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Possible missing link in Art Bell mystery

From: campbell@ufomind.com (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)

Date: Wed, 21 Oct 1998 15:38:37 -0800

Here is a possible missing link in the Art Bell "Why Did He Resign" mystery...

In his "sign off" on Oct. 13, Bell said:

"You may recall about a year ago... I told you that there was an event, a threatening terrible event occurred to my family, which I could not tell you about. Because of that event, and a succession of other events, what you're listening to right now is my final broadcast on the air."

A search for interesting news events in Pahrump about a year ago reveals this article...

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/archives/1997/jun/06/505971364.html>

As the URL implies, this is a news article from the Las Vegas Sun on June 6, 1997. It begins...

Pahrump substitute teacher arraigned on sex charges

PAHRUMP, Nev. (AP) - A 32-year-old Pahrump substitute teacher accused of befriending boys by giving them alcohol and marijuana and then soliciting sex acts from them was arraigned Thursday on 11 counts.

The substitute teacher is accused of having homosexual relations with several Pahrump teenagers, who are not named in the article. The teacher, who was convicted in May 1998, was HIV positive. See also:

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/sunbin/stories/archives/1998/may/07/507185157.html>

Could this be connected to the "threatening terrible event" that happened to Bell's family?

* * *

Monitoring the Art Bell controversy, I am reminded of two fictional parallels.

One is the 1960s TV series "The Prisoner". Patrick McGoohan is a former intelligence operative held captive on a strange island and asked over and over "Why did you resign?" The show is allegorical

and seems to be discussing freedom and free will. It resonates in interesting ways when compared to Art Bell's circumstances.

Art Bell is held prisoner on the Island of Pahrump, or more precisely, in his doublewide mobile home there. He is beseiged by the media who want to know "Why did you resign?" All he has to do to get off the island and regain his privacy is tell his captors what they want to know, but he refuses? What is his motivation? Is it concern for his family? Personal dignity? Freedom? Is he defiantly declaring "I am not a number; I am a human being!" Or is he refusing to answering the question because keeping the secret gives him some kind of power over his captors? At least it makes them pay attention to him.

No one would be asking the question now if Bell had not set us up for it. He had to know that by discussing a "threatening terrible event" and not specifying it he was enticing his conspiracy minded audience into a frenzy of speculation. (The Heaven's Gate suicides ought to have taught Bell something about the dangers of speculation, but he disclaims all responsibility for that terrible event.) In effect, he told his listeners, "I've got a secret, but I'm not going to tell." If Bell really wanted to retire from the air, he could have done it more quietly and handled his family problems in such a way as to not attract attention to them.

One wonders if the prisoner is on the island because that is where he chooses to be.

The other parallel is with Paddy Chayefsky's 1976 movie "Network". In it, network news anchor Howard Beal, faced with lagging ratings, announces on the air -- in a darkly serious voice similar to Bell's -- that he will shoot himself during the next live newscast. Ratings instantly go up, and Beal is given his own show as the "Mad Prophet of the Airwaves."

Glenn

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RELEVANCE OF THIS MESSAGE: UFO personalities

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