

The mantis-Borski hoax exposed!!!

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 03 Jun 1998

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/732>

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Robert Borski — 03 Jun 1998, 14:40

I can't believe nobody's mentioned this before, and even I was a little slow to catch on, though I thought something was funny in the way that both Robert Borski and mantis almost always seemed to follow one another in their postings--plus seemed to include stuff not privy to the lists, but they obviously each somehow knew about ahead of time.

Then there was all that talk about secret sharers and doubles, which maybe 5fthH is really about (I haven't read it yet--still trying to figure out Severian), but didn't this make you suspicious?

Then we had that loup (see, I can pun 2) little "Diary as Metafiction" post, which was also preceded by the very curious remark about how mantis "grew him (Robert Borski) from a bean."

As for their writing style, sometimes they seemed different, sometimes they didn't--couple of times I would have been hard pressed to ID the author if a name hadn't been attached.

As for the two different e-mail addresses, these are very easy to fake if you use a nymserver. I'll prove it to you. Check out how I'm listed above by lists.best.com. See? No big deal.

And wasn't it Robert Borski who allegedly wrote "Cave Canem"? (Hey, is this a play on New Sun's Cumaean?) Looks like "he" might have slipped up here, because the "Cave Canem Indices" in the most recent urth list identifies the compiler as one m.driussi!

I mean it all seems rather obvious on hindsight (if a little puerile, the phrase 'get-a-life' ring a bell), and I probably wouldn't have said anything, because I appreciate a good joke and have also been very comfortable with my lurker status, but this morning my brother-in-law came over and I asked him if he could tell me what the word 'borski' might mean--it seems Polish, and he and my sister met on a semester abroad program in Krakow.

He said he wasn't absolutely sure, but he thought it sounded very similar to the Polish word for praying.

'Praying mantis.' Get it?

Come on, Michael Andre-Driussi.

Confess.

You are Robert Borski.

pumaise at twincities.com
(call me he-who-lurks-no-more)