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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Writers & Fees

From: c549597@showme.missouri.edu [Barbara Becker]
 Date: Wed, 10 Sep 1997 12:58:50 -0500
 Fwd Date: Thu, 11 Sep 1997 00:17:54 -0400
 Subject: Re: Writers & Fees

> Date: Tue, 9 Sep 1997 08:58:11 -0400
 > From: BOB SHELL <76750.2717@compuserve.com>
 > Subject: UFO UpDate: Re: The Question of UFO Witness Anonymity
 > To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
 > >From: c549597@showme.missouri.edu [Barbara Becker]
 > >Date: Mon, 08 Sep 1997 15:15:49 -0500
 > >To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
 > >Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: The Question of UFO Witness Anonymity

> Barbara,

> I do think it is important to shatter the stereotype many people
 > have about how much money someone makes from a book. I don't
 > mean by this that people aren't influenced by money. Certainly
 > not. I became a writer in the first place to make a living at it,
 > and only realized later just how hard that really is.

I totally agree with you. Writing (or any of the arts) is a very
 difficult profession. You write first for yourself, and then pray that
 somebody else wants to read it! (Even buy it!)

> In an unrelated message posted here today, I see that someone is
 > offering abductees \$100 a week to spill their guts for a book.
 > Now for me \$100 a week would not serve as an incentive to do much
 > of anything, but for many that may represent a lot of money, and
 > making a public posting of such an offer is like saying "calling
 > all wackos and nutcases. I'll pay you to invent weird stories
 > for me." I'd never pay someone to be interviewed for a book. This
 > is bad journalism and a violation of basic journalistic ethics.

That post made me heart sick. Not because it would be a "call
 for all wackos" but because there will be real abductees out there who
 just want someone to tell their story to.

> So, what we seem to be asking here is if Linda made money from
 > Budd's book, and if so how much. Am I right?

Its a consideration.

> My guess on this would be that if she did have an agreement with

> Budd to share the proceeds from the book, then neither of them
> would have gotten very much. Think about it this way. In the
> case of most books, the author will make around a dollar per copy
> in actual clear profits after paying the agent his/her fees. Now
> if you sell a million copies, that ain't bad. But most books sell
> in the thousands. So, say it takes a couple of years of real work
> to write a book, and it ends up selling 20,000 copies. The author
> has worked for less than minimum wage!!!! And if that has to be
> split with someone else..... Need I say more?

I understand your point regarding the small percentage on royalties. But
didnt you just say that paying any amount is, "...bad journalism and a
violation of basic journalistic ethics." Doesn't that apply to Linda and
Budd?

> Bob

BB

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