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PAGE 58
SPECIAL REPORT:
THE SECRET
INVASION: DOES IT
ADD UP?

PAGE 65
THE OMNI OPEN
BOOK FIELD
INVESTIGATOR'S
GUIDE: PART THREE

PAGE 69
EYE IN THE SKY:
IN HER OWN
WORDS: AN
ABDUCTEE'S STORY



Catherine just can't explain it. She has no idea why she felt so compelled to keep on driving that night after leaving the Boston nightclub where she worked as a receptionist. It was after midnight and she had driven past Somerville, where she lives. Nor does she know why she got off the highway about 10 miles to the north, or why she drove around Saugus and momentarily got lost in a wooded area. But after finding her way out, she noted that it was 2:45 in the morning—at least 45 minutes later than it should have been.

Feeling anxious, she raced back home. The next day, on local news, she learned that dozens of people throughout the Northeast had reported a UFO, including a policeman and his wife who had seen an object stop overhead and shine a light on them. Astronomers said the object was a shooting star.

A few weeks later, Catherine decided to contact Harvard psychiatrist John Mack, author of the 1977 Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of T. E. Lawrence and known most recently for his outspoken interest in the UFO abduction phenomenon. In a series of hypnotic regression sessions, Mack helped Catherine unlock a lifetime of apparent abduction memories, beginning at the age of three and culminating in that

THE SECRET INVASION: DOES IT ADD UP?



ARTICLE
BY PATRICK HUYGHE

DO REPORTS OF
MULTIPLE
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PHENOMENON
OR MASS ILLUSION
FLAMING
OUT OF CONTROL?

murky night just weeks before at the age of 22.

Catherine did not enjoy finding out what had happened to her in the woods on the night of March 6, 1991. "I don't want to be there," a very frightened Catherine told Mack while under hypnosis. "I want to drive out."

But she could not. Her car had apparently come to a stop and her body had gone numb. Then suddenly her door had opened. "There is a hand reaching out to get me," Catherine recalled. "It's long and thin and it's only got three fingers." A being with huge, black, almond-shaped eyes then took her from the car, and the two of them were swept up in a beam toward a huge metallic ship.

The alien abductor, the story goes, then took Catherine inside, into a hallway, where four other beings were waiting. When they began pulling at her clothes, she got annoyed. "Stop it," she recalled thinking. "I'm perfectly capable of doing this myself, thank you." Once naked, Catherine was led into an enormous room "the size of an airplane hangar."

She saw rows and rows of tables everywhere. "There are hundreds of humans here," she told Mack under hypnosis. "And they're all having things done to them." The rows were about five feet apart, she noted, and anywhere from a third

to half the tables had humans on them. She estimates there were between 100 and 200 people in that room. But in the mass of bodies and blank faces she remembers one of them specifically—the one on the table to her left. He was a black man with a beard.

Catherine was forced to sit up on her table and the beings then began running their fingers down her spine. The terrifying examination had begun.

The rest of Catherine's traumatic UFO experience appears in John Mack's controversial book, *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, and is rather typical of such stories. But one detail in her story stands out like a Gulliver in Lilliput—that bit about the hundreds of other humans she saw aboard the alien crafts.

What accounts like these suggest is that the phenomenon actually involves mass abductions. It appears, as in Catherine's tale, that large numbers of people are being taken, one by one, to central locations that serve as holding facilities for dozens, perhaps hundreds, of others during the same period of time. If the other abductees' stories are true, moreover, sometimes entire groups of peo-



ple are taken all at once.

Reports of this phenomenon, in fact, confirm some people's worst fears about the alien endeavor. Could we all be pawns in some weird extraterrestrial breeding scheme to repopulate a dying alien world? Or is the entire human race being unwillingly drafted into some hideous alien genetic experiment to produce alien-human hybrids? Whatever the case, one thing seems clear: Quite a large number of us are potential targets.

"The phenomenon is not, as the general public tends to believe, an occasional 'there's one, let's get him' sort of thing on the part of the aliens," explains David Jacobs, a Temple University historian specializing in twentieth-century U.S. history and the author of the book, *Secret Life*. Instead, he asserts, we have a mass abduction program taking place covertly. The notion of a secret invasion inevitably springs to mind.

"What we have here," says Jacobs, "is a continual abduction scenario. It's very much like an assembly line. The aliens get them in. They go into a waiting area where they see other people sitting around. They get shown to a table. There are all sorts of people lying on the tables as various stages of different procedures are being run on them. Then they get them up, get them out, and new people arrive. It's a revolving door."

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The extraordinary number of people supposedly going through that revolving door should, it seems, help cement the case for the reality of the phenomenon. If multiple participants are involved in an abduction, the logic goes, then the experience cannot be the product of one individual's fantasy or hallucination. In fact, the mass abduction cases seem to offer believers a golden opportunity to cross-check the details of the abduction experience from independent perspectives and develop the proof the critics have always demanded.

These mass abductions certainly appear to take place often enough. Jacobs estimates that abductees see other humans aboard the craft in half, if not most, of the cases. And one out of every four alleged abduction episodes involves multiple participants, according to Thomas Bullard, a folklorist whose 1987 University of Indiana doctoral dissertation exhaustively analyzed about 300 published abduction accounts.

Bullard found that while approximately half of these multiple-participant abduction cases involved just two people—usually family members or friends—the other half involved either three, four, or more people who claimed to have been taken at once. There are even cases in which seven or more people have report-

edly been abducted in a single episode. The situation led Bullard to lament wryly that, apparently, "there's just no safety in numbers."

One of the earliest mass abduction cases on record actually involved nine people and took place one summer some 40 years ago near Crater Lake, Oregon; it was not, however, reported to a UFO organization until 1982. The participants were a 32-year-old woman known only as Mrs. R., her 15-year-old brother, 10-year-old sister, two daughters and a stepdaughter aged 10 to 13, two younger nephews, and Mrs. R.'s 53-year-old mother.

The witnesses remembered that while looking for a gas station they had come upon what appeared to be a restaurant. Their car engine sputtered and coasted into a parking area where three or four other cars were parked. The "building" was round and lighted and the interior was circular. Mrs. R. remembered commenting to her mother that the place was "really unbelievable." The family then sat down at one of the tables and apparently ordered a meal from short, slender people with blond hair who all looked alike and wore identical silver uniforms and boots that sported the same emblem. "When I think about it now," said Mrs. R.'s mother almost two decades later, "I have a funny feeling like maybe

we were a surprise to them."

Mrs. R. thinks they ate and paid their bill before leaving. Though the car would not start immediately, it sort of "coasted" onto the highway first and only then got underway. When the family reached the next town, Mrs. R. discovered that they had not spent any money and that no one in town had ever heard of such a restaurant. Though the family returned to search for it, they never found it.

"I know I was in a UFO," said Mrs. R. almost three decades after the experience, though that realization did not begin to register with her until about 1969, when she started recalling the incident and discussing it with her family.

Perhaps the best documented of all mass abduction cases involves four young men who were canoeing along the Allagash Waterway in the wilderness of northern Maine on August 26, 1976. Under hypnosis, all four experienced missing time and relived a detailed and amazingly similar UFO abduction episode. This case, which was thoroughly investigated by Raymond Fowler, is unique in the annals of UFO research in that it provides four separate, mutually collaborating accounts of the same event.

It went something like this: On the fifth day of their canoe trip, Jim and Jack

Weiner, Charlie Foltz, and Chuck Rak decided to replenish their now-scarce food supply by doing a little night fishing. Before sliding their canoe into the water, they prepared a large bonfire in order to find their way back to camp in the pitch dark wilderness.

They were halfway across a cove when they saw a silent, large, bright sphere of colored light at treetop level about 200 yards away. When Charlie began flashing his flashlight at it, the object began moving toward them. Then, as the sphere—now only about 50 feet above the water—approached, the canoeists decided to head for solid ground and began paddling quickly toward shore. Their paddling became increasingly frantic when the object emitted a beam of light that advanced on their canoe.

The next thing Charlie Foltz and Jim Weiner remembered was standing at the campsite watching the object move away. Chuck Rak remembers staying in the canoe and watching it disappear. Jack Weiner remembers first madly trying to outrun the beam of light, then calmly getting out of the canoe.

He finds it odd that they would be in such a hurry one moment and so calm the next. After the object disappeared, the four walked up the beach to find that the huge bonfire they had left just 15 or so minutes before

was now all coals. Jim thought the large logs they had set on the fire should have burned for two to three hours.

The four men had no memory of what happened during the time it took the bonfire to burn down. And several years would pass before Jim and Jack began to experience a series of strange dreams of alien abductors that would eventually lead them to seek help from UFO investigator Raymond Fowler in May 1988. Over the next two years Fowler hypnotized each of the four men independently and elicited a strangely congruent testimony about being plucked from the water by a beam of light, taken aboard the craft, and forced to undergo medical examinations by aliens.

Each of the four men recalled seeing the other three on board the alien craft. "They were all made to sit on a bench in the nude," says Fowler, "and they watched one after the other being taken off the bench. Some of the examination was done within eyesight of the others and some of it was done after they were taken around the corner from the bench. But when you put it all together like a picture puzzle, you find that everybody is describing the same event from different standpoints."

Fowler went on to produce a 10-volume, 702-page study of this case and

subsequently published a book, *The Allagash Abductions*, as well. "All of the Allagash witnesses are of sound mind and reputation," concludes Fowler. "They not only tell essentially the same story, but under hypnosis they relive it with all the trauma and emotions that would be expected of a real physical event. I think the evidence here is undeniable and would stand up in court if we were only dealing with an automobile accident or something like that. But when you are talking about something as bizarre as UFO abductions, people find that very, very hard to believe."

Even harder to believe is a case that appears to involve a mass abduction of hundreds of people in New York City late in the summer or early fall of 1992. The case is currently being investigated by Budd Hopkins, who is probably better known as a UFO researcher than as a modern artist these days.

The story first emerged during one of Hopkins' support group meetings for abductees. One person, Mary, was telling the group about a very vivid dream she had had, though she wasn't sure it was a dream. She recalled being in some sort of huge space filled with what appeared to be "people-movers" and many, many humans, all completely naked. The scene somewhat resembled the



physical at a selective service exam. And there was a kind of escalator, taking people up to another floor.

At that point, two other abductees in the group, Bill and Joan, became extremely agitated and said, "Oh gee, I've had a dream just like that."

Hopkins immediately cut off the conversation so that he could explore their experiences individually. Later, when Hopkins probed into Joan's dream under hypnosis, she recalled the same large space, a strange chart on the wall, and, most incredibly, seeing both Mary and Bill there as well, totally naked. Typically, both looked "out of it" to her.

"Carl Sagan always has the idea that you are going to dash around and steal an alien cocktail napkin or something for evidence as you dash out of the place," notes Hopkins, "as if abductees had all their senses intact. But in this, as in other situations, the abductees were in an altered state."

Joan remembers having a perfunctory conversation with Mary in which they expressed surprise at seeing each other there. Hopkins then asked Joan what Mary looked like naked. Joan said that Mary was very round-shouldered and that she had a big long scar at the bikini line.

Mary, as it happens, is extremely round-shouldered and always wears shoulder pads. And she does have a

big long scar; it comes from a bladder operation she had as a child. Joan did not see Bill closely, but Hopkins asked her if he had much chest hair. Joan said no, and, in fact, he doesn't.

Bill's description of the experience under hypnosis was much the same as Joan's. He also saw a chart on the wall, and though his recollection of it is somewhat different, Hopkins is convinced they are describing the same object. Under hypnosis, Mary was less clear about the episode than the other two, but, as Hopkins points out, she generally doesn't have the recall that other people tend to have.

Hopkins has not explored how the three were "abducted" or how they were returned, and he will not describe the strange chart seen by Bill and Joan, nor the "space" the event itself took place in; he prefers to keep such details to himself as a check on the authenticity of future cases.

"It's a very good case," explains Hopkins, "because there is literally no way that they knew about this stuff. None of the three is a friend of the other two in any intimate way. They only know of each other from the support group. So here we are again stuck with one of two possibilities. Either they have cooked this up as a hoax, in which case you have three virtual sociopaths because there is nothing in it

for them. Or it happened."

While it's certainly difficult to believe that vast numbers of humans are being abducted in this way on a regular basis, there is, surprisingly enough, some data to corroborate these harrowing anecdotal reports. Several surveys conducted over the past decade indicate that millions of Americans have experienced something that UFO researchers think suggests the possibility of abduction by alien beings.

In a 1991 Roper survey, the most impressive of the polls, 119 people of the almost 6,000 questioned revealed they had experienced what UFO investigators call an alien abduction. If the numbers are extrapolated to the entire population of the United States, this translates to a staggering five million abductees.

The Roper poll, of course, is problematic. It has been severely criticized on the grounds that the five so-called key indicators of an abduction experience—reporting unusual lights in a room, missing time, flying through the air without knowing why, paralysis in the presence of strange bedroom figures, or puzzling scars on the body—may not in fact mean that an abduction has occurred. Psychologists point out that most of these experiences can also be caused by the little-known but quite common phenomenon of sleep

paralysis and the various kinds of hallucinations that accompany it.

But David Jacobs, one of the authors of the poll, begs to differ with his critics. He and Hopkins, Jacobs explains, had thoroughly pre-tested nine of the eleven abduction-related questions on that poll. And those nine were questions most frequently answered positively by abductees, not nonabductees. (The other two questions tested the reliability of the poll. One of them, for instance, was a fake question, which gave the pollsters an idea of how many people had the impulse to answer positively no matter what was asked. The responses from the 1 percent who responded positively to this question were not included in the final results.)

"When we first got the numbers, the raw statistics," says Jacobs, "the numbers were ridiculously high—7 percent, 8 percent. It was politically unacceptable. So we decided to look only at the answers to the best five questions—those we considered to be the highest indicators for an abduction—and didn't consider people potential abductees unless they answered four or all five of those questions positively. By doing that, we got the numbers down to a politically acceptable 2 percent. The best we can say is that about one out of every 50

Americans has had experiences consistent with what abductees have had. That indicates that an awful lot of people out there have had abduction experiences. And this of course is consistent with what the abductees themselves tell us. They come into a room and they see 50, 75, or 100 other people lying on tables, and they report a constant stream of people. And we figure it's twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week."

But to critics, millions of abduction reports actually prove the opposite—that there are just too many of them for the phenomenon to be real. That's what Robert Durant, a commercial pilot with a long interest in UFOs, thought at first. But when he decided to put his doubts to the test by figuring out how large a work force the aliens would need to carry out the millions of abductions the Roper survey suggested were taking place, he began to think the mass abduction scenario was at least plausible.

"I began very skeptically," notes Durant. "I thought no way could these numbers be correct. But I decided to work through the math to see what I would come up with. I began by assuming that abductions are real physical events carried out systematically by a large work force. If this is the case, then the shop-floor parameters relevant to

a shoe factory or medical facility ought to apply equally well to the case of an alien abduction program carried out on a host planet."

To avoid comparisons with other fanciful exercises, like counting the number of dancing angels on the head of a pin, Durant searched the literature for actual data points to plug into his equation. How often does the typical abductee claim to be abducted? Though this varies widely, he found that 10 times was not an unreasonable number. At what age do abductions begin and cease? Typically, they begin around age 5 and end by age 55, he discovered. How long did abductions take to accomplish? The periods of missing time reported by abductees range from minutes to days, but most are on the order of two hours. How many aliens does it take to perform an abduction? It's rare, he learned, for more than six aliens to be involved in any one abduction event.

Based on that data, Durant came up with some hair-raising numbers about the required "alien work force." If five million abductees have experienced 10 abductions over the last 50 years, then an astonishing one million abductions take place per year, or 2,740 per day in the United States alone. If a team of six aliens is required to perform each two-hour abduc-

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tion, Durant figured that each team could then perform 12 abductions a day. So to perform 2,740 abductions a day, he calculated that the aliens would need 288 teams, or a total of 1,370 aliens.

Even if you double these figures to account for the fact that most abductions take place at night rather than 24 hours a day, the bottom line, Durant discovered, was that "about 500 crews, totaling about 3,000 aliens could do the job." While these figures may appear large, if you compare them with the numbers needed to man naval vessels, says Durant—5,500 for an aircraft carrier and about 350 for a destroyer—the whole thing begins to look, well, plausible. "The way the math worked out kind of knocked me back a bit," he admits. "This is extremely troubling to me because while I'm a total believer in UFOs, I don't buy the physical abduction scenario. And there's no way I'm saying my analysis proves abductions are real, because after all these years, we still don't have a shred of tangible proof."

But Durant's number-crunching exercise was just the beginning. Before long, Dennis Stacy, editor of a monthly UFO publication, *The MUFON Journal*, had picked up the ball. Doing some math of his own, he came to conclude the numbers didn't work.

By his reckoning, in fact, the alien work force required was way beyond the limits of possibility.

"If the phenomenon is global in nature, as it appears to be," says Stacy, "then the 1 million abductions a year in the United States grows to 22 million abductions worldwide. You would then need at least 11,000 alien crews, for a total of 66,000 aliens, to carry out the task, and of course, 11,000 UFOs overhead at any given hour." And if you take into account the need for support crews, reasonable shifts, and such, notes Stacy, the numbers, like the Eveready Rabbit, "keep on growing and growing and growing."

For Stacy, the ridiculously large numbers point to an obvious conclusion. "There must be a terrestrial, that is, psychological in nature, rather than extraterrestrial origin to the abduction experience," he says. "The argument that some 200 million people have been abducted aboard physical flying craft in, say, the last decade or so, is simply unsupported in terms of common sense and logic. What imaginable need of non-terrestrial science would this serve? And think of the logistics such a fantastic undertaking would involve. UFOs would be stacked up over the world's major metropolitan areas,

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If the numbers don't make sense, then how do we explain the mass abduction memories of people like Mary, Bill, Joan, Jack, Jim, Chuck, and Charlie? William Cone, a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Newport Beach, California, has done a lot of research on abductees and thinks that while some cases of mass abduction are quite impressive, many can be explained as "contamination."

Look for instance, he says, at the Allagash case—the one involving the four men in the canoe. "It's interesting that all of these guys were heavily interested in UFOs and abductions before ever going to see Fowler. They all knew about abductions, and they walked in to Fowler, who they knew had written other books on the subject. They walked in with a pre-set mind of *We saw something, we have missing time, so we must have been abducted.* And this happens again and again. I find it interesting that 12 years went by when they didn't worry about it, until they read some UFO books.

"The other thing I find incredible," Cone contin-

ues, "is that these four guys who have been buddies for all these years go through abduction regression therapy, get all these memories, and manage not to talk about it to their buddies for a year, until they've all been hypnotized. If you were my buddy and that had happened to me, I think I'd tell you. So when they say we didn't talk to each other, I don't buy that. But I think they really did see something. They really did have an experience. But whether it's an abduction experience, I don't know."

Cone ventures a similar explanation for the mass abduction case of 1992 in New York City, which first appeared in a support group meeting of abductees at Budd Hopkins' home. "There is a great deal of contamination in this field," notes Cone, "especially in support groups. We've known since the days of the nineteenth-century French physician Jean Martin Charcot that support groups contaminate memory. It's no secret, but somehow UFO researchers, not being mental health professionals, have never bothered to look at this. They think these people are getting support, but what they are doing is reaffirming their own fantasies. I hear this all the time in hospitals I work at. You put somebody in the support group, and



It was the fictional Sherlock Holmes who noted that "the game is afoot." He didn't have UFOs in mind, obviously, but a more elusive quarry could hardly be imagined.

If modern-day UFO detectives are to be successful, they'll want to bring the best available hardware and software to bear on their prey. In this installment, we'll review the basic hardware you'll want to carry into the field. From flashlight and camera to the always handy compass, we'll describe the basic equipment any self-respecting UFO hunter needs. As we focus on tools in the months that follow, we'll supplement this basic tool kit with user-friendly software; a high-

tech wish list; an access guide to a potpourri of research tools from maps to mailing lists and databases; and even instructions for procuring government documents and powering onto the Internet.

While some tools are absolutely required, others are optional. Some are easy to come by—the basic compass, for instance—while others can be acquired only after careful research or trips to a specialty store. In the chapter that follows we'll make general recommendations. Remember, however, especially where electronic and optical equipment is concerned, that prices and quality can vary widely. Also, there's no requirement that you pay retail

THE OMNI OPEN BOOK FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S GUIDE: PART THREE



ARTICLE
BY DENNIS STACY

dollar for any specific tool. Bargains abound out there, from the classified section of your local newspaper to specialist mail-order catalogs, discount warehouses, and army surplus stores. The sky's the limit when it comes to UFO-detection equipment, but so is personal creativity. Some of you may even want to build or jerry-rig tools of your own. In the end, your basic UFO tool kit can be as simple or sophisticated as you like, depending on your budget and your needs. But no UFO sleuth can skip the essentials, and that is where we begin.

The absolute necessities of any UFO investigator's tool kit start with what I call the three P's—pen or



pencil and paper. A written record of your investigation, which includes personal notes and witness interviews, is absolutely essential. No matter how reliable the brand name, electronic equipment is always subject to potential disaster. Tapes break, batteries fail, cameras and recorders get dropped, especially under field conditions. And while cameras and camcorders can offer documentary exactitude, the sun sets and it can also rain—all outside your control.

The paper, of course, should be in notebook, as opposed to loose-leaf, form. I prefer a little 5-by-8-inch pad, instead of letter or legal sizes, because it's easier to drop in a vest or jacket pocket when you're done with it.

And please remember when you're out in the field: Your notebook can double as a sketchpad. Alongside your own written notes, be sure to sketch the horizon of the sighting scene, noting any visible landmarks, such as power lines, trees, or water towers. Then ask the witness or witnesses to draw in the shape of the object when first sighted and its trajectory, and ask them to date and sign it.

A reliable compass will come in handy at this point. Determine magnetic north and indicate same on your sketch. Directional findings are most useful for eliminating known objects and phenomena like planets,

airplane flight patterns, and so on, but they can also literally point you in the direction of additional witnesses. Like pocket change, a good compass can serve two utilitarian purposes. Besides giving directions, it can also act as a crude magnetometer, a device for measuring changes in local magnetic fields, although obviously it can't determine the strength or degree of that change.

But assume that you're investigating a UFO case in which associated electromagnetic effects have been reported, such as the stalling of a car's engine or the failure of its electrical system. It's still possible to make a preliminary assessment of magnetic-field fluctuations or variations using nothing more elaborate than a good, reliable compass, previously calibrated, or confirmed, as indicating true north. The technique is fairly simple; in fact, it was even laid out as early as 1968 in the University of Colorado's Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, otherwise known as the Condon Report.

Here's how it might work. Take the car (or any other nearby piece of metal) reportedly affected, and, using your compass at a distance, note its present magnetic orientation. Now take at least ten or fifteen similar readings at evenly spaced intervals, say every ten to fifteen inches, around the perimeter of the hood or trunk of the car. If you're

facing the car, for example, take your first measurement just behind the front left headlight and proceed parallel to the left side of the car until you reach the hood hinge in front of the windshield. Continue to take and record readings from the left side of the car to the driver's side, then proceed forward until you end just behind the right headlight, having executed an upside-down U. Carefully record magnetic north or the deviation from magnetic north at each point.

Crude as they may be, these 15 or so "soundings" represent a sort of magnetic "signature," so to speak. To confirm that any significant magnetic field was actually encountered (or altered), a comparison test should be run on a control car of the same year and model, using the same compass and taking readings at the same evenly spaced points, or intervals. Remember to orient the control car (or other metallic object) in the same direction as the originally affected car. Another word of caution: Don't place the compass directly on the car hood or other metal object being tested; instead, insert your paper notebook (or some other non-conductive material) between the two.

Expect to pay no more than \$15 for a good-quality compass. For another \$20 or so, Forestry Suppliers (800-360-7788), an engi-

neering supply house, offers compasses calibrated to the northern hemisphere with luminous dials and built-in clinometer for measuring heights and slopes of up to 90 degrees. In addition, the company also sells a 214-page instruction manual for beginners unfamiliar with how to read maps and compasses (\$11.95).

Next month we'll cover the subject of maps in detail, but for now, sketch out your own map, indicating any prominent landmarks. If you happen to have a detailed map of the region, make notations on that as well.

The witness should also indicate the angle at which any UFO was seen. This can only be an approximation at best, obviously, but it still remains useful in post-investigative terms. For example, if Venus or the brightest star in the heavens, Sirius, can be shown to have been in the same general direction and altitude at the same time as the reported UFO, then Venus or Sirius becomes at least a prime candidate or suspect. Again, this can be determined by handing the notebook to the witness and letting him or her determine the angle as best as possible. Later, a common plastic protractor, available from graphic and art supply houses, can be used to arrive at the approximate angle.

For the next tool of the trade, just look in your pocket. I'll bet anything you

can stick your hand in and pull out a few coins. Take that dime and simply ask the eyewitness to hold it at arm's length and compare it to the apparent size of the object seen and reported. Was the UFO smaller or larger? (You may be surprised to find that two full moons can easily hide behind a single dime.) If distance can later be established with any degree of certainty, this could permit a reliable approximation of the object's actual size or diameter. You may substitute pennies, nickels, and quarters, or even the lid of a styrofoam cup as the situation warrants.

Another basic is also readily available: a supply of plastic bags, preferably ones with a zip closure, especially if the UFO is reported to have impacted the environment, leaving behind crushed vegetation or ground indentations. Mark each sample bag with a permanent laundry marker or masking tape and pen. Be sure to collect several control samples as well, beginning nearby and moving progressively further from the reported contact or landing site, carefully labeling each one and indicating its position on a map, hand-drawn or otherwise, of the immediate area. Ideally, these samples should be turned over to a laboratory for analysis as soon as possible. If you can't afford to hire a private laboratory

on your own—and most of us can't—try inquiring at the relevant department (biology, chemistry, or physics) of your local college or university. You may also wish to contact one of the established UFO organizations to see if they have someone on the staff willing to assist in any material analysis. Request a copy of the final report in exchange for your samples.

I would also recommend two flashlights—one pen-light and one regular-size—with back-up batteries for both (as well as for any other battery-operated equipment). In a pinch, the pen-light can be clamped between your teeth for note-taking or compass-reading at night. If your compass has luminous markings, they can be charged with a brief exposure of light. The larger light can be used for everything from illuminating a distant tree line to changing a flat tire in the middle of a field.

Some hunters like to pack a powerful, hand-held searchlight as a means of "signaling" any approaching UFO. Readily available commercial models range in luminosity from 100,000 candlepower up to one million candlepower. The latter, 25 times brighter than an automobile headlight on high beam, is capable of spotting objects up to ten miles away. The Forestry Suppliers catalog carries spotlights ranging in price from approximately \$30 to \$65, al-

SOME HUNTERS LIKE TO PACK A POWERFUL, HAND-HELD SEARCHLIGHT AS A MEANS OF SIGNALING ANY APPROACHING UFO OR CRAFT. READILY AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL MODELS RANGE IN LUMINOSITY FROM ABOUT 100,000 CANDLEPOWER TO A SKY-LIGHTING 1,000,000 CANDLEPOWER.



though accessories like spare batteries and bulbs and a car cigarette-lighter attachment can add another \$30 to \$45 to the final cost.

The basic UFO hunter's field kit should also include an audio tape recorder and a camera of some sort. These should be regarded as necessary accessories to, not substitutes for, the already-mentioned tools. I prefer a mini-cassette recorder because, like the smaller notebook pad, it can easily be slipped into a shirt or coat pocket. Get one with the most advanced features you can afford, beginning with voice-activation and counter. The counter will prove extremely helpful when it comes to transcribing your interviews later. Observe the Boy Scout motto to always be prepared and never venture into the field with new equipment, electronic or otherwise, which you haven't previously tested and familiarized yourself with.

Like tape recorders, cameras come in a bewildering cornucopia of choice, each with its own advantages and drawbacks. Instant photographic process cameras, for example, convey immediacy at the expense of resolution and other photographic factors. They serve best as a sort of surrogate notepad. Photograph the site during daytime and have the witness draw the UFO on the actual print; then have him or her

indicate the angle above the horizon of the UFO with an outstretched arm. Take two photographs of each scene, if you don't want the original marked over. If physical side effects have been reported, by all means document them with the camera if that's all you have. A picture, worth a potential thousand words, is better than no picture at all.

Thirty-five millimeter cameras have proliferated to such a degree in recent years that it would be impossible to single out any specific model as the agreed upon "best" for this or that purpose. Some so-called "point-and-shoot" auto-focus cameras with built-in zoom lenses and pop-up flash attachments virtually rival their manufacturer's professional lines in terms of the final product. Again, assume that much or most of your investigation will be conducted under less than ideal conditions. Where photography is involved this means low light levels. Consequently, your camera should have a built-in flash or a "hot shoe" for attaching a separate flash unit. Flash photography is notoriously tricky, however, and once again you should familiarize yourself with taking pictures under various lighting conditions before venturing into the field. This applies even to the newest generation of

allegedly "idiot-proof" cameras. I would also recommend you keep your camera loaded with a relatively high-speed color negative (as opposed to slide or transparency) film, one with an ASA rating of 1000, 1600, or higher, especially if you think you may have the opportunity to actually photograph a UFO yourself. What you lose in terms of resolution you'll more than gain back in terms of light-gathering capabilities. As with batteries, always take more film than you think you'll need.

Photography is an art that can't be taught here, but you should be aware of at least two techniques. First, if at all possible, be sure to include some reference point (a house or tree) in any UFO picture. A small speck of light against a dark backdrop is almost useless for analysis, no matter how big it's blown up or enlarged. If you don't see any immediate reference point through the viewfinder, try turning the picture angle from the normal horizontal view to a vertical one. If that doesn't work, trying zooming back from the UFO until a reference point does appear in the frame and snap your picture then.

The range of a typical zoom lens is from 28mm to 35mm (wide angle) to 105mm to 135mm when fully zoomed or telescoped. If you plan to use

a larger telescopic lens, say, 200mm to 300mm, in order to achieve maximum magnification, be aware that you'll probably need a lightweight tripod for steadiness. If you're caught in the field without a tripod, steady the camera against some solid object, the roof of a car, for example, if available. In a pinch, use someone's shoulder.

Videocameras have advanced by leaps and bounds in recent years as well, as far as basic features and capabilities are concerned. Most of the major electronic manufacturers—Sony, Panasonic, and so on—now offer off-the-shelf CCD (charge-coupled device) camcorders with 12x zoom lenses capable of capturing reasonable images in low-light conditions, usually one lux or better. Such cameras can typically be found within the \$700 to \$900 price range, depending on included features. If your budget permits, get one with "steadycam" (to counteract vibration) and auto-focusing capabilities already on board.

Whether you're using a still camera or videocamera, I recommend that you take along a lightweight tripod. This will not only provide increased stability (and therefore sharpness) for any pictures taken, it will also free your hands and eyes for other activities. A tripod should be

considered especially if your investigation involves an alleged UFO "hot spot," that is, circumstances under which a UFO is said to be roaming the immediate area, and could conceivably reappear at virtually any moment.

Finally, you'll want a pair of binoculars with neck-strap and a star chart. Edmund Scientific (609-573-6858) carries the latter for only \$2.75. As with cameras, binoculars come in a bewildering variety and price range. Opt for a comfortable combination of weight and optical quality, and expect to pay anywhere from \$75 to \$300. Binoculars are described by both their magnification power and lens diameter; thus, 7x50 binoculars give you a 50mm lens diameter with seven power magnification, adequate for UFO hunting.

Most independent investigators should be able to put together the basic kit above for about \$1,000, assuming they start completely from scratch. But for those who already have a camera, binoculars, and mini-cassette recorder, start-up costs will be correspondingly lower.

Next month, look for our UFO hunters' wish list of the best high-tech goodies. But meanwhile, don't waste any time getting started. As one famous detective was fond of saying, "the game is afoot." 

IN HER
OWN
WORDS:
AN
ABDUCTEE'S
STORY

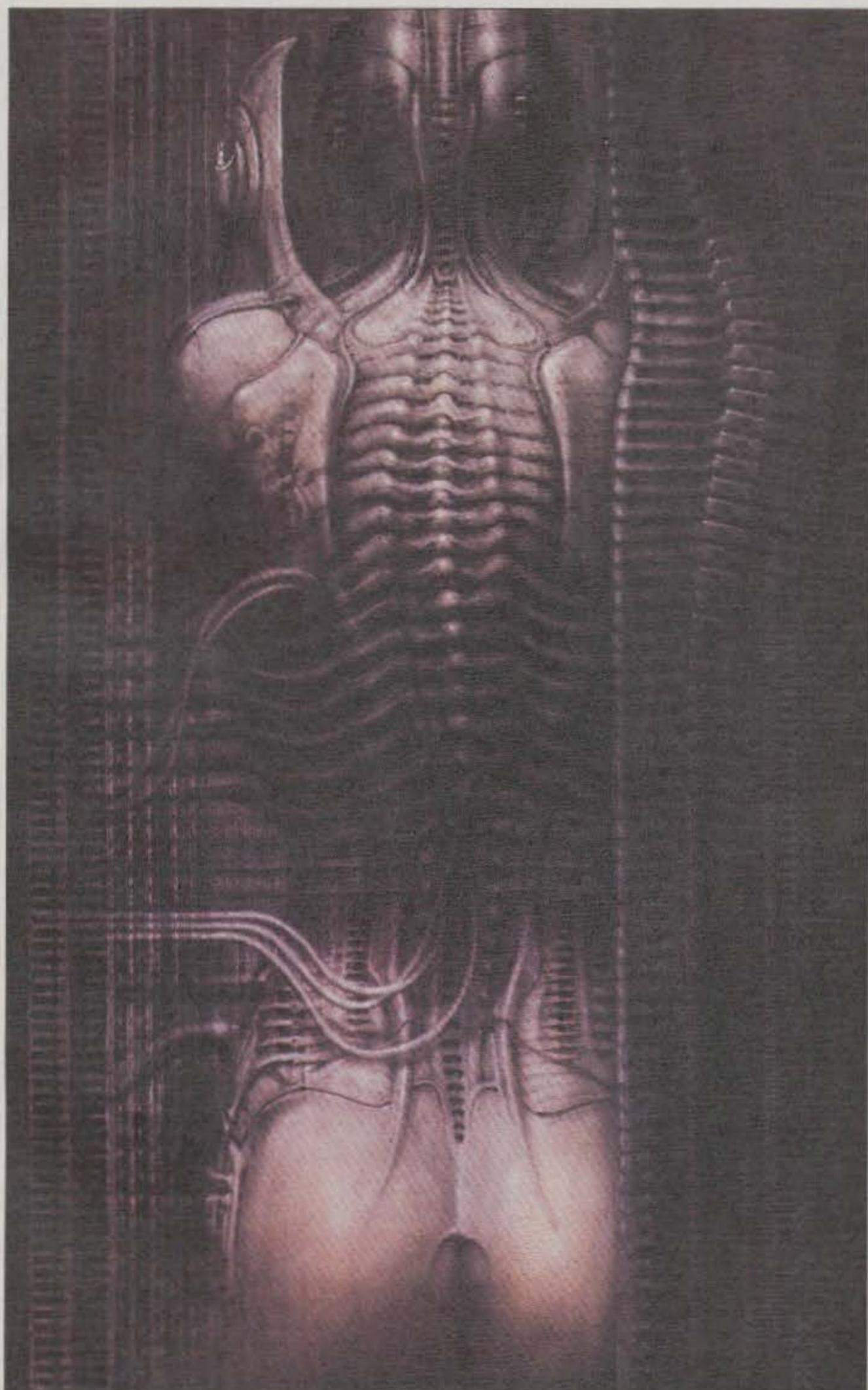


ARTICLE BY
PATRICK HUYGHE

Meet one Katharina Wilson, an attractive, intelligent, apparently well-adjusted, 34-year-old woman. Born in a small college town in the Deep South, Wilson now lives in Portland, Oregon, with her second husband, Erik. She sees herself as "an average American woman," a fitting self-description marred by just one fact: She also claims to be a UFO abductee.

At first glance, Wilson's story sounds rather typical of other abduction lore. She claims to have been abducted and reproductively traumatized since the age of six by small alien creatures with large black eyes. Then, in her late twenties, she decided to come out of the UFO closet and tell all.

What's different about Wilson's account, however, is in the way it comes to us—straight up. She has





told her story—all of it, every dirty detail—on her own. It does not come to us secondhand, through a Budd Hopkins or a David Jacobs, to name just two of the most prominent UFO abduction researchers in this country. Instead, the story comes to us pure and wholly unfiltered in a book Wilson has written and published herself.

Why is this so important? Because hearing about alien abductions directly from experiencers reveals aspects of the phenomenon long ignored—or perhaps just swept under the carpet—by most researchers. And in the end, these regularly hidden details may be vital in determining the cause of the UFO abduction phenomenon.

Indeed, as a journalist who's investigated more than my fair share of UFO abductions, I've learned that many aspects of the so-called abduction phenomenon just don't make it into print. Instead, most investigators inevitably process the stories, molding the accounts to fit the theories they favor or the patterns they expect to find. Things that don't fit their preconceived notion of what's really happening "out there" are often deliberately left out of subsequent retellings of the tale.

In the standard abduction scenario, a person may or may not have seen a UFO but is somehow whisked

away from his or her home or car by small gray creatures and forced to undergo some sort of medical examination aboard a spaceship. The incident usually turns out to be one of many in the person's past involving a variety of reproductive assaults—semen sampling, artificial insemination, and fetus removal—resulting in the production of human/alien starbabies that the ETs keep.

Generally lacking in the standard scenario, however, is the wide variety of other phenomena that the person often claims to have experienced as well—the psychic perceptions, the premonitions, the bedroom encounters with dead relatives, the ghosts, the time travel, and more. Despite what is often a nearly mind-numbing display of high strangeness, you would be hard pressed to find *such* descriptions in the published accounts.

In the standard abduction scenario, as brought to us by the "experts," these messy details are summarily expunged. What we are left with is a cleaned-up story, a tale that stays unerringly "on mark," thus fitting the desired "alien" mold.

Of course, to some extent information selection happens, often unconsciously, in every field of human inquiry. But in a proto-discipline like UFOlogy where the basic data is itself a subject of contention,

this sort of filtering is particularly damaging.

Now all this has changed, thanks to *The Alien Jigsaw*, Katharina Wilson's courageous effort to buck the wave of censorship and tell all. In this brutally honest, firsthand account, Wilson describes a harrowing lifetime of encounters with what she sincerely believes are aliens. She holds nothing back, and provides numerous surprises along the way. To begin with she tells us of not one, or two, or a dozen abduction episodes, but an astounding 119 of them, occurring in a span of just 26 years. And her experiences involve not just your typical aliens, but also encounters with the dead, time-travel episodes, psychic experiences, and even a vision of an eight-foot-tall floating penguin—everything you can imagine and a whole lot more.

In the middle of one abduction episode, for example, Wilson somehow encounters her present husband as a young man, years before she met him. Later in the episode she is terrified when told by the aliens that it is 1957—three years before she was born. Wilson also credits the aliens with saving her life; she twice had alien premonitions of nearly being killed by lightning, and on August 7, 1989 Wilson put on a pair of rubber-soled shoes just moments before lightning shattered the courtyard wall

and nearly killed her.

I don't think Wilson is perpetrating a hoax. If she were, she certainly would have left out the journal entry dated August 4, 1992. "I'm with Senator Gore," Wilson wrote, "and we are in a large room with many people. He is organizing something. Governor Clinton must be here, too—now I'm looking directly at President Bush. He really looks tired—beaten." When Wilson tells Gore that she has never voted Republican, Bush looks at her "with a look of disgust on his face." Later, she realizes that Gore and Clinton are preparing a feast, and she watches as it grows larger and larger.

Following this journal entry, Wilson writes: "Although I did not remember seeing any alien beings associated with this encounter, it felt the same way all of my other visitations felt. It was extremely vivid."

I asked Wilson if she had actually seen Bush, Gore, and Clinton.

"I hope not," she replied with just a touch of humor.

But that's a contradiction, I pointed out. You say your alien encounters are real and that this encounter with political figures was just as real as those you have with the aliens.

"Did I say that?" she said. "Well, I don't think it was Gore because he was very short. I thought that was some form of camouflage." Wilson regards this episode

as an alien-inspired vision of the Clinton and Gore win in November 1992.

Wilson also believes one of the beings actually helped her with the book, pointing out before the book went to press that she had transcribed five journal dates incorrectly.

Though some may think Wilson's account ridiculous, it is, in fact, typical of the sort of *outré* material that abductees consider part and parcel of their alien experiences. It's no wonder that investigators intent on proving the alien root of UFO abductions often leave such material out of their published stories. It clearly weakens their case.

What does Wilson think about her *verboten* account, so potentially damaging to the alien hypothesis and contrary to UFOlogy's unwritten code?

"Some people suggested that I cut out some of this material," she told me, "but I thought there is a lot more going on, and even though we don't understand it, it doesn't mean that it shouldn't be reported. As far as I know, this has not been done before. The book was really put out there for other experiencers, because I know they are experiencing things that they cannot account for by reading Budd Hopkins' *Intruders* and David Jacobs' *Secret Life*."

Despite her candid attitude, Wilson's ultimate conclusion echoes that of the

abduction gurus: "The aliens are probably collecting ova," she opines, landing strictly within the standard-issue abduction scenario and sounding a lot like Budd Hopkins, who was the first to investigate her case back in 1988.

In fact, like Hopkins, who has penned the introduction for *The Alien Jigsaw*, Wilson tends to blame aliens for just about all the weirdness. "I know that penguins aren't eight feet tall, and they don't float in midair," she explains. "That was an instance of camouflage and screen memory. And I don't really think dead people are visiting me. I think that's a form of alien manipulation. I do believe that the time travel is real, but I think there have been a few occasions where they manipulated me into thinking that happened."

If you think about it, of course, the surrealistic scenes described by Wilson have the fantastical feel of dreams. Is she, in fact, recalling nocturnal images from the land of dreamy dreams—concocted by a trick of consciousness, cooked in the fires of REM, and transformed in the morning to a cocktail dish of aliens, starbabies, and UFOs? When I ask Wilson for the temporal context of her encounters, her response is typically straightforward—and telling. "I would have to say that the last thing I remember prior to most of these experi-

IN WILSON'S OUTRÉ ACCOUNT, UFO ABDUCTION INVOLVES TIME TRAVEL, DEAD RELATIVES, PREMONITIONS, POLITICAL SUPERSTARS LIKE BILL CLINTON, AND AN EIGHT-FOOT-TALL FLOATING PENGUIN—EVERYTHING YOU CAN IMAGINE AND A WHOLE LOT MORE.



ences," she said, "is going to bed."

Isn't that sequence—going to bed, falling asleep, getting "abducted," and waking up—suggestive of the nightly journey we all take to the imagistic out-back of the dream?

"That's a fair question," she replies. "But I happen to have dreams all the time and, even if I don't leave my bed, abductions and dreams just do not feel the same."

Whether Wilson is reporting from the land of Nod, the domain of aliens, or some other realm yet unknown, we may never know. But whatever the truth of the matter, it's time to applaud her tell-all book and attitude. Her story is, in fact, far more typical of abduction cases than we have been led to believe. And the only way to learn the truth behind the UFO abduction phenomenon is to let it all hang out.

Wilson's candid tale may have already opened the floodgates. Some researchers new to the field have begun to balk at the pre-packaged version of the abduction phenomenon we have been spoon-fed by the experts, and other abductees are beginning to step forward with stories of their own. A 24-year-old businessman from Harrison County, West Virginia, for example, has come forth claiming that he has been abducted by aliens at least 1,500 times. **DO**



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 64

the next day they have their neighbor's story. I think a lot of that is going on."

In fact, an examination of the literature reveals that those reporting shared abduction experiences virtually always know one another beforehand, or contact one another before giving their stories to independent investigators. Because of this, researchers can never really prove there had been no collaboration, either consciously or unconsciously, between the alleged abductees. The ideal case would involve two or more people who did not know each other but who gave collaborating details of the same abduction incident to independent investigators. There is no such case. Of course, if the reports of mass abductions were literally true, there should, in fact, be dozens, hundreds, even thousands of such cases in the files of UFO investigators.

David Jacobs tries to explain why there are none. "The secret aspect of the phenomenon," he says, "is remarkably efficient and extraordinarily effective. The way in which the alien program is instituted militates against having a lot of cases from the same day. And so does the way in which we find out about cases. Most people who have had abduction experiences don't really know

what has happened to them. They might know that an odd thing has happened here or there, but linking it to a UFO abduction is not something most of them would probably do. So of all the abductees out there we only hear from about .001 percent of them. But every once in a while we'll have a case where somebody who is an abductee will come up to another person and say, 'I know you. I've seen you before.' And they will trace it back to an abduction event they have shared."

Jacobs does not look to such experiences for verification of the existence of the abduction phenomenon, however, having long ago moved beyond verification in search of answers to such questions as, Who are they?, Where do they come from?, and What do they want with us? "Yes, some people still want to be persuaded," admits Jacobs. "But it's not something that I spend a lot of time on, because for me that's a little bit of wheel spinning. I realize that for others this is extremely important, but I can't be too much bothered with that because it takes a lot of time and effort and it keeps me away from researching what I think are more important aspects of the phenomenon."

For Jacobs, it's the little details in the abduction stories—the kind that have

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no reason for being there unless they really happened—that tell him this is real. "Just last night," he says, citing one example, "I did a session with a guy who saw maybe 15 other people aboard. He was abducted with his wife and two kids. He remembers being in line with a group of people, and once they went into the waiting area, they took their clothes off. He noted in front of him an older guy, heavy set, and bald with just a fringe of hair on his head. He told me in passing that there was a mole on his left shoulder."

A mole on his left shoulder. To Jacobs, that kind of detail just smacks of a real, rather than an imagined event. But such details will never be enough to convince the rest of the world that Catherine, Jack, Jim, Chuck, Mary, Bill, Joan, and millions of other humans have been abducted by aliens. Something more is needed, something more than what any abduction case, or mass abduction case, for that matter, has yet been able to provide: a shred of physical evidence. If there have been millions of abductions, it seems as if by now, we'd have come up with something certifiably alien—a lab tool, a tunic, a skin sample, a heretofore unknown universal law, or yes, even a measly cocktail napkin. ☐