

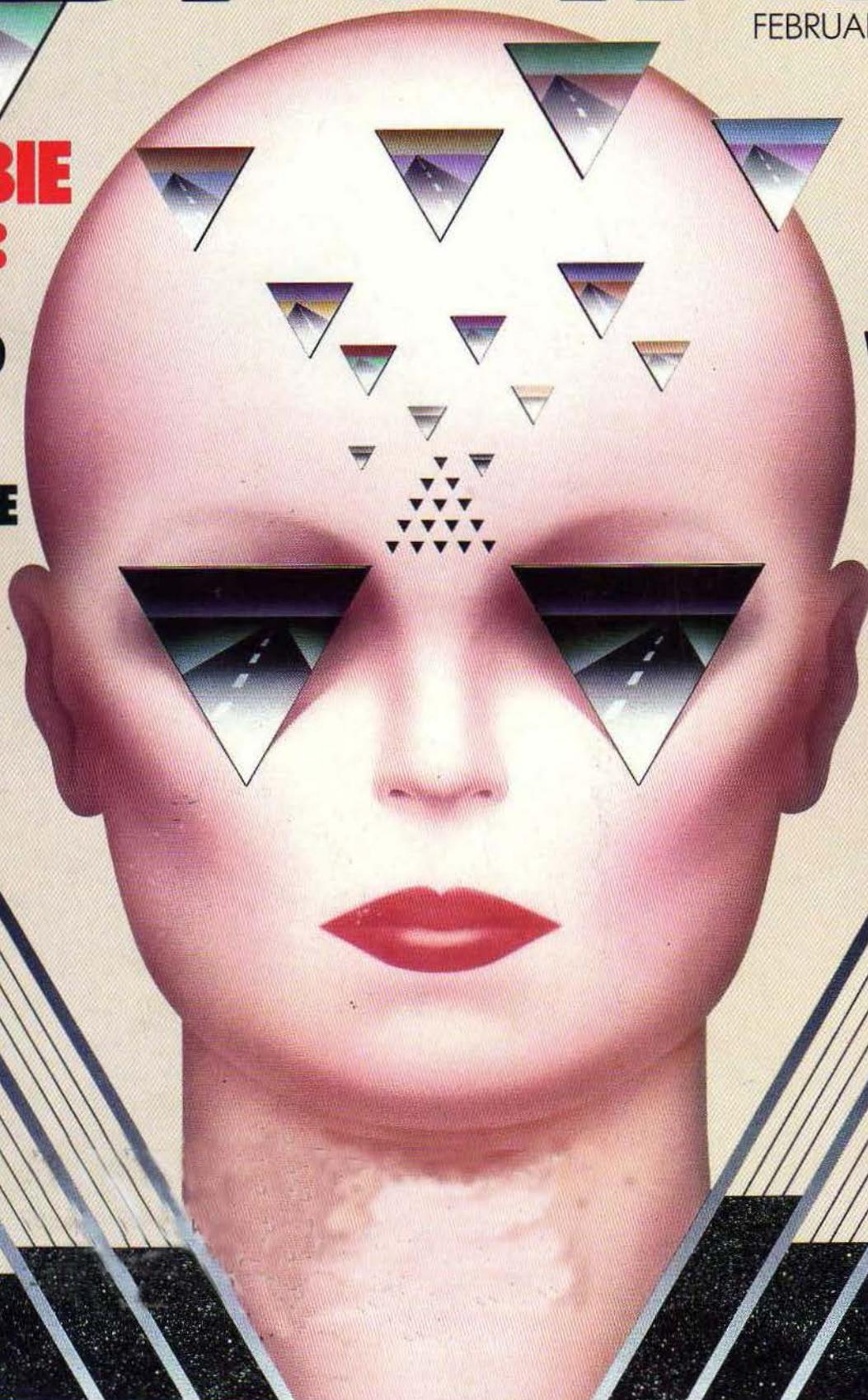
OMNI

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**ZOMBIE
PILLS:**
HOW
VOODOO
CAN
BRING
BACK THE
'LIVING
DEAD'

**CELL
SEER:**
THE MAN
WHO CAN
READ
THE
FUTURE
IN YOUR
CELLS



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purported abductees, including a
tennis instructor, a
college teacher, and an audio technician. •

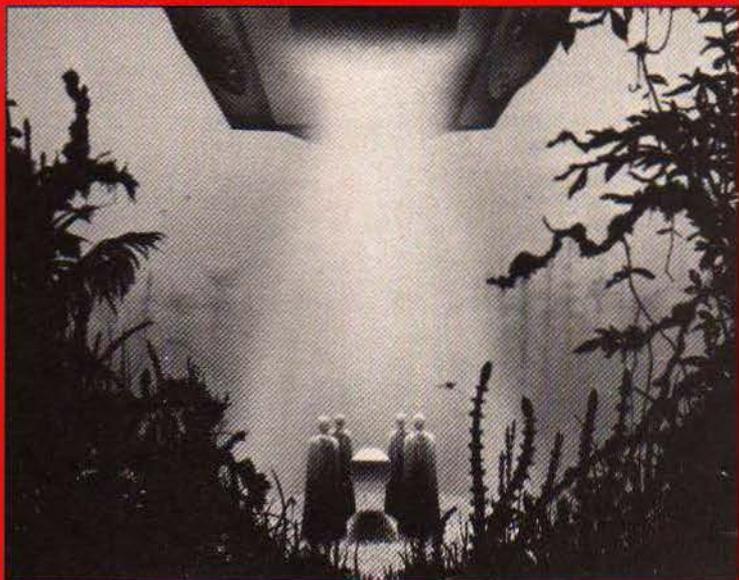
ANTI MATTER

Are people who claim they've been abducted by UFOs normal? The proponents in the UFO controversy say that they are. The skeptics prefer to believe that such people are publicity hounds, pathological liars, or schizophrenics. In an attempt to resolve the issue, the Maryland-based Fund for UFO Research recently financed a psychological study of some of the "victims."

The research funds were granted to Ted Blocher, Budd Hopkins, and clinical psychologist Aphrodite Clamar, three New York researchers who have been studying reports of UFO abductions for several years. In this instance the trio studied nine purported abductees, including a tennis instructor, a college teacher, an audio technician, and other responsible citizens from various walks of life.

Reasoning that if these individuals were mentally disturbed their problems would show up on standard psychological tests, the research team sent the subjects to independent clinical psychologist Lisa Slater. Slater was not told that the people she would be examining were UFO close-encounter victims. Nor did any of the subjects reveal the secret during the battery of tests.

Those tests, Slater soon reported, revealed no overt pathological feature uniting the subjects. But what did pique her interest was the psychological evidence that her subjects had undergone some sort of trauma. These people seemed distrustful, even paranoid, when it came to personal relationships, Slater said, somewhat like victims of rape. When told that her subjects claimed to be UFO abductees,



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she added. "The test findings are not inconsistent with the possibility that the reported abductions have, in fact, actually occurred."

Clamar later asked another New York psychologist to review Slater's work and to study five of the subjects anew. The second psychologist, who wishes to remain anonymous, supported Slater's view.

Most ufologists don't believe that the fund's study *proves* that UFO abductions are real events. Astronomer J. Allen Hynek, of the Center for UFO Studies, says, "All we can infer is that a set of normal people

underwent what to them was a vivid, traumatic experience, one that profoundly affected their lives." But Hynek adds, "If we decide not to accept the abduction accounts as real, what sort of cop-out can we possibly adopt?"

The skeptics, however, disparage any suggestion that aliens have actually snatched people. According to psychologist Ronald Siegel, of the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute, UFO abduction experiences may result from neurological quirks and perceptual flaws. Hopkins, Blocher, and Clamar "assumed that psychological tests were the only important ones," Siegel says. "But the first tests should have been neuropsychological. Knowing how the personality may interpret or perceive various signals is useful only after other tests have been done."

The consensus of the experts seems clear. The Fund for UFO Research has provided more evidence that UFO abductees seem to be going through *something* bizarre. But we still don't have any idea just what.—D. SCOTT ROGO