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Carried away by the aliens

BOSTON: Joann Berte swears she was paralysed by three-fingered aliens and taken aboard their spaceship. Marianne Shenefield, who claims to have twice encountered extraterrestrials, said people who have seen them have an aura.

Their stories are among dozens of variations this weekend at a conference in Boston of people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

"I was immobilised. I couldn't move and I didn't think to speak. I just watched," said Joann, who claims she was awakened on a friend's porch in Rhode Island and carried in a paralysed state aboard an alien spacecraft.

Angry

She told of observing a small, three-fingered alien in an incubator and being brought to a glass-enclosed platform overlooking a table where her friend lay with a tube extending from her navel.

"It makes you very angry," said Joann. "They don't ask your permission. They just take you away."

Arthur Myers, a conference co-ordinator and member of a church group interested in the paranormal, said the gathering is one of the first public meetings of people claiming to have had close encounters with aliens.