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PODCAST

Episode #360 Show Notes

How To Deal With Your Internet Enemies

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How To Deal With Your Internet Enemies

with Buck Greene from <https://www.WarriorLife.com/>

1. Do Not Engage

- Buck Greene here; I have a long history of dealing with Internet enemies thanks to various work I've done as a journalist, among other things.
- I once made the mistake of poking fun at an Internet author who got very angry at me for doing it. He wrote not 1, not 2, but 3 blogs about what a jerk I am.
- If I'd left well enough alone, I wouldn't have had to deal with the problem.
- Step 1 in dealing with Internet enemies is not to make them. Do not engage if you can help it.

2. Ask Politely; It Never Hurts

- The author I offended turned out not to be an unreasonable guy.
- When I messaged him and said, "Hey, your blog is the sort of the thing that could make trouble for me getting work," he deleted it.
- This won't always work, but sometimes, all a person needs to hear is that you're actually a real person.

3. Some People Will Fold At The Threat Of Legal Action (But Not Nearly All)

- As a journalist I was threatened with lawsuits a few times, and this frightened me at first.
- Some people will cease and desist if you tell them what they're doing is "legally actionable," but this is really an empty threat most of the time.
- If you threaten legal action and then don't do it, you will embolden them. It may work, but then again, it may not.

4. If Your Internet Enemies Are Making Real Threats, It's Time To Talk To Police And Maybe Lawyers

- Your goal is to create a paper trail.
- It's VERY hard to sue someone for libel, and harder to sue across state lines.
- Whenever anyone threatens to sue you, stop talking to them. I once got a threatening letter and was able to defuse that immediately by having my lawyer talk to the other fellow's lawyer.
- Disengage with and block anyone who is making threats. Do NOT make threats of your own.
- Talk to local law enforcement and, where appropriate, to other authorities.
- I know this works because I've actually put the same guy in prison twice (this podcast contains a shortened version of that story).

5. Tips For Dealing With Authorities

- Remember, they have too much to do and too few resources.
- They usually want to help, but if you make things too complicated for them, they'll stop trying to understand.
- Keep it simple, go in chronological order, and "package" ideas for them so they can understand.
- Always be completely honest when talking to anyone in authority.
- Don't expect anything. They'll do only what they can. Your case may not be priority.

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What's up Warriors and welcome to Warrior Life podcast number 360. That's right. 360, this is Buck green sitting in for Jeff Anderson. And today I asked Jeff if I could talk to a topic that I didn't set out to make near and dear to my heart but which became something that I have a little bit of experience with that topic is dealing with your internet enemies. All right, are you ready? Do you have internet enemies of your own? Then let's talk internet security.

Hey everybody, welcome back. This is Buck Greene sitting in for Jeff Anderson for the warrior live podcast today. I saw something over the weekend that is what inspired this podcast? Jeff as you know, has been making

Videos on self defense and survival topics for years and years and years. And a clip of a ten-year-old video of his. I think it was that old made its way onto one of the Instagram accounts that I follow that's devoted to people making fun of other martial arts techniques, and they had clipped out of very tiny portion of the video. And we're making fun of mostly of the fact that Jeff referred to kicking someone in the groin is kicking them in the schnook. He's, that was a Snooki's was it was a term of much amusement, and I mentioned it to Japanese like yeah. That's

Sort of silliness is all over the inner. He was unfazed because you know when you when you're the big dog there's always somebody nipping at your heels but the whole sequence, the idea that there's people out there on the internet got me to thinking about the fact that many of us thanks to the beauty and power of the internet, make enemies on the internet, there's that old meme going around that, you know, if you could tell someone from the past, something about the present day that would completely blow their minds, what would it be the answer being I have in my possession.

In my pocket, a device that connects me to the sum total of all the information and entertainment anywhere in the world. And in all of history that has been compiled by mankind. And I use that amazing device to look at videos of cats and make people on the internet angry, I make enemies out of strangers. And this very true. If you spend any time on the internet and especially if you have opinions, you're going to make enemies. There is no shortage of Internet drama and the other part of all of this that

that sort of inspired this podcast was, I was following some internet drama involving a young fellow who carries himself as an instructor. I don't know as I would consider him qualified to be a Firearms instructor who had done something in a class where he managed to, you know, muzzle the class with the barrel of his AR-15 and there was a lot of debate about well you know, what's he really doing something improper? Was it really unsafe? And and so that got me thinking about internet drama and the constant arguing and the few

That go on online but I wanted to bring it down to a more personal level because often I'm willing to bet that if you haven't had this experience personally, you may know someone who has had something of an online Feud. With someone someone who's made an enemy either in real life or online and has then had to contend with the Fallout of that and it can be really distracting. It can bother you can rob you of your peace of mind to know that there's somebody out there either on the internet.

Or you know in person using the internet they might be someone local to you or they might not be. It's very upsetting to know there's someone out there who means you ill and I've experienced that more than once and I'm willing to bet that while my life is not exactly been typical in that regard of accumulated more than my fair share of Internet enemies. Thanks to my jobs. You've probably had to deal with this or you might have to deal with this in the future of the internet. Is so integral to our lives. Now that it's almost just a matter of time before you make an internet enemy.

So I thought it would compile for you today. Five tips based on my personal experiences of how to deal with your internet enemies, specifically how how not to make them. And if you then have to contend with them, anyway, what you then could do. So we're going to, we're going to divide this into five rules and very first. Rule is rule number one, which I learned through hard experience. Do not engage. Now to give an example. I used to work part-time as a journalist before I came to Warrior life.

And as a result, I have written, lots and lots of Articles. And the thing about writing articles is when you write unflattering articles about other people, they get upset and you make enemies out of them. So that's part of where, my experience with internet enemies comes from. But the other part is just that I wasn't always good about. Not picking fights with lunatics and you know, that the internet has no shortage of crazy people on it. So, I was on Twitter, the micro-blogging site as people used to call it now these

Is just Twitter in a string of profanity. Most of the time when people talk about Twitter, but I was on Twitter and I saw a guy he was a, he was an author and he had posted a Blog. Something about, you know, the title was kind of arrogant, but it was like, this is

why your book ranks Solo in Amazon, standings. And I looked at that article, and I just out of curiosity, I followed the link and I saw the author's name and then I looked up his books. And then I discovered that his own book ranked really low on the am.

Has on listings and it was because he was primarily marketing, the Kindle books, not the paper book and the paper book is really, really low. So I responded to that tweet. This is a stranger somebody. I don't know. I responded to that and said, well, so and so his book is ranked such and such, you know, the implication being ha, ha ha. He's giving you advice that he must not follow himself. What I didn't know was that I was picking a fight with a crazy person because this relatively harmless post that, I thought this guy ended up generating not one, not two but

Three blogs about what a great, big jerk I am and now these are these don't exist. So don't go looking for. These are not going to find them, but as a result, if you did a search for my name, you would find these blogs like, right on the top because as it turns out, this guy had a really popular following. He was quite a successful self-published author. There's, there's that branch of self-publishing where there's some authors who do really quite well for themselves, and he had quite a following. So, when he put up blogs about what a

Great, big jerk, I am it had an impact and if I just left well enough alone, if I just resisted the urge to make fun of a stranger, I never would have had that problem so it taught me that when it comes to dealing with internet enemies the first step is not to make them just think twice before you take a shot at somebody. Always ask yourself. Am I picking a fight with a crazy person? This is a lot like not flipping people off in traffic like, you know, you can road rage and get away with it for a while. But sooner or later you're

Pick a fight with the wrong person as they say, you never know who's got a gun. You never know who's crazy enough to Ram you with their car, that kind of thing. So again on the internet, when you're dealing with what looks like words on a screen or on your phone and you don't really think about the fact that there's people connected to those accounts always ask yourself. Do I really want to pick a fight with a stranger? I don't know anything about this person. They might be a lot more trouble than they're worth. I've learned that lesson painfully over the years and we'll get to that in the course of this podcast.

Rule number two is connected to that. That's first story. Ask politely it never hurts to ask politely. And by that, I mean the author that I offended he turned out not to be an unreasonable guy. This guy wrote three blogs full of hatred about what a jerk I am. But I contacted him and I said, hey man, I know I made you mad. Your blogs are like on



the first page when you search for my name and I'm worried that that might cause me some trouble in the future like when applying to jobs and stuff,

I I don't have the money to sue you and this is not me threatening to sue you. But I'm asking you like, I don't, you know, I don't think what I did was so horrible that you need to wreck my life over it. Would you be willing to just take those down and let bygones be bygones? This will not always work because a lot of the crazy people that you offend will not be reasonable. But in this case, it absolutely worked. He took it down, he deleted them. And that was that he even sort of indicated a kind of curiosity about, who I was.

As a person that that showed that, you know, sometimes people get mad and they not really horrible monsters. So you can't count on that. A lot of people are horrible monsters but it never hurts to ask so rule number one, don't engage but if you do engage rule, number two, ask politely for this all to be over. Sometimes it'll work you know, you never get the know if you don't ask. So you might as well ask. Now rule number three some people will fold at the threat of legal action, not nearly all of them. But once in a

While that will work. So I was minding my own business and I started to get messages and I got one phone call from people asking me about some journalism work that I had done many many years ago. And I'm like, what why now why is this suddenly coming up and these things pop up on the Internet once in a while? So I didn't really think a whole lot of it. What I discovered though was that a guy? I'd never heard of on YouTube had made a video about some material that I had published 10 years ago and he was very upset about the stuff that I thought 10.

Years ago and I'm like, I don't know where you've been for the last decade. Did you just wake up from the block of ice that the scientists thawed you out from? You know after they discovered your flying saucer crashed on the Arctic Circle like why now man but I found him on Twitter. It was easy enough to find and I just engage him in conversation and I said, look man, what you're doing is legally actionable libel. Now there's a lot of people who will not be swayed by that and they actually shouldn't be because these are usually a

Threats. But there are people who will fold at the first mention of legal action. I used to be one of them and the early days of my journalism. I actually wrote an article about a martial arts figure on whom a certain movie from the 1980s is allegedly based. He called me up and threatened me with legal action. Now in my defense I'm not special, I don't think that guys ever had a phone call with anyone. He didn't threaten to sue but

you know a famous person mild a famous person called me up at threatened to sue me and I immediately took down the article because

cuz I didn't want to deal with that. There's going to be people who don't know how the legal system works. And the first time you mention legal action, they'll fold. You can't count on that though because anybody who's been around for a while myself included. Now we'll go that sounds serious. I better get a lawyer and they just won't be discouraged by your empty threats. Sometimes if you send a cease-and-desist letter, it may work. Most of the time it won't so be aware. Rule number three is that sometimes people will fold at the threat of legal action. Now, I'm not telling you any time someone

Something mean about you go out and threatened to sue them. I'm saying sometimes people will say things about you, that are actually false that are actually libelous or defamatory. This happens a lot on the internet, most people just kind of roll with it, but it happens. I knew a guy quite some time ago, who his name ended up on one of those Anonymous reporting web sites. I want to say it was called like don't date him girl. And there are other sites like that devoted to commercial concerns. One of them is called Ripoff Report stuff like that. And

Anonymous. People can leave any amount of libel on these websites. I can say this person, you know, rip me off and stole my money and curse my crops and their which and burn them at the stake and you know there's nothing to stop them from doing that. It's all Anonymous and if you contact most of these sites and this person that I knew, who ended up on the, don't date him. Girl, site, was basically being described as something, just short of a date, rapist by somebody who had gone out with him and, and really all these sites are aggregators for libel and defamation. But

Cause of the way the internet law works, you know, the there's liability, there's an Indemnity for liability from third-party content for most impartial platforms. And I know that's a big point of debate right now, with major social media sites and how they censor things. But be that as it may especially back, then there was very little that this guy could do about the fact that someone was posting to the internet that he was a really, really bad guy and and it wasn't true. So it was probably very much actionable liable. But how do you sue an anonymous?

No piece of text on the internet and the web site that put it up there like, well, anybody can put up anything. We can't do anything about that, and you can't sue us. So that leads me to rule number four, which is it may be time to actually talk to a lawyer. And if we're talking about threats on the internet, it may be time to actually involve the police threats of legal action are one thing, but when things get serious, rule, number 4. It

may be time to involve the actual authorities or actual lawyers. Most of the time, especially,

People are making threats. Your goal is to create a paper trail. So for example if somebody is stalking you online and they're threatening to hurt you and then one day they show up at your house and you shoot them dead in legal lawful self-defense. You know the justifiably morally and legally it's much to your benefit to have a paper trail establishing that you talk to the police about the fact that you were being stalked. You know what established establishes in the minds of a prosecutor and or a jury?

What exactly was going on in the less serious cases. Things like libel defamation. It's very hard to sue someone for lying about you. It's very difficult to see someone across state lines. But whenever anyone threatens you, and especially, if someone threatens to sue, you stop talking to them. So I know I'm mixing these up, I'm talking about threats, I'm talking about threats of legal action, talking about violent threats. It all kind of falls under the same heading because when things turn legal it means you must turn things over to the

Lawyers in to the police. If I'm talking to someone and he threatens to murder me, I must stop talking to him. If I'm talking to someone and he threatens to sue me, similarly, I must stop talking to him because those threats whether their threats of legal action or threats of violence. Take our interaction out of the realm of what I can handle as a person and put them in the realm of what the authorities and what the lawyers and what the police have to handle. So in the case of somebody threatened to sue me years ago, I did some editing work because among them

The many things that I do, as a journalist and a writer, I did some editing work for a client who was very unhappy with the work done. I think, because I made the mistake of explaining to him. Why his writing was not good and weirdly people have a problem with that. So he sent me a series of emails demanding, all his money back and I said, well, we can talk about this. We can negotiate this, but I can't just give you all your money back because I'm out my time and effort I can't on edit your work, and he sent me.

But that said, if you don't give me all my money back, I'll tell the internet that you're a bad person and a bad editor. And, you know, the implication was that he would make up stuff too. And so I immediately stopped talking to him because he was threatening, he was threatening to sue me and, you know, threatening to engage in illegal actions. Well, also, in case you missed it in, there was sort of an extortion attempt across state lines because he was emailing me from somewhere else. Well, because this was somebody threatening me with legal action, I immediately stopped talking to him.

I had a lawyer who was not really, like it's not like I'm some high-powered guy who has attorneys on retainer, but I knew a lawyer who could talk to his lawyer. So that person did me the favor of calling up his lawyer and saying, you know, my client. She sort of bent the truth for me and said that I was her client. I think my client was most upset by your client trying to extort him across state lines, at which point she told me that this guy's attorney was like, excuse me. And of course, the reason we knew that he had an attorney in,

We got in touch, was I got an email, I got an email with a legal letter in it and in the letter was so and so says you owe him this money. So pay it to him and talk to him. Not us. And that's how I knew that he'd just paid them. Just enough money to put a demand letter on their legal letterhead and that they probably weren't going to come after me. So, you know, I put the two lawyers in touch, they talked. And I never heard from this guy again, which is the best outcome. But again, when someone involves the law, then you,

Just stop talking to them. If somebody threatens you, somebody physically threatens. You not only do you stop talking to them, you block them. And you consider going to the authorities again, to create that paper trail, disengage, whatever you do, don't make threats of your own. I know that a lot of us spend a lot of time involved in self-defense, and, and legal concealed, carry, and we want to think of ourselves as capable people. What is the point of doing all that, if you can't defend yourself, you may think. And I understand that, I understand that frustration.

And a few years ago and I realize a lot of these stories happened quite a few years ago. So apparently I'm old now but quite a few years ago, a family member of mine was threatened by a guy who turned out to be a homeless guy and we went and got a restraining order against that, homeless guy, because this was, you know, very serious threat of murder. Well, he never showed up to court and they never found him because where they going to go to get him. He doesn't live anywhere and apparently he left the area and was never heard from again. But I remember feeling that frustration, like I can't do anything. I know all of

All these ways to defend myself or someone else. I own legal weapons. There's nothing I can do there's within the bounds of the law. So if someone starts threatening you all you can do is disengage with them. Don't make threats, don't have conversations with them, talk to local law enforcement, talk to whatever the appropriate authorities are. I know this from experience because I have put the same guy in jail and prison twice. I will tell you a very short version that story.



Ago, I wrote an article, you know, in might, in my time as a martial arts journalist, I wrote an article about a specific character and it was about claims. He had made the turned out not to be true and I was able to legally substantiate that by, you know, a lot of guys will do The Stolen Valor thing where they claim to have military backgrounds, they don't. And I wrote an article, a stupid lie because I was young and dumb. I wrote an article where I pulled a Freedom of Information Act request for this guy is legal for his military service, and I talked about how he was

Lying. Well, as you can imagine, he didn't like that very much and he started going. We went back and forth on the internet for quite a long time. A number of years, you know, it was some sort of an ongoing internet Feud. It's where I sort of became acquainted with the concept of having internet enemies at all. And then this guy got arrested for making terroristic threats. He was threatening local officials have been arrested a bunch of times and got a rap sheet as long as your arm, when I found out all these things. You know the journalist in me wanted to learn more what

That was he was actually a very dangerous person. I never should have contended with him in the first place. So I went through his blog where he made a lot of his threats. I packaged up all the stuff I sent the information along to the local prosecutors. They looked at it and they said, you know, this is serious, but we can't arrest him because this blog could belong to anybody. We need to do some sort of elaborate sting operation, where he admits to this blog, being his and then the very next day, the guy recorded a YouTube video and said you should go to my blog, which is at this address.

So, that's all they needed. They went to rest of them. They put him in jail and they decided he was crazy so they put him in a mental hospital. And he was there for six months and that was a peaceful six months for me. But then when he got out he immediately started doing YouTube videos and blogs about what a great big jerk. I am me personally. And so they dropped all the charges against him because apparently six months in a mental hospital was enough, that I think the rationale was he was off his meds. When he threatened, local government officials and now,

He's on his meds again. The reason we arrested him is kind of a moot point, so he's free. So what does he do? He goes out and buys a gun. And he posts online about the fact that he bought a gun, and I looked at that and I thought, wait, I've bought guns before. I know for a fact that on the Federal Form it says, have you ever been in a mental hospital? And so I made a few calls and folks from the government called me back and they were intensely interested in what I had to say. And I'm not



Not I'm something of a Libertarian. I don't normally want to involve the government in people's lives but there was it was only a matter of time before this crazy person shot somebody. So they arrested him again. And this time he ended up in federal prison where he is to this day and all of this has gone on for many years. This is a process that took years, it was years ago when I put him in jail. The first time it was three years ago. When they put him in prison, he's been there ever since he'll get out sometime next year.

And when he gets out in the summer of 2022, I have more blog posts and more YouTube videos about what a great big jerk. I am to look forward to because I made the mistake of making an internet enemy if I could go back and never engage with this guy I would however what's done is done and because there's a crazy person out there who loves to make threats and who I've put behind bars twice. I'm pretty sure I get a set of steak knives. If I put him in jail, a third time because of that, I've gotten really good.

Good at dealing with the authorities which brings me to tip number five or rather rule number five for tips for dealing with authorities, when you're dealing with internet. And these, you have to remember when you talk to the police, when you talk to somebody from like the FBI in my case, because this was a Firearms thing, I ended up talking to someone from the ATF, which I'm not going to lie, if anything will make you nervous. It's being a you know, a second amendment guy who ends up on the phone with an agent from the ATF they're just, you know, in this case she was just doing her job but I'm not going to

They have ass excited about this process. So you have to remember these people, are they have too much to do, they don't have enough resources. There is an endless number of weirdos out there and to make matters worse, they're constantly going after, you know, people that probably should be left alone and sort of mixing all that in. So, the truly dangerous people, sometimes slip through the cracks, most of these people do want to help, but if you make things too complicated, they will not understand if I tried to launch into the incredibly elaborate years, long story.

Three of my interactions with this one internet enemy, who I put in prison more than once, they would lose that, it would become one of the parents or teachers in those old peanuts Comics want. They wouldn't hear it. So if you have to deal with the authorities because someone has threatened you because you've made an internet enemy, remember to keep it simple go in chronological order package, the ideas in easy to understand Concepts, when I talk to these people, I say, well, I'm a part-time.

Journalist, or I was a part-time journalist. When all this happened, I used to work for an online newspaper. This is why this happened. This is how I came into contact with this person, most recently. I actually talk to somebody from the US attorney's office about this same guy that I put in prison twice because he had managed to get his hands on a Contraband phone. Apparently and was posting to Facebook while in prison and I found out about it because somebody tipped me off to the fact you know they know the history and they're like hey so and so he's posting to Facebook

Book, and he's in prison, all of my knowledge about how these things work comes from. Orange is the New Black. I'm led to understand that people can get Contraband phones in prison and therefore post to social media. So that's apparently what happened. And the person from the US attorney's office managed to make me feel like I was doing something wrong, and she was very unpleasant, very Brusque. So remember that, when you talk to these people, you need to be completely honest, you know, don't embellish, just give them the straight facts and don't expect anything.

In from them, they will do only what they are inclined to do your case. May not be a priority and in the grand scheme of things is this like Homeland Security, preventing another terrorist attack. No, but in the case of this specific individual putting him behind bars, probably stopped him from committing a murder or shooting up a McDonald's. And when you deal with internet enemies, most of the time, I'm willing to bet that most of the people you're dealing with are not murderers and and you know, straight out, you know, the types of crazy people.

People that are a public danger but you don't get to know who those people are when they are dangerous to others. There are all kinds of stories about people who came into conflict on social media, and that ended up becoming real life violence. There have been cases, like that people get into an argument on Facebook and then one guy goes to another guy's house and then somebody gets assaulted or even murder, it has happened. So keep that in mind when you're contending with internet enemies.

These rules the way to deal with internet enemies. And with internet drama is not to make enemies and not to start drama. So to recap rule, number one, do not engage the best way. Not to have enemies is not to make them rule. Number two, if you offend someone it never hurts to ask politely. If you could just, hey, can we stop this? We don't need to do this. Rule number three, some people will be discouraged by the threat of legal action, but you can't count on that. A lot of people won't be rule number.

For is when things get serious, and your internet enemies, start making threats, either threats of legal action or threats of violence. It's time to involve the police. It's time to involve an attorney of your own stop talking to that person. Block them into, don't

engage with them, and then rule. Number five, remember when dealing with the authorities, you have to package your ideas, keep it simple. Keep it chronological. Don't expect anything from them. They'll do what they can. And always be totally honest with them. I know.

This is a, this is a topic that it may not apply to all of you. A lot of you may be thinking, I've never made internet enemies but you never know that you've got an internet enemy until they let you know sometimes and a lot of us. What's that old saying? I think the quote is often attributed to. Well, I know there's a quote attributed to Mike Tyson. That is everybody has a plan until they get punched in the face. I have seen a quote floating around the internet that says social media has made a lot of you way too comfortable. You know, insulting

People and not getting punched in the face for it. I don't know who to attribute that quote to, but the fact is behind a computer screen behind a phone screen behind a tablet. I think we all tend to be a little more free with our words than we might, otherwise be. And if you go around making internet enemies, you could conceivably end up having to deal with some serious long-term consequences. And in my case, me personally, not only have I had all of the stories I've told you today and More in part from making enemies when I was doing journalism that, you know, created.

Bumper crop of them, but I have some enemies who will be with me for years, including this guy, that's gone to prison twice. You might say well Buck if you didn't put the guy in prison twice, maybe he wouldn't hold that against you. Well, you know, my philosophy on that is when someone repeatedly threatened to murder, you putting them in jail is probably doing you both a favor but still, but my point is, if you can not engage in, not start these things at all, that's really the best way. And if I could go back in time and change it, I probably would. All right, that's going about. Do it for today again. This is Buck Green in for Jeff Anderson.

Who will return soon for the warrior live podcast. Remember until next time to prepare train and survive. You've been listening to the warrior Life podcast. We hope you've enjoyed the show. You can help us spread the mission of self-reliance and self-protection. When you rate US and leave us a comment wherever you enjoy these podcasts and don't forget to check out our posts and videos on our social media channels. You'll see a full directory when you visit our website at

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