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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Satanic Abuse

From: Greg Sandow <gsandow@prodigy.net>
Date: Wed, 23 Jun 1999 01:18:34 -0400
Fwd Date: Wed, 23 Jun 1999 23:01:26 -0400
Subject: Re: Satanic Abuse

>From: Kevin Randle <KRandle993@aol.com>
>Date: Tue, 22 Jun 1999 10:55:56 EDT
>Subject: Re: Satanic Abuse
>To: updates@globalserve.net

>On the other hand, we can point to some abductees who've seen
>their lives radically altered by tales of alien abduction. So
>what if there are a few, some, many who have deal with alien
>abduction easily or well. There are those who have not... but,
>these would be some of the dreaded anecdotes.

That's why anecdotes are treacherous. I know or have heard of people whose lives have been hurt by heavy metal, on-line chat rooms, and rollerblading. Should I start crusading to prove those things are harmful? I know someone who ruined herself financially because she was obsessed with a world-famous opera diva, and followed the singer around the world, attending every performance she gave. Does this mean opera is a problem?

It's tempting to think we know something because we can tell stories that support our point of view. I can't tell you the number of interviews I gave, articles I wrote, radio shows I went on to participate in arguments about hiphop (or rap music, as some people might call it). Was it dangerous? Did it cause violence? Often the hosts of these radio shows would have an anecdote or two. Almost never did they have any real information about the subject; they had no idea, for instance, of how many people were taken off the street by hiphop, how many kids formed businesses, how many people left gang life forever.

The point of that story isn't to say that I was right, or that the radio hosts were right. The point is to say that we can't decide anything without real information. If you want to know whether hiphop is good or bad, first acquaint yourself with the entire field. Learn how it works, hear story after story, until you can decide which kind of story really dominates. Even better, get real, objective quantitative data.

It's the same with abductions. It's pointless to tell stories of people hurt by believing they'd been abducted, and equally pointless, from a scientific point of view, for me to say that people have been helped by coming to accept that belief. I only tell my stories to balance the other side, to say that the stories don't all go one way. What's missing on both sides is, again, quantitative data. How many people have been helped by accepting that they think they've been abducted, how many have been hurt?

Until we have solid information, we're stuck in a vacuum. And we'll all just repeat the stories that support our own point of view.

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