

JUL 25 1985

33
83

Scientist Reports Profile of UFO Abductees

by Steve Weiss

People who claim to have been abducted by a UFO are no different than anyone else, aside from their experience, according to a prominent researcher speaking in Laramie July 13.

"People who have claimed to have UFO experiences come in all shapes, ages, and sizes," says Dr. Aphrodite Clamar. "It's difficult to

paint a physical or psychological portrait of the average UFO subject." The only similarity among these people is the effect of their experiences, she reported.

Dr. Clamar, professor of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, gave the Keynote Address at the sixth annual Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation held at UW. (School of

Extended Studies)

Her research was limited to nine people who both reported seeing a possible UFO and then "lost time." Sometimes several hours are unaccounted for after a UFO sighting, and the "abductees" become troubled and perplexed by their experience.

Only years later, sometimes under hypnosis, does the patient remember the incident. "Each has asked 'Why me? Did it really happen to me? Why was I singled out to be a victim?'" said Clamar. The abductees tend to feel "stigmatized," separate from others and reluctant to discuss their experience with friends or relatives.

Because most societies do not reward anyone who is "different," that response is expected, said Clamar.

Some skeptics claim that UFO reports may come from a psychopathology — a mental disorder. Clamar began her research to find out if the skeptic's claims were true. Her study found no disorder, except for the effect of their experiences, in those people reporting a UFO abduction.

"Here is a group of people who consistently have been described as 'paranoid', crazy, attention seekers, marginal citizens and misfits," said Clamar. "The people I examined did not fit these stereotypes.

"This is a mystery that challenged my, and perhaps society's need to find orderly, logical and acceptable explanations. I couldn't find a pigeonhole for the facts I was coming up with."

The subjects were given "an extensive battery of tests," and did share several characteristics that Clamar said could relate to their UFO abduction.

"At least the results are not inconsistent with what one might anticipate as a psychological consequence of such a startling, disturbing event as a UFO abduction.

"One would likely find a deep sense of shame, secretiveness and social alienation among the victims." The results of her study showed the similarity between victims of crimes such as rape and kidnapping and those who have reported a UFO abduction.

She concluded "The question persists — is the UFO experience genuine or delusion? After seven years, I cannot in all honesty answer the question.

"However, I cannot overlook the fact that for the UFOers I have seen, this is a true experience."

According to Clamar, there was "no evidence from any of the tests ... (that) they might have invented their reported experiences of a UFO abduction."

Clamar, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, member of the American Psychological Association, and listed in Who's Who of American Women, began her study in 1978. To help avoid influencing the results of the study, she hired another psychologist who was unaware of the subjects' UFO experiences.

Only people who had no history of drug or alcohol abuse, who had no unusual habits, and who were successful in their careers were studied to further avoid false results.

Clamar said that more abductees need to be studied to verify her results, but funding for UFO research has been low.

The possibility of amnesia with such a traumatic experience is consistent with current research in cognitive therapy, Clamar replied to a question.

There is a specific mechanism in the brain that can block the transfer of information from the subconscious to awareness.

"One part of our mind knows what happened, while the other part remains oblivious to the information," Clamar said. This amnesia is a self-defense, protecting the person from emotional damage.