

Is truth stranger than the 'X-Files'?

MARTIN WALKER sees
what may be the first
hard evidence of
extra-terrestrial beings.
The world will see it later.

IMAGINE a pubescent but pregnant girl, humanoid but distinctly alien, with a bald and giant head and lizard eyes. She could come from the garish cover of any science-fiction magazine.

Under the scalpel her flesh gives

Under the scalpel, her flesh gives and bleeds. The joints flex and the limbs bend, and the great wound on the thigh suggests muscle and ligament. The scalpel cuts the flesh away, to reveal a vast skull of unusually thick bone. The surgeon wielding the saw pauses to rest in his work.

When the contents of the skull are removed, they are flesh-like, but most unlike a human brain with its grooves and folds.

If brain this is, it looks like a chunk of liver on this grainy, soundless black and white film said to have been shot in 1947.

If these large, elliptical lizard slits are eyes, they are covered with a black film, which is then carefully removed by the surgeons, revealing white orbs. The scalpel goes down the trunk, to the swollen belly which suggests that this small being might have been pregnant.

There are female genitalia, but no navel, and no hair. Once the body cavity is exposed, there are no familiar coils of intestine. The body organs are again flesh-like, soft and yet distinctly odd.

There are six digits at the end of each long, slim arm, six toes on each foot.

This is eerily familiar, from the visions of sci-fi illustrators, and also from the medical books of anatomy, as if this being under the surgeon's knife were a composite of four or five different human pathologies.

five different human pathologies.

There are no prosthetics. This

does not look like some creation of the Hollywood special-effects labs. This seems convincingly to be the autopsy of some kind of being.

There are two films. The first lasts about 18 minutes, and takes place in some kind of operating theatre, with surgeons in masks and gowns.

The film is shot from inside a tent, in the half-light of emergency lanterns. The being is largely covered by a sheet.

A male and a female medical attendants flex the limbs and conduct what seems to be a preliminary examination.

A man in civilian clothes is present, and seems to be in charge. This film lasts about three minutes, and there is no sound on either film clip.

"If that is a hoax, it is a most elaborate and convincing and believable one," said Congressman Steven Schiff, of New Mexico, as he sat and watched the films last month in his Washington office, with his staff and other government officials around him.

WE WERE shown the clips, and sworn to secrecy (till now), by the British documentary filmmaker John Purdie, of Union Pictures.

ONION PICTURES.

On August 28, these two brief clips of film, which purport to record the US Air Force autopsies of two crashed alien beings, will be screened simultaneously as part of Purdie's *Roswell* documentary, in Britain, the United States, Japan and Europe.

This film is the first hard evidence to emerge from the most celebrated and best-documented unidentified-flying-object event of all, the mysterious crash of a strange aerial craft near the Roswell Air Force base in New Mexico at 11.30pm on July 4, 1947.

The possibility that earth has been visited by aliens and their bodies autopsied on film is clambering out of the bizarre underworld of the





cults and into the realm of the rational and verifiable world.

Prodded by his New Mexico constituents and his own curiosity, Congressman Schiff began his own probing of the Roswell mystery three years ago.

His first success was to force the US Air Force to drop the cover story it had maintained on Roswell since 1947 — that the crash was of an experimental high-altitude weather balloon, and the strange metal was ordinary tinfoil.

Last year, in an official report, the US Air Force told Congressmen

US Air Force told Congressman Schiff about "Operation Mogul", an experimental high-altitude balloon designed to detect radiation and monitor an eventual first test of a Soviet atom bomb.

Dissatisfied with what he calls "the most unaccountable stonewalling I have ever encountered", Congressman Schiff and other legislators have succeeded in ordering the Government Accounting Office, the watchdog of the Federal Govern-

ment, to mount its own new inquiry.

That report was to be delivered to Congressman Schiff yesterday, and will be published next week.

The first people to arrive on the Roswell site on July 5, 1947, were a team of archeologists, led by Dr W. Curry Holden, of Texas Tech University.

They reported to the local sheriff that they had seen "a crashed airplane without wings, and with a fat fuselage".

They reported also seeing three

bodies, two outside the craft, and

bodies, two outside the craft, and one still inside, visible through a gash in the fuselage.

Then came two campers, James Ragsdale and Trudie Truelove, who reported that the bodies were "four or five foot long at the most".

Ragsdale was more interested in the unusual metal at the crash site. It looked like tinfoil, but was much stronger: "You could take that stuff and wad it up and it would straighten itself out."

Within minutes, the sounds of a siren signalled the arrival of Military Police jeeps from the Roswell Army-Air Force base, 55km away, home of the 509th Bomb Group, then the world's only atomic strike force.

The site was sealed, the civilians were cleared off, and high-ranking civilian and military officials began to fly in to the site.

I NTRIGUING snippets of evidence have kept the Roswell UFO story running as a local issue.

First, there is the local undertaker, Glenn Dennis, who was asked by the base if he could provide child-sized coffins.

Then there was the local fireman Dan Dwyer, whose crew was called out to the crash site, collected some of the mysterious metal debris, and told his family of seeing two body bags and one still-alive being "about the size of a 10-year-old child".

There is the sheriff, George Wilcox, who told his family he and they had been threatened with death if

had been threatened with death if they ever talked about the Roswell crash.

The testimony of those witnesses, and a handful of former military personnel, has been for two decades the tantalising sum of the flimsy array of hearsay evidence and vague memories that has made up the Roswell case.

The film was obtained by another British filmmaker, Ray Santilli, of Merlin Productions, who found a retired US cameraman, who decided finally to make public the films he had taken as a USAF film technician at Roswell, and at the autopsy centre of Fort Worth.

On-film coding confirms that this is film stock from either 1947 or 1967. Congressman Schiff is arranging for US Government labs to study the film further, but so far its authenticity has not been questioned.

British and US pathologists who have seen the the film say it appears to be a real autopsy, probably performed by surgeons rather than expert pathologists, and using the medical technology of the late 1940s.

"If it happened, if there is even one credible piece of evidence that earth has been visited by aliens, it changes everything," said Richard DeMotto, national security aide to Senator Robert Byrd. "It only had to happen once."

— The Guardian

Alien species arrive on main streets in US

HOLLYWOOD'S latest sci-fi offering is *Species*, in which a repulsive alien passes itself off as a stunning and libidinous blonde to achieve its sole aim of reproducing with an earthling.

The critics have panned it, but it's unlikely American cinema audiences will be as harsh. Aliens have arrived.

Relegated for years to celluloid fantasy and the wilder chat-show shores, tales of human encounters with extra-terrestrials are suddenly mainstream.

A Harvard psychiatry professor is in controversy over a book in which he appears to accept as fact the accounts of people who claim to have been abducted and sexually interfered with by aliens.

A highly respected journalist has produced a tome based on a conference, held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on alien abductions.

Abductee support groups are springing up across the country. According to a recent poll, 2 per cent of the population — more than 500,000 people — describe having "alien abduction" experiences.

"Slowly but surely we're winning the war," says Budd Hopkins, the New York artist regarded as the father of the "abduction" movement, between calls from TV producers desperate to make programs on the "phenomenon".

Hopkins has been the focus of an abduction underground since he wrote his first book on the subject in 1987 but increasingly, he says, credible figures have been willing to risk ridicule by openly admitting to an interest in the subject.

His argument is that a large number of reasonable people — Hopkins alone has interviewed 500 — recall (often under hypnosis) abduction experiences which are remarkably similar and cannot be explained conventionally.

Although aliens come in different shapes and sizes ("tall greys", Nordic-types and "reptilians" all figure) most abductees offer a strikingly uniform description of their ET kidnapers.

Described as small greys, these common-or-garden aliens are slightly translucent creatures up to 1m high.

They have large pear-shaped heads, and huge almond-shaped black eyes without whites or pupils.

Their long arms end in three or four-fingered hands, and their legs are spindly.

They have no hair, ears or nostrils and only an expressionless slit for a mouth.

In his new book, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, journalist C.D.B. Bryan reports that the greys' bodies are "flat, paunchless", apparently lacking buttocks or visible genitalia.

In his controversial book, Harvard

IN HIS CONTROVERSIAL BOOK, HARVARD psychiatry professor John Mack adds

And now abductee support groups are springing up all over the country, says IAN KATZ.

that besides "boots, the aliens usually wear a form-fitting, single-piece, tunic-like garment, sparsely adorned".

Typically "abductees" or "experiencers" describe being floated from their homes or cars into alien ships where they undergo quasi-medical procedures under the supervision of slightly taller "doctor-beings".

Abductees, usually naked, are physically examined in detail, often sexual detail.

Men describe having semen samples taken. Women recall having eggs removed with cold metal instruments.

THIS leads Mack to conclude that, "The purely physical or biological aspect of the abduction phenomenon seems to have to do with some sort of genetic engineering to create human/alien hybrid offspring."

Oh, yes, the creatures communicate by telepathy and show their captives powerful images on television monitors before releasing them.

"Scenes of the earth devastated by a nuclear holocaust, panoramas of lifeless, polluted landscapes and waters, apocalyptic images of giant earthquakes, firestorms, floods, and fractures of the planet itself" are

fractures of the planet itself," are among the favoured videos, accord-

ing to Mack, who believes aliens are trying to drum home a green message.

While most scientists have ignored the increased credence given to the stories, a growing number see it as an aspect of a dangerous trend, the powerful new anti-rationalism that has gripped America.

These sceptics place abduction reports alongside "out of body" experiences, reincarnation, para-psychology, psychic healing and the other panaceas which are these days the staples of the best-seller lists.

At a conference last month entitled *The Flight From Science and Reason*, more than 200 academics lamented the "hobbling of science", wanting a new offensive against pseudo-scientists like the proponents of abduction.

Today aliens, they warned, tomorrow Aryan race theories.

The battle between the scientific traditionalists and the anti-rationalists has crystallised around Dr Mack.

The 65-year-old psychiatrist is a long-standing faculty member who won a Pulitzer Prize for a 1977 biography of T.E. Lawrence and is respected for his work on teenage suicide, and the psychological effect of

the Cold War. But now he is struggling to save his professional life amid allegations of unprofessional conduct and a university inquiry into his academic methods. He first encountered the phenomenon when he met Hopkins in 1990. He began interviewing "abductees", hoping to provide a psychological explanation for their experiences, but found himself believing his subjects' accounts.

His argument for accepting their stories boils down to this syllogism: the 90 or so people he interviewed sincerely believed they had been abducted. They were not crazy, by any conventional psychiatric definition; therefore they had been abducted.

His Harvard colleagues have not been entirely convinced by this reasoning or the testimony of interviewees.

Already embarrassed by the massive publicity for the launch of Mack's book, Harvard launched a full-scale internal inquiry after a woman alleged that she had duped him, and that he had unethically billed abduction therapy sessions to a health insurer.

After more than 30 closed hearings, the investigating committee is said to have produced a report highly critical of Mack's research methods.

At the end of his book, *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens*, Mack concludes that the abduction phenomenon is "a profound mystery

that has potentially vast implications for our contemporary world. For I have no basis for concluding, as yet, that anything other than what experiencers say happened to them actually did."

In arriving at this dramatic conclusion, however, he glosses over fairly obvious grounds for doubt.

Many of the abduction accounts obtained by Mack and the handful of other researchers in the nascent field were given while under hypnosis. These are precisely the kind of "recovered memories" which have been widely discredited in a number of sex-abuse cases.

SIMILARLY, the profusion of support groups and media coverage of the abduction phenomenon have made it easier for individuals to give, consciously or unconsciously, uniform accounts of their alien encounters.

There are apparently glaring inconsistencies, too, in the descriptions of the aliens and their capabilities.

They are smart enough to waft their abductees through walls and suppress their memories of encounters for years, and yet they frequently return humans to their beds with their pyjamas on inside out, or wearing the wrong nightclothes.

"Sometimes the aliens seem to be making a point," Mack suggests. "Or a certain humour is involved."

— The Guardian

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