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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Symbols Discovered on Roswell Crash Photo

From: Jerome Clark <jkclark@frontiernet.net>
Date: Fri, 25 Sep 98 15:29:27 PDT
Fwd Date: Fri, 25 Sep 1998 18:25:11 -0400
Subject: Re: Symbols Discovered on Roswell Crash Photo

>From: Greg Sandow <gsandow@prodigy.net>
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Re: Symbols Discovered on Roswell Crash Photo
>Date: Fri, 25 Sep 1998 00:25:35 -0400

>>Date: Wed, 23 Sep 1998 17:13:50 -0500 (CDT)
>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>>From: Dennis Stacy <dstacy@texas.net>
>>Subject: Re: Symbols Discovered on Roswell Crash Photo

>Now imagine you're someone with substantial information about a
>b-i-g UFO secret, and you want to leak it the proper way. You
>don't want to go to some flea-bitten UFO researcher. You don't
>>want to be on tabloid TV. You don't want to find a ghostwriter
>to concoct a totally implausible book. Instead, you want to go
>to the NY Times, documents in hand, ready to work with their top
>reporters to prove that the secret really exists.

>So you call the newsroom, and ask for Seymour Hersh. You get him
>on the phone (not at all implausible; remember that reporters
>depend on leaks and sources, so they'll talk to all sorts of
>people.) You mention UFOs, and he starts laughing at you. He's
>too busy for that kind of nonsense, he says, and hangs up the
>phone. Media people, in my experience, are skeptical to the
>point of derision.

>You'd expect something like that when pedophiles are arrested --
>the requirement for balance doesn't go that far. Nobody
>expects you to call the National Pedophilia Society for a
>defense of sex with children. But the Roswell crash? Are Roswell
>researchers so disreputable that the guy didn't feel he had to
>make the kind of phone call that, in nearly any other story,
>he'd be required to make?

>Like I said, this is weird. Or rather it demonstrates a truth
>about the media -- they don't take UFOs seriously. A few years
>ago, I asked Kevin Randle if any mainstream journalists had ever
>called him to find out what the evidence for the crash might be.
>He said none had -- even when the story became national news.

>Maybe, if there really is a big UFO secret, somebody did try to
>leak it -- and Seymour Hersh hung up on her.

Greg,

As usual you make many good points. Sometimes I get the
impression that it's arguments from anti-Roswell types, not the

Roswell craft itself, whose origin is in outer space.

Back in the 1970s I remember reading a profile of Seymour Hersh in Rolling Stone. The writer, who was talking with Hersh at the latter's desk, heard the phone ring. Hersh picked it up and listened for approximately half a minute before snapping, "I don't do UFO stories," and hanging up. Maybe, just conceivably (let's give our imagination free rein here), that's the man who tried to leak Roswell. We don't know because Hersh doesn't "do UFO stories."

If there are crashed saucers, nobody can argue with a straight face that the story hasn't been leaking all over the place. It's been around since the late 1940s, and in 50 years no serious investigative journalist has touched it. I, too, noticed the bizarre -- yet depressingly predictable -- way the NYT handled the latest AF explanation for Roswell. It was written, as press accounts in elite newspapers throughout the history of the UFO controversy have always been written, as if paraphrased from an AF press release. Of course, where everything is concerned, the media are habitually skeptical of official pronouncements and seek independent confirmation or disconfirmation. It's only about UFOs, apparently, that officialdom can be trusted, utterly. And we're supposed to be the true believers?

Maybe, come to think of it, that this is Dennis' real objection: that we ufologists are so perverse that we presume to be skeptical of AF press releases.

Jerry Clark

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