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Mothership -> UFO -> Updates -> 1997 -> Mar -> Here		

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Of Linda, Hopkins & The Post's loading dock

From: [Vince Johnson at TENSOR_HSTN@ccmailsmtp.hstn.expl.pgs.com](mailto:Vince_Johnson_at_TENSOR_HSTN@ccmailsmtp.hstn.expl.pgs.com)
Date: Sat, 22 Mar 97 15:21:46 cst
Fwd Date: Sun, 23 Mar 1997 11:51:30 -0500
Subject: Re: Of Linda, Hopkins & The Post's loading dock

>Date: Fri, 21 Mar 1997 07:28:04 -0500
>From: Greg Sandow <gsandow@prodigy.net>
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: Of Linda, Hopkins & The Post's loading dock

In his defense of the Linda case, the esteemable Greg Sandow wrote to the San Antonio Sasquatch:

>I know I've answered Dennis Stacy already, but there's one remaining point I ought to address.

>Dennis, imagining that the NY Post would get a juicy story if its delivery drivers saw the UFO that supposedly abducted Linda "Cortile" and Perez de Cuellar, first remarks:

>> It would take only one person
>> to notice same to alert everyone else in the parking lot to
>> it. In which case, in NY's competitive dog-eat-dog market, the
>> Post would have scored a sensational scoop. Instead, not a
>> peep.

>And later, he asks:

>> How much would a tabloid pay
>> for the headline: "I SAW THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN
>> ABDUCTED BY ALIENS!"?

(snip)

>However, not even most supermarket tabloids would run headlines like the one Dennis imagines. The Enquirer did once write about UFOs, but now it sticks to celebrity gossip, and leaves UFO stories to its offshoot the Weekly World News, which makes them up. (And also to the WWN's infinitesimal competition, the Sun, which for all I know isn't even printed any more.) It's true that one of the lesser gossip tabloids did print a story about the de Cuellar abduction, but only because he denied it. The denial became a silly kind of celebrity news. I can't imagine any of the supermarket rags printing the allegation that de Cuellar was abducted, if the burden of the story was that it really happened. These papers walk a narrow line between sleaze and lawsuits, and almost never print anything substantial that they can't verify. The mere fact of witnesses claiming to see the abduction wouldn't count as verification. (And anyway, would the drivers have seen de Cuellar being taken? Please!)

Hi Greg,

I think you've overlooked two important points made by your own statement:

- 1) The sensational tabloid-style headline to which you refer ("I SAW THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN ABDUCTED BY

ALIENS!") is essentially the claim being made by Hopkins et al, isn't it?

2) Supermarket tabloids apparently exercise greater journalistic integrity than Hopkins has in this case -- since as you say "These papers ... almost never print anything substantial that they can't verify."

I don't think even Greg Sandow would classify the Linda case as "verified" at this point.

Regards,

Vince

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