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Something about Hungarians

From: campbell@ufomind.com (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)
Date: Thu, 8 Oct 1998 20:04:45 -0800

In the old Desert Rat, there were allegations that the aliens spoke Hungarian or choose to communicate mainly with Hungarians (base on the claims of Bill Uhouse/Jarod 2). This article on the Rubik's Cube provides further proof. --GC

Found at: <http://www.denizine.com/columnist/malcolm/100498.htm>

Thanks to: ZElston@aol.com (Zac Elston)

----- Begin Web Page Excerpt -----

The great Italian-American physicist Enrico Fermi was once asked if he believed in extraterrestrials. "Sure I do," he said. "I know a lot of them personally. They're called Hungarians."

What Fermi was saying was not that Hungarians are strange, though they are; what he meant to say was that Hungarians are too damn smart to be human. If you've studied the history at all, you know that 20th-century physics and mathematics are pretty much Hungarian conspiracies, not to speak of music and cinema (Szell, Solti, Ormandy, Dohnanyi: can even the Germans throw up four greater 20th-century orchestral conductors?). The currency trader George Soros, perhaps the single most powerful man in existence, is a Hungarian. Ernie Kovacs,

the most cerebral and inventive television comedian who ever lived, was a Hungarian. You've used a Schick razor? Schick was Hungarian. You've heard a ballpoint pen called a "biro"? Biro was Hungarian. A Hungarian, John von Neumann, invented game theory and was the first to apply binary numbers to problems in computing. And today, who manufactures the brains for the computers I'm using to type this and you're using to read it? That's right--Intel, a company founded by crypto-Hungarian Andrew Grove.

Hungarians are especially ubiquitous in math; crack a college math textbook, and you'll most likely find a smattering of Frenchmen, a rather greater number of Germans, a few Brits and Japanese, and, most of all, Hungarians--Hungarians beyond counting, except by Hungarians, who are better at this sort of thing than we mere mortals. Von Neumann, Bolyai, Kalman, Polya, Turan, Szego, Peter, Erdos, Reisz, Fejer...the torrent of goulash never ends...

...which is why I think Erno Rubik must be a pretty sad guy, even though he's unbelievably rich. He's a math professor and all that, but what are they going to put on his tombstone? Can he claim to be "Father of the hydrogen bomb," like his countryman Edward Teller? Can he call himself "Director of Casablanca, the most beloved of all Hollywood films," like Michael Curtiz? Can he say "I was the greatest war photographer of the 20th century," like Robert Capa? No. He's going to have that little cube on his tombstone. In fact, his tombstone is probably going to be shaped like a Rubik's Cube.

"But, Malcolm," I hear you saying, "Erno Rubik is one of the wealthiest men in Hungary! What makes you think he's sad?" Well, take a look for yourself at his website, which is at www.rubiks.com. "As was to be expected, after the sale of over 100 million puzzles in three years, the Cube went out of fashion," recalls the great man, looking back to his annus horribilis of 1984. "Although it disappeared from the shops for a while, the Cube never lost the affection of the puzzlers once they got it into their hands. Now I am happy to say the Cube is again back in the shops, taking its rightful place among the permanent classics in company with a whole range of puzzles and games which I have created in the meanwhile. With the increasing importance of the Net and the coming of age of a whole new generation of Cubers, I feel this is the right time to establish my own official Rubik site on this unique road junction of the information highway."

----- End of Excerpt -----

The article goes on to discuss the author's tortured relationship with the Rubik's Cube.

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PO Box 30303, Las Vegas, NV 89173 Glenn Campbell, Webmaster & Moderator

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