I demanded a retraction and correction and apology. One of the most sensitive parts about the BYU statements (and these were in the *Provo Daily Herald* story) involved my wife's cancer. Those statements were outrageous for two separate reasons. First, they constituted an extreme invasion of privacy. Second, their statement that my contracts were extended because of my wife's cancer are absolutely false. I have documentary proof which shows that it was *after* my wife contracted cancer that they began challenging my contract. Now, [BYU] President Rex Lee did call my wife personally and apologize. I consider that apology insufficient and in some ways insulting, but I do not want to pursue any legal action because I would be bringing more attention to the very aspect of our personal lives that is so sensitive. Before that story had broken, my wife and I had decided to keep her cancer confidential. We had good friends who we hadn't even told. They found out through the newspaper.

One thing has to be understood: the conflict at BYU was between the administration—[former BYU provost] Jae Ballif and Rex Lee—and not between me and my colleagues in the broadcast news program. As an example, one of my best students at the University of Dortmund in Germany this past year attended BYU's broadcast news program this summer. BYU provided her with a scholarship and assistance at my arrangement and request. I've already met with and will meet again with colleagues at BYU about improving their European journalistic contacts. I plan to help BYU set up further exchanges with the University of

Dortmund and to help BYU with its desire to have more international influence.

There was a serious dispute and confusion among the administrators and not the department. BYU did give me the equivalence of two semesters severance pay. Without that help and assistance I would not have been able to afford to teach at the University of Dortmund during the last school year. That severance pay was offered at the end of nine years of service with BYU. Frankly, it was never fully explained why it was paid because I was on a year-to-year, contract and they had no obligation. However, I thought I had earned it and deserved it.

There was a deal with a Church official [that I could stay at BYU as long as I did not publish the Dunn story]. It was an unfortunate deal for both parties. It was a devil's agreement—one that neither side should have entered into. It was wrong for me to do that, from a philosophical, ethical, and journalistic standpoint. The agreement was broken by the Church. The deal was never honored by the Church. I never broke the story while teaching at BYU.

[When asked to comment on Packer's statement, BYU spokesman Paul Richards said that sufficient information was presented in Vern Anderson's AP story and BYU has no further comment on the matter.]

MILLI VANILLI & PAUL DUNN
Music & The Spoken Word

A Salt Lake bumper sticker.

PACKER SAYS MORMON CHURCH LIED TO DEFEND DUNN

By Vern Anderson
The Associated Press
12 August 1991

SALT LAKE CITY—Mormon Church officials lied when they said they had no way of “finally verifying” whether a former church official’s accounts of his war and baseball experiences were accurate, a reporter claimed Saturday.

Lynn Packer, whose research into Paul H. Dunn’s stories showed several had been fabricated, said members of the faith’s Quorum of the Twelve Apostles were well aware the stories were false when Dunn was abruptly retired from the church’s hierarchy in 1989 for reasons of “health and age.”

Packer told an audience at the Sunstone Symposium that church leaders had conducted at least two internal inquiries into the veracity of Dunn’s stories and whether he had falsified copies of tax documents.

The second investigation was headed by a church attorney, Harry Pugsley, with whom Packer, a Mormon, said he cooperated.

“His report, confirming the allegations, was delivered to the Quorum of the Twelve just a couple of weeks before Paul Dunn was given emeritus status,” Packer said.

Packer’s research was purchased by *The Arizona Republic* and formed the basis of the newspaper’s story in February about Dunn, whose tales of World War II and playing in the St. Louis Cardinals organization helped make him the most popular speaker and author in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Dunn, 67, conceded to *The*

Republic some of his stories were untrue but he defended them as necessary to better illustrate moral and theological points.

When *The Republic* story was published, the church’s Department of Public Communications issued a statement saying, “We have had no way of fully or finally verifying the accuracy or inaccuracy of current allegations or accounts that are now under challenge.”

That statement, Packer said, is a “falsehood.” He said he was told by Quorum members James E. Faust and David B. Haight that if the truth about Dunn’s fabrications ever became public, it would shake the faith of some members.

Asked about Packer’s statements late Saturday, church spokesman Don LeFevre said: “We stand by the statement that was issued at the time.”

Packer criticized *The Republic* for “soft-pedaling” the story by not touching the issue of allegedly falsified documents, the Utah news media for failing to follow it up and the church for sacrificing truth to protect one of its own.

The result, he said, was that his reputation suffered because his motives—not Dunn’s—were unfairly questioned.

“You can scratch your head a long time trying to understand the Paul Dunn myth making and coverup in terms of the truth,” Packer said. “But if you think of it in terms of connections, you can easily understand.”

Someone like Dunn, a member of the church’s “good-old-boy network, sort of the LDS

leadership social-business club, gets every benefit of the doubt.”

During his presentation, Packer held up an enlarged copy of a W-2 form for 1947 given him by Dunn, through his attorney, as proof Dunn played a season of professional baseball with the Ontario, California, Orioles minor league club.

“Observation alone reveals problems with this document,” Packer said. Numbers are obviously hand-altered. One typewriter was used for wages; an-

other for the amount withheld.

“Research backed up what was obvious: the W-2 form is no more credible than counterfeiting a thousand dollar bill with a one dollar bill and a crayon,” Packer said.

Asked about the document, Dunn admitted to *The Republic* that the \$5,024.75 figure on the form did not reflect wages from the Orioles, but a “grouping” of wages from “semi-professional baseball.”

PAUL DUNN’S FATHER’S DAY BOOK CANCELLED

By Mark Eddington
Davis County Clipper, 18 June 1991

BOUNTIFUL—A scheduled Saturday appearance by Paul H. Dunn at an LDS book store in Bountiful was cancelled after his publisher, Bookcraft, decided to cancel the printing of his latest book.

Dunn, a Mormon general authority on emeritus status, was supposed to appear at Seagull’s Book and Tape Store at 273 W. 500 South in Bountiful to promote his latest work, a Father’s Day pamphlet entitled “A Man Called Dad.”

But Seagull’s owner Loren Richards said the autograph party was cancelled when Bookcraft informed him the pamphlet would not be printed for Father’s Day because of the controversy surrounding Dunn.

The controversy broke last February when newspapers across the country carried Dunn’s admission that many of the inspirational stories in his books and tapes were a combination of fiction and fact.

Bookcraft President Russell B. Orton denies the cancellation had anything to do with adverse publicity over Dunn’s admissions.

“It was scheduled for Father’s Day but it wasn’t ready, which is

a very common occurrence in the publishing business. Books often don’t make deadlines,” Orton said.

Asked whether Bookcraft would still publish the booklet, Orton said that wasn’t anyone’s business but his own, but later said he had plans to print the pamphlet for Father’s Day next year.

“It’s a Father’s Day booklet, so it wouldn’t be published until next Father’s Day,” he reiterated. “It’s delayed because it wasn’t ready.”

Officials at the church-owned bookstores could not verify Orton’s contention the booklet was unfinished, but said they had received quite a bit of pre-publication publicity.

Roger Toone, vice president of retail sales at Deseret Book, said they had placed an initial order for the pamphlet, but later contacted Bookcraft and cancelled the orders after the Dunn story appeared in papers and sales of his books declined.

“We expressed our concern to Bookcraft. We weren’t really sure how many of our customers would really be interested. And I think they reconsidered and determined not to bring it (the

pamphlet) out," he said.

Sales of Dunn's books and tapes have fallen off dramatically over the past few months, and Toone said the majority of Dunn's books and tapes have been returned or are now being returned to Bookcraft. One exception is the book, "The Birth That We Call Death," which has continued to sell well despite the controversy.

The decision by Deseret Book to cancel orders for "A Man Called Dad" and to discontinue the sale of many of his other works has reportedly rankled Bookcraft, according to several sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We've tried to be as fair as we could and treat his material just like we would any other product. When we have books from other publishers, other authors, that do not sell, we return them to the publisher. That's what we are doing with the majority of

Dunn's material because frankly people just aren't buying them," Toone said.

Deseret Book officials maintain the return of Dunn's books and tapes is strictly a business decision and has nothing to do with the content or controversy surrounding his books.

LDS MILITARY CHAPLAIN CHARGED WITH FAKING RECORD IN VIETNAM

"Editor's note: In the course of preparing this issue, this particular event was brought to our attention by several individuals. We thought it was interesting that they brought it up in the context of Paul Dunn. Obviously there is no connection between Paul H. Dunn and Gary Probst."

FORT LEWIS, WASH. (AP)—A military chaplain is charged with faking a heroic record with the elite Green Berets and Army Rangers in the Vietnam War, base officials say.

A court-martial is planned Aug. 7 for Maj. Gary Probst, 37, an LDS chaplain and the highest-ranking officer on the base in recent memory to face such action, post officials said.

Prosecutors will show Probst never served in Vietnam with the Marines or the Army, never earned the Bronze Star or 14 other insignia he wore and was not an expert field medic or explosives expert as he claimed, said Army Capt. Martin Eckert.

He faces a dishonorable discharge and a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

He was a student at Brigham Young University during the early 1970s, when he claimed he was in the Marines and Army, Eckert said.

Probst joined the Army in 1980 as a chaplain and served at Fort Gordon, Ga., and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, before coming to Fort Lewis in 1987, Eckert said. He has been reassigned to other duties pending the court-martial.

[In August, Probst was dismissed and fined \$10,000 after pleading guilty during a court martial.]

BOOKCRAFT

February 19, 1991

Dear Book Dealer:

In view of the recent stories about Elder Paul H. Dunn and the accuracy of his books we thought it might be helpful if we provided you with some facts.

We are enclosing with this letter a copy of Elder Dunn's official statement which was released after the initial story was printed. We believe this will help clarify the situation. We want to also remind you that just because something is printed in the newspaper or seen on television does not make it necessarily true.

We believe that things Elder Dunn said to the *Arizona Republic* reporter were taken out of context and used in a way to change his original meanings. We know also that the original story and subsequent coverage have been deliberately slanted to hurt Elder Dunn and the Church.

We want to call attention to the fact that after all the "investigation," these reports are dealing with stories that are a minuscule part of elder Dunn's writings.

Bookcraft has been and is still proud to be associated with this fine man and outstanding teacher. We intend to continue publishing his books, and there is absolutely no question of any of his books being recalled.

We hope this information will be helpful and want you to feel free to call if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Russell B. Orton
President

DESERET BOOK MEMORANDUM

TO: Retail Store Managers, All Retail Employees, Roger Toone, Buying Office, Rex Carlisle, Matt Cole.

From: Jeff Clark

RE: Status of Paul H. Dunn Product

IN RESPONSE to the media controversy concerning Paul H. Dunn and the customer feedback concerning the appropriateness of selling his authored product, our existing returns policy should be used as a guideline.

If customers return product and demand a refund, we will accept for return items in saleable condition. Use judgement in handling these situations so that we may win loyal customers rather than offend.

The corresponding buyers, Paul and Carla, are reviewing the min/max levels on Paul H. Dunn items and will reduce inventory levels as appropriate. Please feel free to pass along to them helpful feedback in this regard. It has also been suggested that if customers are persistent about the appropriateness of producing and selling the product, you may suggest they call Bookcraft or Covenant, or the appropriate producer of the items. Their numbers are:

Bookcraft 972-6180

Covenant Communications 800-662-9545

Thank You.