



## A Response to NOVA

*Science Is Not Always What Science Programs Do*

by Budd Hopkins

*Budd Hopkins, easily one of the world's best-known UFO abductions researchers, wrote the following rebuttal to the February 27 Nova special on the UFO abduction phenomenon. (He asked that the article be published as widely as possible.) Invited to participate in the program's development, Hopkins says he placed his trust in Nova's writers and producers, believing they would treat the phenomenon fairly. However, after seeing how witnesses were selectively interviewed and the resulting film was edited, he warns readers not to take the program "Kidnapped by Aliens?" at face value.*

Readers familiar with the writings and lectures of the late J. Allen Hynek may recognize in the above title an expanded version of one of his most quoted *bon mots*, "Science is not always what scientists do." After previewing the soon-to-be-aired *Nova* program, which systematically and outrageously distorts the UFO abduction phenomenon and my work in the field, it's fair to say that NOVA has abandoned its right to be thought of as either objective, balanced, or scientific. However, I suppose it's a perverse sort of honor to find my work trashed by people with the same intolerant mindset as those who also trashed the research of Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. James McDonald, and so many others who have labored in the same unfashionable vineyard.

What *Nova* presents in its luridly titled program "Kidnapped by Aliens?" is a mangling of the truth, a polemic having absolutely nothing to do with scientific investigation. Typically, on a show filled with hostile authority figures having little or no acquaintance with the data, astronomer Carl Sagan said that he believed all abduction accounts are delusions or hallucinations. So far, *Nova* appears unconcerned that Dr. Sagan has yet to mount a serious investigation into even *one* abduction report. Should we be concerned with a program

so obviously biased? After all, my informal inquiries reveal that TV critics, media professionals, and especially scientists almost universally view *Nova* as a slick operation pandering to the same sensation-seeking audiences as commercial TV. This *Nova* UFO program was designed to air during Sweeps Week, the period when the ratings war is at its hottest. Consequently, before they plunged in the knife later in the show, the producers began

it in the most sensational tabloid style imaginable, with eerie music, foggy re-enactments and spooky lights, suggesting that *Nova* was now going

head-to-head with *Hard Copy* and *Entertainment Tonight*.

But for anyone interested in truth, we *must* care about *Nova's* misrepresentations. The show undeniably reaches many public television viewers and is still regarded by those outside the scientific and intellectual communities as a science program. Its deceptions, unfortunately, will mislead a large, ultimately worldwide audience now, and in later reruns and video sales.

The main reason for the program's destructiveness is its message, implied and delivered directly, that all abductees—all—are weak-minded patsies, delusional, or victims of

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## Worth Repeating

*A Digest of Ideas from Researchers, Enthusiasts, Buffs, Kooks, Skeptics, Debunkers, and Others*

### Putting Reputations on the Line

"...This leads to the question, why don't scientists become involved? Many courageous professionals in fact have become involved. Many of them have put their professional reputations on the line to fight conservative skeptics and debunkers. But it is quite another thing to subject yourself to absurd attacks from the rational zealots in a field which howls with implications and thrives on hoaxes.... Scientists typically don't have the time, resources, or training to penetrate the depths of these stories, so they simply give up and turn away from the entire field. This contributes to discrediting the topic even more, thus reinforcing the reluctance of serious witnesses to come forward, and feeding the vicious circle. —Jacques Vallee, Oct. 7, UFO Experience Conference, North Haven, CT

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UFO LINGO

## Worth Repeating

### Which Langley Is That?

"Inside NASA, *Langley* is synonymous and interchangeable with *NASA Langley*, the NASA facility co-located with Langley Air Force Base in Virginia's Tidewater region, about 120 miles south of the infamous Langley (an unincorporated Virginia suburb of Washington, D.C.)." —Karl T. Pflock ("a.k.a. MJ-Naught"), responding to the *HS* "NASA Moon Story" in an August 1995 letter to the editor

### Speak Into My Envelope

From the files of the federal government's own waste, fraud, and abuse watchdogs: In 1991, the Department of Energy turned over eavesdropping and wiretapping devices used to hide cameras and mikes that included "a notebook binder, a pencil sharpener, a baseball cap, an envelope, a smoke detector, and a clock." —*Houston Post* (1/29/95)

### Swimmers Against the Tide

"Some Western Indians in the earlier frontier days rode east, and returned to tell about multitudes of white people, tall buildings and big ships. But their tribes people ridiculed them as liars. That shot their reputations. And in their conversational memoirs, they said they wished they'd kept their mouths shut." —*Houston Post*, Jun. 18, 1992, reprinted from the July 1995 *UFO Intelligence Newsletter*, Francis Ridge, editor and MUFON State Director for Indiana, 618 Davis Dr., Mt. Vernon, IN 47620 ♦

## Meteorlike Object Lights Up Skies of Region

Reprinted from the Jan./Feb. 1996 Louisiana MUFON newsletter, editor Barney Garner

**O**n the morning of January 13, at approximately 5:30 AM, a bright object was seen crossing the skies of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. It was basically described as an extremely bright, greenish fireball that streaked across the sky, then suddenly seemed to explode.

Some sources have reported that it was probably a piece of space junk (a Chinese spy satellite's orbit had been decaying and it was expected to reenter the earth's atmosphere shortly). Other sources think it was a bright meteor known as a fireball or bolide. Meteors are sometimes referred to as "shooting stars" as they are bits of naturally occurring space debris that burn up when they enter the atmosphere. Some are seen during the day and on several occasions have been filmed.

Mike Sandras [of the Kenner (Louisiana) McMoran Planetarium] believes it was a

meteor. He received reports from witnesses across southern Louisiana and Mississippi.

Witnesses from Baton Rouge to Biloxi all told him that the object "exploded very close to their location."

Barney Garner [MUFON's Louisiana State Director] talked with two witnesses who were just southwest of Baton Rouge. One, driving north on Hwy. 30 just inside the East Baton Rouge Parish line, thought the object came from behind him and exploded a mile or so in front of him. He was blinded for a few seconds, and when he rolled down his truck window, he detected a strong sulphurlike odor. A second witness was getting into his car at Entergy's Willow Glenn plant on River Road when it happened. His direction of view was toward the truck driver (maybe five miles away), so triangulation was not possible.

Sandras would like to further investigate this incident. If you witnessed this object, please contact him at the Kenner McMoran Planetarium, (504) 468-7229. ♦

### The Shooting Star

If this little world tonight  
Suddenly should fall through space  
In a hissing, headlong flight,  
Shriveling from off its face,  
As it falls into the sun,  
In an instant every trace  
Of the little crawling things—  
Ants, philosophers, and lice,  
Cattle, cockroaches, and kings,  
Beggars, millionaires, and mice,  
Men and maggots—all as one  
As it falls into the sun—  
Who can say but at the same  
Instant from some planet far  
A child may watch us and exclaim:  
"See the pretty shooting star!"

—Oliver Herford, 1863-1935,  
English/American humorist,  
playright, and poet

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repeated hallucinations. In other words, liars aside, *all* who report such experiences are, to some extent, mentally abnormal.

What evidence does Dr. Sagan, for example, present to buttress his sweeping—and to the abductees—damning indictment of their ability to separate fantasy from reality?

None. None whatsoever. For a man regarded within popular culture as a kind of “Pope of Science” to offer such a wholesale denigration of UFO abductees with no supporting evidence is worse than irresponsible. In the psychological literature, there is only one report of an in-depth, blind study of the mental health of abductees—the 1983 report by Dr. Elizabeth Slater—and it shows that Dr. Sagan’s opinion is totally insupportable.\*

Did *Nova* make any effort to find out if there is any evidence supporting Sagan’s “diagnosis” of the abductees he’d never met? More to the point, how many abductees on the show did *Nova* ask to submit to psychological tests, psychiatric interviews, and the like? To my knowledge, *none*. John, a former counselor and one of the abductees who appears at length on the program, informed *Nova* by letter that he would present himself for any type of test, medical or psychological, that they wished to administer.

If *Nova* had been trying to do an objective, scientific study as they claimed, they should have instantly accepted John’s offer. Instead, they chose to ignore it. When one considers the destructive conclusions *Nova* presented about the abductees they showed on camera, they cannot argue that they refused John’s offer out of concern for his reputation. There seems to be only one reason to decline the opportunity of conducting psychological tests: the fear that the results might destroy their theories and thus expose *Nova*’s deceptions.

Having declined to employ any scientifically valid testing, the producers went on, in effect, to have John diagnosed on the air by “experts” who had never met him. This was the program’s basic *modus operandi*: material that I presume was carefully preselected was presented, for negative comment, to experts ignorant of the mass of UFO abduction case material and who were given no opportunity to interview the witnesses. Their comments therefore have the same degree of validity as the diagnoses issued by pop psychologists on daytime radio and TV after two- or three-minute conversations with the caller, a practice *Nova*’s producers would otherwise be the first to condemn.

But even worse is the show’s blatantly dishonest presentation of a family case to which they devote a great deal of airtime. The young mother of two small children had written a letter to me, and with her permission I presented a copy of it to producer Denise DiIanni of the *Nova* staff. In her letter, the young woman said this about her abduction experiences: “My memories are real and I have not had to use hypnosis to remember them.”

From a lifelong series of encounters, she records the following details: “The ‘little men,’ as I used to call them, would enter my bedroom from the same place in the wall... [They] were small, had large heads with large, dark eyes that seem to look right through me.”

Describing painful physical procedures, she added: “The tears would roll down my cheeks into my ears, an uncomfortable feeling. I was unable to wipe my tears away...”

She described the alien figures as moving in unison, and in another encounter, “being slowly lowered into my mattress, so slow that I would think ‘hurry up, I just want to feel my mattress under me and go to sleep.’”

On another occasion, she saw her brother being taken in broad daylight: “He looked so tired and was slumped over... I remember being very worried that he was too little to get into that object in the sky.”

In these accounts and in later, face-to-face interviews with the *Nova* crew present, she described many more experiences from childhood to the present, *all* recollected *without* hypnosis. What’s more, her husband vividly described watching their little son being floated out of the house by the aliens while he lay paralyzed on the floor of their front hall. With *Nova*’s camera recording it all, he lay down exactly where he remembered having fallen and described where each alien had been standing. He explained that the master bedroom was on the other side of the wall he was leaning against. Desperately trying to alert his sleeping wife, he showed us how he tried in vain to move his leg enough to bang against the wall to summon help.

His testimony was the most vivid and important of our visit to their home. It corroborated his wife’s account and explained their powerful fear for their children’s safety. *But all of this eyewitness testimony and dramatic film footage was suppressed by Nova*. All of it.

In its place, producer DiIanni assembled an emasculated case in which only the vaguest, most tenuous aspects of the family’s testimony were presented. Having thus suppressed all of the strongest evidence, *Nova* went on to slander

*See Nova, page 4*

## Deep-Throat

*Unsubstantiated-but-Persistent Rumors From the UFO Grapevine*

Just when **Deep Throat** thought a *HS* issue could pass without mention of the **alien autopsy hoax**, Mr. Santilli appeared on Compuserve’s Encounter’s Forum. Responding to a lack of publicity (all has been quiet on the Autopsy Front), last week he wrote that “hypocrisy runs rife.” Ray went on to lambast everyone from advertisers to skeptical UFO publications for profiting from “his” autopsy footage. Mr. Santilli apparently thinks the hypocrisy lies in the fact that he “never tried to disguise... that I saw a commercial opportunity when I found the film...”

Rumor has it **Kal Korff**, who has unashamedly debunked the **Billy Meier** story in a recently published book (**DT** hasn’t read it yet but has heard good things), is going to pursue Mr. Santilli and his film through the English judicial system. Mr. Korff, it is reported, has some irrefutable proof that the grain in the film has been artificially added. **DT** knows of several investigators who have pursued that aspect of the film to no avail. **DT** wishes him luck!

**Budd Hopkins** may finally produce the book he’s been dangling on the Linda Cortile/Napolitano case. Look for it this fall. Another book (no publisher yet) of interest to many (though not all) is a skeptical view, well documented, of the **Ed Walters**’ story. Former Florida MUFON members Carol and Rex Salisbury completed the manuscript in 1992. During their investigation, their perspective changed dramatically, from supportive to skeptical. Meanwhile, the Pensacola Beach *Islander* reports that several people, including Vicki Lyons of Project Awareness, spotted a dark triangular object

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## UFO Notebook

by Bill Eatwell

In this third article on physicist Alan C. Holt's hyperfield resonance theory, I'll review Alan's theoretical model that he describes as the "hyperfield resonance effect."

Alan is working on a projective, nonlinear mathematical model that could provide an understanding of the interactions between energy patterns in space-time and energy patterns in a seven-dimensional hyperspace. His theory "indicates that (spatially and temporally) coherent\* patterns of energy fields on cosmic and atomic scales can induce resonant interactions between the fundamental fields or forces of space-time (gravitational, electromagnetic, weak and strong, or chromodynamic forces)." Alan has chosen an approach that he states will attempt "to determine a means for manipulating gravitational fields by patterns of electromagnetic fields," or in other words, "to find a way to modulate the postulated hyperfield energy currents associated with masses and particles."

It is believed by most of today's scientists that all objects in nature and space are connected by "fields" similar to magnetic lines of force. Along these lines of force, a point can be defined, measured, and located in terms of intensity and direction. Alan envisions a unique metal torus design powered by lasers, magnetic fields, and electron beams as the "hydro-magnetic propulsion engine" that will interact with these postulated energy currents, or lines of force, and neutralize or alter local gravity fields. When his spacecraft's engine

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my view of the case's validity with the following summary: "Budd Hopkins thinks this [portentous pause] provides compelling evidence: children pausing at drawing, *dreams* of strange events that feel real, and images of traumatic sexual assault, *remembered only under hypnosis!*" [my emphasis]

Through "creative editing," I am portrayed as trying to ascribe an abduction memory to an innocent child. In addition to the anguished father's eyewitness account of lying paralyzed while he watched the aliens taking his son out of the house, the child's mother had included in her letter the following account of what

they went through when their boy was three years old: "My husband and I saw blinking lights in my son's bedroom... We continue to have problems with our son at night... When his dad gets him dressed in the morning, he will ask questions [such as] 'How do they come through the walls? How do they park it there, there's no road here...' He talks about tables with no legs, 'but those are the kind you don't eat on.' He tells me how chilly it was outside last night."

There is, of course, much more, all of which was known to Ms. DiIanni. But in her script, I am portrayed as suspecting the boy's possible abduction solely because of one piece of evidence: A child "pausing at a drawing of an alien." As *Nova* well knows, no one on earth would ever describe that isolated, ambiguous reaction as "compelling evidence" unless their goal was a conscious attempt to make the individual look like a fool.

I won't devote much time to demonstrate the ways *Nova* edited my hypnotic sessions to make it appear that I'm leading the witness, though I must provide at least one...

For many years I've used what I call the "body inventory" method to avoid leading hypnotic subjects. When the witness describes

being stretched out on an examination table, I say that we will now explore all the sensations that he or she feels, from the feet, systematically up through the body, to the top of the head. I explain that the subject might feel a different sensation in some part of the body: pleasure, pain, an itch, a tickle, heat, cold, etc.—or that that part of the body may feel perfectly normal. I begin with the feet, proceed to the ankles, shins, calves, then the thighs, the sexual organs, the lower abdomen, the stomach and chest, the arms and hands, the head, and then the eyes, the nose inside and

out, the mouth inside and out, and the ears inside and out. The purpose is to avoid leading the subject to any one particu-

### UFO for Sale?



Scene along U.S. Highway 59 in Marshall, Texas

lar part of the body by naming most all of them at the very outset. *Nova*, of course, didn't devote even three words of explanation to this painstakingly slow and objective process—it can take up to half an hour—but suddenly cut in as I directed the subject's attention to her "female parts..." To put the least damaging interpretation on *Nova's* deceptive editing, its result is to suggest that I'm leading the witness directly into sexual recollections or fantasies, something that a full transcript of the session would clearly refute.

When I was originally approached by *Nova's* Denise DiIanni, I was told that she would deal only with people who agreed to show their faces on national TV. I explained that of the more than 500 likely abductees I've worked with one-on-one, only about 15 would agree to appear on national TV. Unfortunately, among the 271 who declined to appear were all the police officers, (7) psychiatrists, scientists, PhDs, business executives, psychologists, physicians, and even a NASA research scientist with whom I'd worked; in short, the people with the most to lose by subjecting themselves to potential public ridicule. Obviously, this

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# Of Moon Shots and Ghost Astronauts:

## Did Deke Slayton Take His Last Flight *After* Dying?

by Loyd Auerbach and Martin Caidin

*The following is reprinted from the Internet with the authors' permission. In checking out this amazing account, I spoke with Deke Slayton's wife, Bobbie Slayton, a Houston resident (and Houston Sky reader!), to see whether she would deny the story. To my surprise, she confirmed almost all of it, saying that the FAA citation is still in her possession. —Editor*

The late, great, world-famed astronaut Deke Slayton co-authored the book *Moon Shot*, adapted as a two-part special for Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) July 11 and 13, 1994. Slayton, during his life, was a crew member of the 1975 US-USSR Apollo-Soyuz mission, one of the original Mercury Seven astronauts, former test pilot with the USAF, and an avid racing plane pilot. He died at his home in Texas at 3:22 a.m., June 13, 1993. With him were his wife, Bobbie, and their daughter, Stacey.

But, as shown at the end of the second part of the TBS adaptation, that was not the last time Deke Slayton made his mark on this planet. Slayton's final flight took place hours after he died.

Later the same day he died (June 13, 1993), at 7:57 a.m. local time, at John Wayne Airport in southern California, a Formula One racing plane with large FAA-required registration letters and numbers on the fuselage, N21X, took off from the airport and performed various flight maneuvers.

With a high-speed propeller, the extremely noisy aircraft was seen and heard by many people, who clearly identified the type of aircraft and wrote down the N21X registration. The Federal Aviation Administration determined that a noise level mandated by law had been exceeded, and issued a letter of citation against the registered owner and pilot.

On July 20, Bobbie Slayton received a letter in the mail dated June 28, 1993, from the FAA to Donald K. Slayton, notifying him that he was being cited for violating FAA regulations. The letter had been sent to a condo at which the Slaytons sometimes stayed, and its delivery was delayed until Mrs. Slayton picked up the mail.

Upon receipt of the letter, Bobbie Slayton telephoned the FAA and inquired if they had all gone crazy—pointing out that Deke Slayton had been dead for six hours before the reported incident in Orange County.

She further added that this particular racing plane, N21X, had been in an aircraft museum in Sparks, Nevada (located northeast of San Francisco), since March 1993—and that before being placed in the museum, the engine had

been removed from the aircraft and was still in the museum, next to the plane!

To save weight, the plane Slayton had flown had no electrical starter, and the engine could be started only by a person outside the plane who would swing the propeller while the pilot worked the controls inside. The plane sighted at the airport, however, had taken off on its own.

So how could the plane have been there... hours after Slayton died, with the plane, minus an engine, in an aircraft museum? And how could it have taken off by itself, with no one outside the plane to start it up for the pilot? If it was Slayton himself, why did it take so long after he died for the plane to be sighted?

*Bobbie Slayton remarked that the reason for the delay Deke took before getting into the air in his racing plane was that "he probably took six hours to find Gus" [Grissom, his best friend, who died in the Apollo 1 fire on Pad 34 at Cape Canaveral] "to prop the plane for him."*

Witnesses at the airport who were questioned first by the local authorities, and then by pilots talking to other pilots, and then by still more pilots and investigators sent to Santa Ana for further confirmation, all agreed that the airplane taking off the morning of June 13, 1993, was not only clearly identified as N21X, but that this particular airplane, which had flown for years with this federal registration, was an all-red Formula One racing aircraft, that it departed from the airport in Orange County, flew through various maneuvers in the area, and then flew off in a steady gradual climb on a westerly heading—and was never seen again.

Martin Caidin, paranormal investigator, series advisor for "Moon Shot," expert on aviation and manned and unmanned space shots, and author of the books *Ghosts of the Air* and *Natural or Supernatural?* has quoted Slayton as saying: "No matter what happens, no matter how rough it gets, no matter how impossible it becomes—always keep the dream alive."

*According to Bobbie Slayton, the day after the incident, she phoned the Nevada museum to ask whether the plane was still there. The person with whom she spoke assured her that it was and had never been gone. —Editor ♦*

*Notebook, from page 4* is programmed out of resonance with its local hyperspace energy pattern, but in resonance with a far distant point in space, the end result would be rapid travel to that distant point, or a near instantaneous hyperspace jump.

In Alan's 1986 MUFON Symposium paper titled "Interstellar Spaceports and Transportation Systems," he described the travel process above as follows: "An alternate description of the field resonance effect would be the creation of a mesoscale 'quantum' waveform which permeates and surrounds the spacecraft and as a result initiates a space-time tunneling process to a distant space-time point." Alan's propulsion system would appear visually similar to "Star Trek's" warp engagement or "Babylon 5's" jump gate activation. This waveform tunneling concept is obviously a safer way to travel in space at extremely high speeds. Alan Holt's spacecraft would, in the early design stages, require new and innovative protective and shielding systems to deal with the dangers of space debris or meteoroids during space-time rapid transitions.

*See Notebook, page 6*

*The Deke Slayton story was first posted by ISCNI\* Flash, which credited Loyd Auerbach for "the extraordinary true ghost story."*

*Mr. Auerbach, author of Mind Over Matter, is director of the Office of Paranormal Investigations in Orinda, California. He can be reached by e-mail at LoydA@aol.com or by phone at (415) 553-2588.*

### *Deep Throat, from page 3*

while skywatching at Shoreline Park in September. (Whereas **DT** may not buy Mr. Santilli's story, **DT** does lean toward believing Ed's.) You may want to pack your binoculars if you're headed for the Gulf Breeze Conference in March.

The animal world seems to have had a rough time of late, with more cattle mutilations in northeast Alabama (Marshall County) and continuing reports of the Puerto Rican "alien predator" that has allegedly sucked the blood from more than 1,000 animals of various types. Stay tuned for more gory details. . . .

Last item about the film—it's been confirmed by **Dave Roehrig of Kiviat Productions** that yet another autopsy program is in the works. Negotiations are said to be under way with the "cameraman" for an appearance. This should prove interesting because **DT** predicts that within the next week or two, the world will have proof that the cameraman *could not possibly* have processed the film as was claimed in the cameraman's statement. **DT** has learned that a worldwide release of this information is planned for early March. Read your March **MUFON Journal** for the real untold story! ♦

### *Notebook, from page 5*

\*(Coherent: *The American Heritage Dictionary of Science* defines this physics term as "having waves of a similar phase, direction, and amplitude and capable of exhibiting interference." The laser is an excellent example of coherent light that remains compact for long distances and is the secret of its power. One example of noncoherent light is the ordinary flashlight.)

Next: Alan Holt's hyperfield resonance test plans

Comments regarding this column or UFO propulsion can be sent via e-mail to [Beatwell@aol.com](mailto:Beatwell@aol.com) or in care of *Houston Sky*. ♦

### *Nova, from page 4*

reluctant 97 percent included the most highly credentialed and scientifically sophisticated abductees, the very individuals one would think *Nova* should be most interested in interviewing if the program were to have scientific relevance. I asked if some of these highly credible people might be allowed to discuss their abduction experiences on camera, backlit or in silhouette, but *Nova* declined, refusing to interview anyone outside the self-selected three percent. This decision alone demonstrated to me Ms. DiIanni's preference for potentially sensational TV footage over any attempt at scientific depth or inclusiveness.

The very brave handful who agreed to appear on national TV were mainly young and independent and for the most part not subject to the career risks of corporate politics. None were offered, and none requested, financial remuneration. All agreed to appear as a way of helping other abductees, in much the way a few rape victims will also come forward publicly, despite potential humiliation. Rape victims are guaranteed to receive sympathy. However, the abductees on "Kidnapped by Aliens?" were subtly but thoroughly discredited, beginning with that lurid title and the question mark that cast doubt on their testimony before it was even heard. Their bravery and generous spirit of cooperation was rewarded by *Nova's* implication that all of them were either deluded, hallucinating, or simply weak-minded because, as *Nova's* "experts" said, such experiences simply cannot happen. At one point, physicist Paul Horowitz, who apparently has no idea of the range of evidence supporting UFO reality, categorically stated that UFOs don't exist and have never landed!

*Nova* interviewed me at length in my studio, and, knowing all the fashionable theories debunkers use to discredit anyone reporting an abduction experience, I chose to stress the reports that fell outside these conventional explanations. I dealt with the huge number of

abduction accounts that surface *without the use of hypnosis*, knowing that *Nova* was sure to deride the process. True to form, the program implied over and over with sledgehammer thoroughness that hypnosis should be thought of as the *generating cause* of these [automatically false] abduction accounts. My discussion of contradictory data—the mass of nonhypnosis abduction reports—wasn't even mentioned on the program.

I showed producer DiIanni a collection of photographs of the physical marks and scars that are the common sequelae of UFO abductions and urged her to interview some of the people bearing the more dramatic wounds. Since these individuals were among the 97 percent unwilling to run the risk of ridicule by appearing on camera, *Nova* not only refused to film them in shadow, *but the slides of their wounds and marks, which I was asked to lend Nova, were never shown.*

Also suppressed were the photographs I submitted showing ground traces and alterations of the soil caused by UFO landings. *Nova* staffer Liesl Clark, in charge of the program's Internet Web, informed me that to show such physical evidence would be "to open a can of worms." She was right about that.

So, after being told that the abduction phenomenon was merely an artifact of hypnosis, the public was also deliberately denied any chance to see, hear about, and consider photographic evidence of reported alien physical procedures and UFO ground traces. Thus, another of the debunker's false but favorite myths was reinforced: "There is no physical evidence."

It's one thing, of course, to disagree as to the meaning and the degree of probative weight to ascribe to physical evidence, but it's another thing to suppress that evidence altogether.

Knowing that "sleep paralysis" is one of the most preposterous general explanations of abduction reports yet offered, I described to *Nova's* representative the existence of hun-

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## UFO LINGO

### *Theme & Variation*

How do *you* write it? Ufology — UFOlogy — ufology

How do *you* say it? "U-fology" — "U-fo-ology"

"...here and there a touch of good grammar for picturesqueness." —Mark Twain

*Nova*, from page 6

dreds of accounts of abductions that took place in the daytime with all of the participants fully awake, and I cited examples. Since this fact also wasn't mentioned during the program—which naturally restricted itself solely to those cases that more plausibly fit the sleep paralysis theory—the public was misled yet again: “It’s always hypnosis, there’s never any physical evidence, and like sleep paralysis, it always happens at night.” Ms. DiIanni knew that thousands of case reports prove all of these statements false, but chose to suppress that information, too, on her show.

Though it has been painful having to spend so much time describing *some* of *Nova*'s many systematic deceptions, distortions, and omissions, the denigration of thousands of decent, mentally sound people who have reported UFO abductions cannot be left unchallenged. Not once did any of *Nova*'s on-camera, debunking consultants admit that any of these people might simply be telling the truth. I was not naive enough to think that *Nova*, having produced an earlier program opposing the reality of UFOs, would now turn around and proclaim the reality of UFO abductions.

I was naive enough, however, to credit the producers and Ms. DiIanni in particular, with sufficient honesty to make a very small admission: that despite all the debunkers' theories, all the data has not been explained, and that an intriguing mystery does remain. In my wildest imagination I never thought they would have the arrogance to imply that *all* abduction experiences can be explained away by these [mutually contradictory] debunking theories, or that in doing so, *Nova* would be so unscrupulous as to deliberately suppress all evidence to the contrary.

People who trust *Nova* will also unknowingly accept falsehoods such as the following, as true: *Nova* said that after the film “Close Encounters” appeared, the number of UFO sightings increased, an example of the media's generating “false reports.” But in fact, during that time, the number of new sightings eventually decreased.

For my part, *Nova* often referred to me as “a therapist,” though they are well aware that I've never made that claim and have never charged an abductee a penny for any help I've given.

But the acceptance of false information isn't the worst result of *Nova*'s deceptions. Far more damaging is the fact that anyone currently thinking of going public with a personal abduction account will be extremely hesitant to do so. Any physicians, policemen, psychiatrists, scientists, military officers, or the like who have experienced UFO abductions will now have even more reason to keep silent. Having seen how *Nova* distorted and dismissed other abductees' accounts, few of these potentially valuable new witnesses will agree to step forward. In the light of all this, it's fair to describe *Nova* as having both tampered with evidence and intimidated future witnesses.

On top of everything, Ms. DiIanni's show is being hyped for all the sensationalism and controversy that *Nova* could squeeze out of the subject, going so shamelessly low as to beg the on-camera abductees to appear in promotional spots without first informing them how they would be treated on the program. It was as if innocent people were being asked to sell tickets to their own public humiliation. What *Nova* produced was not a science program but a kind of middle-brow Jenny Jones or Geraldo. Denise DiIanni and executive producer Paula Apsell and all those responsible for the final edit of this show should be ashamed of themselves.

\*Slater, Dr. Elizabeth et al., “The Final Report on the Psychological Testing of UFO Abductees,” Washington, D.C.: Fund for UFO Research, 1983.

For reprints of this article on the *Nova* program, write to Budd Hopkins, Intruders Foundation, P.O. Box 30233, NY, NY 10011.

To send your feedback to *Nova*, write Executive Producer Paula Apsell, *Nova*, WGBH-TV, 125 Western Ave., Boston, MA 02134, or fax your letter to (617) 787-7843.

## FOIA Requests

“The Freedom of Information Act entitles citizens to request any record maintained by a federal Executive branch agency. The agency must release the requested material unless it falls into one of nine exempt categories, such as “national security,” “privacy,” “confidential source,” and the like, in which case the agency may, but is not compelled to, refuse to disclose the records. “Anyone wishing to make a request can obtain a kit that contains all the materials needed to make requests for records on an individual, organization, or particular subject matter or event. It provides FOIA instructions, request form, information on fee waivers, administrative appeals, and monitoring the progress of the request, a request letter template, and the addresses and phone numbers of selected federal agencies, including FBI offices.

Send a \$3 check or money order to FOIA, Inc., to FOIA, Inc., PO Box 02-2397, Brooklyn, NY 11202-0050. (FOIA, Inc. stands for Fund for Open Information and Accountability). —Downloaded from the *Civil Liberties Electronic Form, Networking the National Lawyers Guild Civil Liberties Committee* ♦

## HOUSTON SKY

No. 9, Feb./Mar. 1996

*Houston Sky* is published as a forum for the open exchange of ideas and information for Houston-area MUFON members and others. Because views within the UFO community are so varied, the opinions and observations expressed in *HS* do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial staff or of other MUFON members.

**Reprint Policy:** Selections may be reprinted. Please credit *Houston Sky* and identify it as a Houston-area MUFON publication.

**Circulation:** *HS* is published six times a year (and began in October 1994). Houston and Southeast Texas MUFON members will receive a first issue free. *HS* welcomes swaps with other publications. Subscriptions are \$15/year, \$20 foreign. For individual copies, send an SASE and a check for \$3.

*HS*'s Feb./Mar. 1996 issue is being mailed to 300 readers. Arcturus Books Inc. includes *HS* in its monthly catalogue.

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## *UFOs and Science:*

### The Collected Writings of Dr. James E. McDonald

Compiled and edited by Valerie Vaughan

by David Mayo

What do you know about the hazards associated with weather modification, nuclear reactors, air pollution, the placement of ICBM silos, chemical Mace, and supersonic transport effects? How about ball lightning, swamp gas, plasmas, radar anomalies, paleoclimatology, and meteorology? *UFOs*? Well, I guess we all know a bit about that. There was one man who knew a great deal about *all* of these subjects. The late James E. McDonald, PhD, barely rates a mention in most contemporary books of the UFO phenomenon, yet 26 years ago, this man led the front in awakening public interest in UFOs.

With a BA in chemistry, an MS in meteorology, and a PhD in physics, McDonald rigorously applied the principles of science toward his understanding of UFOs. In one of his earliest lectures on UFOs to the American Meteorological Society in 1966, McDonald stated that [The concept of] "extraterrestrial probes (as a reason for UFOs) conflicts with many familiar facts of astronomy, physics, and perhaps biology. Nevertheless, my own scrutiny of the UFO problem has led me to conclude that (extraterrestrial probes) probably constitutes the least unsatisfactory hypothesis for accounting for the fascinating array of UFO phenomena that are now on record."

*UFOs and Science*, published in 1995 by the Fund for UFO Research, chronicles Dr. McDonald's fascinating and controversial career through lecture transcripts, published articles, and personal letters.

Within this book, we read of McDonald's ongoing correspondence with the scientific and ufological communities, his outrage and condemnation of the infamous Condon Report, Robertson Panel report, and Project Bluebook, and his many presentations to Congress and other government-sponsored groups.

The book is divided into three sections. A sampling of scientific writings on socially significant concerns makes up section one and defines the conscience of the man (he belonged to the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Humanist Association). Section two, "Selected Writings on UFOs," covers his opinions on government cover-up, witnesses (both highly credible and crackpot), UFO politics, and specific UFO cases. Section three comprises more than half of "*UFOs and Science*" and is dedicated to the complete texts of UFO papers authored by Dr. McDonald. An extensive bibliography is provided for the reader interested in further research into Dr. McDonald's writings.

I found this publication factual and very important. Most of the papers and correspondence presented have not been previously published or are not readily available. This one point alone makes *UFOs and Science* an indispensable addition to one's library. I have found that within ufology, memory is short and that the latest hot opinions serve as the current truth. It is important that we look back periodically if for no other reason than as a sanity check. With this in mind, I highly recommend *UFOs and Science*.

*UFO and Science* can be ordered from FUFOR: Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR), PO Box 277, Mt. Ranier, MD 20712. ♦

## Of Interest

### Houston & Texas

#### Austin MUFON Experiencers' Support Group

Second Sunday of every month  
March 10, 2-4 PM  
Austin History Ctr., 810 Guadalupe  
Miles Lewis, (512) 326-9381

#### VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team)

Mon., Mar. 4, & Thurs., Apr. 18  
6:30 PM

Freeman Memorial Library  
16602 Diana Lane, Clear Lake City

#### HUFON (Houston UFO Network)

First Friday of the Month, 7 PM  
Innova Building, 20 Greenway Plaza  
(713) 597-2834

### Elsewhere

#### 4th Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Spring Conference

March 15-17  
Clarion Suites Resort  
Pensacola Beach, Florida  
Contact Project Awareness:  
(904) 432-8888 (#3)  
Friedman, Strieber, Mack, Fiore,  
Lindemann, Grosso, Barry Downing

#### 1996 Ozarks UFO Conference

April 12-14  
Inn of the Ozarks  
Eureka Springs, Arkansas  
Contact Lucius Farish (new address)  
#2 Caney Valley Dr.  
Plummerville, AR, 72127-8725  
(501) 354-2558  
Howe, Huneus, Crawford, Bob Shell,  
Yvonne Smith, Joe Lewells

"It is common to overlook what is near by keeping the eye fixed on something remote." —Samuel Johnson

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