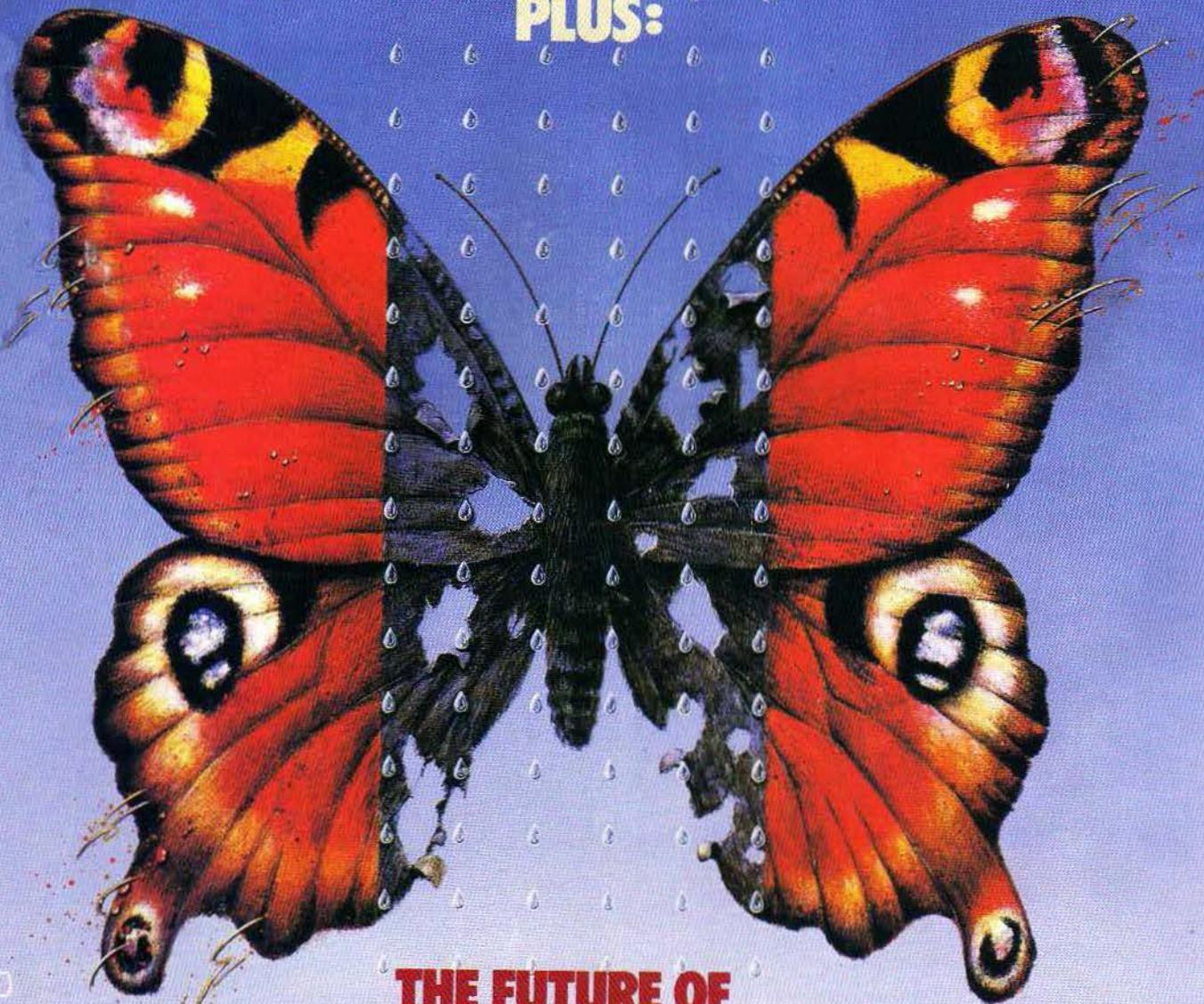


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**THE FUTURE OF
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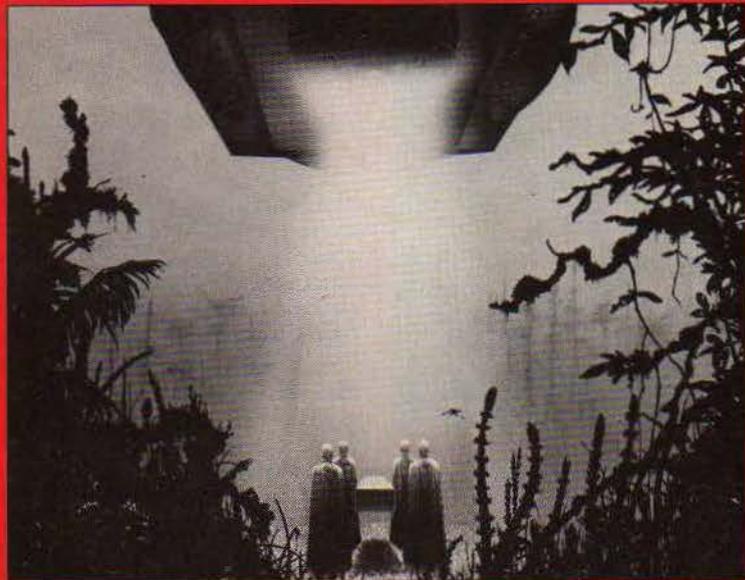
•The Intruders
Foundation offers the very first
nationwide help network
for anguished UFO abductees. •

ANTI MATTER

If you believe you've been abducted by aliens, you may feel shaken and humiliated, with nowhere to turn. But now all that can change. The Intruders Foundation (IF), launched recently by UFOlogist and best-selling author Budd Hopkins, offers the first nationwide help network for UFO abductees.

Hopkins has been the patron saint of abductees for a decade. After his first book about the abduction phenomenon, *Missing Time*, appeared in 1981, anguished victims kept contacting him for counsel. He found dependable hypnotists and psychotherapists to work with them and even hypnotized many himself to help them remember their abductions. But after the success of his best-selling book *Intruders* in 1987, he couldn't handle the load. "It was staggering," he says. "There were hundreds of letters I couldn't even respond to."

Hopkins believes that IF will be the answer. The not-for-profit foundation, funded by donations and membership fees, plans to provide abductees all over North America with support. Clerical personnel, says Hopkins, will make sure letters are answered promptly, and new members will have their names and vital information fed into a continuously updated computer bank. Those needing psychological help will be referred to competent people who are experienced with abductees and often willing to work gratis. IF will even prepare these professionals through conferences, personal training sessions, and a series of audiotapes and videotapes.



UFO UPDATE

Members will also get the newsletter *IF* four or more times a year. The editor, Penelope Franklin, says the abductees' own stories will play a main part. "Many abductees are isolated," she says. "It will help them to know that others have gone through the same thing."

Jerome Clark, vice-president of the Center for UFO Studies, agrees that IF will play an important role. "Some of these people are in bad shape, like rape victims," he says. "The more information we have about them, the more we'll help."

But Bill Ellis, a folklore expert at Pennsylvania State University who has studied abduction literature, doesn't believe that IF is positive at all. Rather than performing a therapeutic service, he says, Hopkins's followers are constructing a new folklore. "In many cultures, the 'terror that comes in the night' is accepted as a common experience," he says. "In Italy it is called the *Momunia*, and in Newfoundland the *Old Hag*. But in Anglo-American culture, the perception is considered too bizarre to talk about. The people who come to Hopkins, lacking the tradition to understand the phenomenon, may be inadvertently swayed to believe the group's unprovable abduction hypothesis." The danger, says Ellis, is that in dispensing a kind of folk psychiatry, a group such as IF will keep some people from the clinical help they really need. Adds Ellis, "Less dramatic explanations will come out when the field attracts objective psychologists and folklorists who don't have a burning need to create a mythology for our time."—MARK TEICH