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[Claims of White House 'Vandalism' Exaggerated ?](#)

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Author	Topic: Claims of White House 'Vandalism' Exaggerated ?
Linnea Meyer Dread Pirate Posts: 6172 From: Upon the High Seas ~ Aboard the FANTASTIC Registered: Apr 2000	posted 27 January 2001 04:36 AM profile mail edit quote <hr/> Follow up to reported White House 'Vandalism' - http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A53681-2001Jan26.html http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A53705-2001Jan26.html [This message has been edited by Linnea Meyer (edited 27 January 2001).] <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p>

Hilda Sophia
Buccaneer

Posts: 1155
From: Connecticut
Registered: May 2000

 posted 27 January 2001 05:47 AM [profile](#) [mail](#) [edit](#) [quote](#)

Linnea,

I read those articles yesterday. Have been starting out my morning reading the Washington Post and the Washington Times on-line.

There are conflicting accounts and I don't know who to believe at this point. Maybe they need stories as there isn't much else to write about. I smell a public relations operation here.


Let's hope the damage was minimal as, I have posted elsewhere, I don't want to pay for this sort of thing.

[This message has been edited by Hilda Sophia (edited 27 January 2001).]

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Cherry Kelly
Swashbuckler

Posts: 3439
From: Belton, MO USA
Registered: Jul 2000

 posted 27 January 2001 08:33 AM [profile](#) [mail](#) [edit](#) [quote](#)


Yes, I too have read the articles and have listened to some talk radio - a guy was reading the list of 'vandalisms' in WH and AF1 - how extensive is it in reality? Still a good question. The fact remains - THEY DID VANDALIZE - which is disgustingly childish. If it was just ONE single incident - but it wasn't...so that is beyond 'prank' stages.

GW has said he will not have an investigation or prosecution -- maybe he's just more forgiving than I would be in similar circumstances.


IP: [Logged](#)

Spike Mike
Swashbuckler

Posts: 5742
From: TEXAS!
WhoopAss Capitol of the World!!
Registered: Jan 2001

 posted 28 January 2001 11:19 PM [profile](#) [mail](#) [edit](#) [quote](#)


I caught the "keyboards missing W's" story about a week and a half ago, and thought about posting it at KN, then thought some more, and the more I thought about it, the more stupid it sounded. So I chose not to run it.

SpikeMike~Newsm Ginger
Gunner1stClass
#1Turret~BB-35

IP: [Logged](#)

dansgold
Swashbuckler

Posts: 579
From: Granite Bay California
Registered: May 2000

 posted 29 January 2001 10:23 AM [profile](#) [mail](#) [edit](#) [quote](#)

I think the vandalism was serious - I know people who saw it first hand (hoping to get a pic or two!)

I also don't think it was driven by any top-level Gore or Clinton people.

Both the Prez and the Veep did hire a large number of 'just out of college' types. There were a number of reports during Clinton's first term about staffers showing up to meetings in cut-offs & shorts, unshaven, etc.

I think a lot of these 'kids' just didn't have the necessary experience to know how to act like adults. For many, it was their first 'real job'.

This is terrible stuff, but I wouldn't read too much of the " Clintons are white trash" rhetoric into it. Mostly, they just made some poor choices about who they hired, and failed to properly guide them in what are

	<p>acceptable and unacceptable "pranks", when leaving the Whitehouse.</p> <p>----- -- dansgold The avalanche has started, it is too late for the pebbles to vote.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p>
<p>Shady O. Rack Buccaneer</p> <p>Posts: 205 From: From OZ Registered: Oct 2000</p>	<p> posted 29 January 2001 02:19 PM profile mail edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Yes, but what damage have they done we don't know about??</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p>
<p>Snorrithor Swashbuckler</p> <p>Posts: 936 From: SE Michigan USA Registered: May 2000</p>	<p> posted 29 January 2001 11:03 PM profile mail edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Did Dubya take long to get out of those Chinese Handcuffs hidden in the drawer?</p> <p>----- Generally speaking, the errors in religion are dangerous; those in philosophy only ridiculous. David Hume (1711-1776)</p> <p>[This message has been edited by Snorrithor (edited 29 January 2001).]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p>
<p>Barb in Msla Buccaneer</p> <p>Posts: 238 From: Missoula, Montana Registered: Dec 2000</p>	<p> posted 30 January 2001 01:01 AM profile mail edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>The press and others going overboard ? Not surprising.---Barb.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p>
<p>revRecluse Buccaneer</p> <p>Posts: 1580 From: North Of 60 Registered: Jan 2001</p>	<p> posted 30 January 2001 06:44 AM profile mail edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Here's an article from yesterday's Salon that sheds more light on this "Scandal":</p> <p>Was the White House Trashing Story Garbage? By Joshua Micah Marshall Posted Monday, Jan. 29, 2001, at 2:15 p.m. PT</p> <p>According to numerous press accounts from Week 1 of the Bush administration, the Clintonites trashed the White House on the way out. The first stories recounted a modest prank in which departing aides plucked a few "W" keys from computer keyboards as a dig to George W. Bush. But as the full horror emerged, the White House began to resemble the Continental Hyatt House after a weekend visit by Led Zeppelin.</p> <p>According to NBC's Andrea Mitchell, the White House was "downplaying" the vandalism but unnamed "sources" were reporting "phone lines cut, drawers filled with glue, door locks jimmed so that arriving Bush staff got locked inside their new offices. Obscene messages left behind on copying machine paper." Another unnamed source "with close ties to the Bush White House," told CNN's Kelly Wallace that there was "trash everywhere."</p>

Bush Press Secretary Ari Fleischer elliptically confirmed the stories and declared that the White House was cataloguing the vandalism. But he also announced that the Bushies were turning the other cheek and declined to open a formal investigation. "Part of changing the tone in Washington," Fleischer said, "is to allow some things that others may have made a focus of, to let pass." The pliant press promptly adopted the new script: Mike Allen of the Washington Post reported that a "high-level Republican" who had seen the damage was "leery about putting information out about the mess because chief of staff Andrew H. Card Jr. is gentlemanly and doesn't want to appear to be ratting on the Clinton administration."

Or maybe gentlemanliness had nothing to do with Card's retreat. Maybe the new administration had no evidence of a campaign of vandalism, which is what a review of the Prankgate news stories suggests. Case in point: The press secretary's ceremonial flak jacket, allegedly stolen by the Clintonites as part of Prankgate, turned out to have been picked up accidentally by the cleaning crew, which returned it.

Now, it could be that on their way out of town the Clintonites did rip through the White House like a Bengali typhoon. After all, Clinton staffers confirm that they de-"W"-ed some keyboards and posted some snarky signs. But, as John Harris reported in a Washington Post story that documented the Bush administration's climb-down from the sabotage charge, when Karen Tramontano, an aide to outgoing Chief of Staff John Podesta, phoned the White House and pressed for details about the alleged vandalism, she was told only of a single copier cord being cut and one severed phone line. Fleischer insisted that he had been told of more than one instance of cord-whacking but agreed that "the story has become bigger than life." When reporters asked Fleischer if these more limited damages could simply have been caused by the movers on Inauguration Day, he said, "I don't believe that the people who are professionals, who make it their business to go in and prepare the White House for new arrivals, would cut wires." (Has Ari Fleischer ever dealt with movers?)

So, yes, there were some pranks. But there's nothing unprecedented about the old administration pranking the new administration, as subsequent reports indicated. When Clinton-Gore staffers showed up for work in 1993, they found offices in disarray, computers disabled, and office furniture helpfully decorated with numerous Bush-Quayle bumper stickers. It appears that in this transition, the White House press corps took a similar situation and hyped it into a full-bore scandal without requiring one White House staffer to go on the record about specific vandalism or to provide any physical evidence.

In the absence of proof, why did the White House press corps advance the sabotage claims? 1) The Bushies insist on talking on a not-for-attribution basis if they talk at all, and this allowed them to embellish the scope of Prankgate's "destruction" without suffering any blowback. 2) For all the pomp and pageantry of inauguration week, there wasn't much news for the press corps to report. So, mindful of who their masters will be for the next four years, they accepted the Bushies' blind accounts. 3) Reporters are suckers for stories that conform to their prejudices: It stood to reason that the Clinton crew would make a graceless exit and that the grown-ups from Texas would rise above it. 4) By Jan. 20 the ultra-efficient Clinton spin machine had been unplugged and there was nobody to provide an alternative account.

The story here wasn't Clintonite shenanigans. It was the new White House's smearing of their predecessors and Fleischer's refusal to put up or shut up when it came time to start giving details.

(Note to the White House press corps: It's still not too late to redeem yourselves!)

np: "Crucifixion"- Phil Ochs

IP: [Logged](#)

Fuzelawjec
Pirate



posted 30 January 2001 05:36 PM [profile](#) [mail](#) [edit](#) [quote](#)

Posts: 19
From: New
Bedford, MA, USA
Registered: Jan
2001

I think I've figured this out, the w's were removed to keep WH staffers from surfing the web. <www>
The rest is just their normal working conditions. (You should see the mess I walk into @ work)
So our new Government get's all brand new office furniture, I'm sure they planned on replacing everything anyways, specially that carpet in the oval office.
Besides the true damage done won't be realized for years.

IP: [Logged](#)

Kurt
Kruschinska
Buccaneer



posted 05 February 2001 05:32 AM [profile](#) [mail](#) [edit](#) [quote](#)

Posts: 334
From: Clowns to
the Left of Me,
Jokers to the
Right...
Registered: Dec
2000

quote:

Originally posted by revRecluse:

4) By Jan. 20 the ultra-efficient Clinton spin machine had been unplugged and there was nobody to provide an alternative account.

The story was biased, but fine up until this point. This is pure and unadulterated bullshit. The Clinton spin machine just moved to Manhattan. The former White House Press Sec (his name escapes me for the moment) is STILL in Clinton's employ. And you damn well better believe that old Serpenthead (the originator of the Clinton spin machine) Jim Carville would show up pro-bono if Clinton or his minions called.

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Hitchhiker
Buccaneer



posted 05 February 2001 06:07 AM [profile](#) [edit](#) [quote](#)

Posts: 112
From: New
Orleans, La.
Registered: May
2000

I would tend to discount the paper that's owned by the Unification Church.

IP: [Logged](#)

revRecluse
Buccaneer

Posts: 1580
From: North Of
60
Registered: Jan
2001



posted 05 February 2001 07:24 AM



profile



mail



edit



quote

quote:

Originally posted by Kurt Kruschinska:

The story was biased, but fine up until this point. This is pure and unadulterated bullshit. The Clinton spin machine just moved to Manhattan. The former White House Press Sec (his name escapes me for the moment) is STILL in Clinton's employ. And you damn well better believe that old Serpenthead (the originator of the Clinton spin machine) Jim Carville would show up pro-bono if Clinton or his minions called.

Of course you were just as outraged when the Bush people trashed the White House for the incoming Clinton administration. Oh yeah that's right, it was a non-story. Just like Bush accepting 144,000 in gifts in the waning days of his term in 1992-93. But of course, Clinton is evil personified, and Hilliary is possessed by Ol' Scratch himself.

And Old Serpenthead? Must be another example of Compassionate Conserveatism..

Like I said elsewhere, I'm sick of this crap. Clinton isn't President anymore. You've got a Replublican in the White House.

Let it go.

np: "Baker Street" -Gerry Rafferty

IP: [Logged](#)

Kurt
Kruschinska
Buccaneer

Posts: 334
From: Clowns to
the Left of Me,
Jokers to the
Right...
Registered: Dec
2000



posted 05 February 2001 07:54 AM



profile



mail



edit



quote

quote:

Originally posted by revRecluse:

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Let it go.

np: "Baker Street" -Gerry Rafferty

Well, before you jump down my throat, why don't you ASK what I think about the vandalism at the White House. You might be surprised.

As for Old Serpenthead, that was a nickname given to him by Mary Matalin, who happens to be married to him.

You should notice that my only commentary was about Salon, which for all intents and purposes, is about as unbiased as the Washington Times. They made a contention that the Clinton spin-machine had been dismantled. That quite simply is not true.

[This message has been edited by Kurt Kruschinska (edited 05 February 2001).]

IP: [Logged](#)

Shady O.
Rack
Buccaneer

Posts: 205
From: From OZ
Registered: Oct
2000



posted 05 February 2001 08:00 AM



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[quote](#)

[QUOTE]Originally posted by revRecluse:

[B] Hilliary is possessed by Ol' Scratch himself.

When you have "Ol' Scratch" on your side one has to look under every rock to keep from being bitten!

Carvill looks like he could have walked off the crash in Roswell. 

IP: [Logged](#)

revRecluse
Buccaneer

Posts: 1580
From: North Of
60
Registered: Jan
2001



posted 05 February 2001 09:06 AM



[profile](#)



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[quote](#)

quote:

Originally posted by Kurt Kruschinska:

Well, before you jump down my throat, why don't you ASK what I think about the vandalism at the White House. You might be surprised.

As for Old Serpenthead, that was a nickname given to him by Mary Matalin, who happens to be married to him.

[This message has been edited by Kurt Kruschinska (edited 05 February 2001).]

I'm sorry I jumped down your throat. I'm just tired of all this , and it's pretty much killed me from politics forever, at least national- wise, anyway.

No doubt Salon leans to the left, as the Washington Times leans right.

As for Mary Matlin and Carville, I never understood that one. Bill and Hilliary seem like the Stepford Couple in comparsion!

np: "Marquee Moon"- Television

IP: [Logged](#)

Kurt
Kruschinska
Buccaneer

Posts: 334
From: Clowns to
the Left of Me,
Jokers to the
Right...
Registered: Dec
2000



posted 06 February 2001 10:02 AM

profile mail edit quote

quote:

Originally posted by revRecluse:

I'm sorry I jumped down your throat. I'm just tired of all this , and it's pretty much killed me from politics forever, at least national- wise, anyway.

No doubt Salon leans to the left, as the Washington Times leans right.

As for Mary Matlin and Carville, I never understood that one. Bill and Hilliary seem like the Stepford Couple in comparsion!

np: "Marquee Moon" - Television

apology accepted! if you're nice, i'll even show you the handshake for the vast right wing conspiracy. 😊

carville and matalin have always amused me. just proof that anyone can get along if those two can get along.

IP: [Logged](#)

revRecluse
Buccaneer

Posts: 1580
From: North Of
60
Registered: Jan
2001



posted 06 February 2001 02:13 PM

profile mail edit quote

quote:

Originally posted by Kurt Kruschinska:

apology accepted! if you're nice, i'll even show you the handshake for the vast right wing conspiracy. 😊

carville and matalin have always amused me. just proof that anyone can get along if those two can get along.

LOL! 😊

np: Judge Joe Brown

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