



This picture of an alleged UFO in the United States has caused hot debate among ufologists for three decades. — DPA

Close encounters with aliens

ALIEN beings have repeatedly snatched humans from Earth to conduct breeding experiments, according to a book of interviews with those who say they were abducted called *Secret Life — Firsthand Accounts of UFO Abductions*.

David Jacobs, a Temple University professor whose speciality is 20th Century US history, acknowledges the bizarre nature of the evidence he presents, more often the stuff of sensationalistic tabloids dismissed as bunk by most serious scientists.

But he said in a recent interview that "down to the most precise detail," the 60 abductees' stories of more than 300 incidents are remarkably similar, and he has found no reason to disbelieve them.

"What we have here is an enormous number of people saying unbelievably incredible things, things that fly in the face of reason, yet all their stories are the same, down to the most precise detail," Jacobs said.

Dr John Mack, a Harvard University Medical School professor who plans his own book on the subject, said in a foreword to Jacobs' book: "Population surveys suggest that hundreds of thousands and possibly more than a million persons in the United States alone may be abductees..."

In a telephone interview Mack, a psychiatrist, said he had worked with some 40 people who have had these experiences.

"I intended to dismiss the phenomenon when I first heard about it — the people I've seen, I don't have an explanation. But I know they've undergone a powerful sense of being intruded upon and traumatised. My findings are very similar to his. It's disturbing — there's a great scramble to fit this into a familiar category," he said.

Far from being close encounters with benign beings as imagined by fiction writers or screen directors, the abductees in Jacobs' book describe their experiences as "horrendous, heart-rending, a daily dose of pain."

In some cases several members of a family were snatched by aliens and the abductions sometimes were repeated over a period of many years. The abductees "come from all walks of life, it doesn't matter who they are, what education level or what they do, what race or nationality," said Jacobs.

They tell of being abducted usually at night from their beds, when they are physically lifted by a beam of light to an Unidentified Flying Object, disrobed and physically examined from

A new book on UFO abductions warns of alien breeding labs.

BARBARA NOVOVITCH of Reuter reports from New York.

feet to head, with particular emphasis on the genitals.

One of the first popular accounts of UFO abduction was published by *Look Magazine* in 1966 — the story of Betty Hill and her husband, Barney, who said they were abducted in 1961.

The Hills said they were subjected to a physical examination aboard the space craft. That incident became the subject of a book by John Fuller, which in turn became *The UFO Incident*, a 1975 television film.

According to Jacobs' interviews, which he conducted while the subjects were under hypnosis to probe their unconscious memories, some described metallic objects being implanted in their ears or sinus cavities and sperm was extracted from men during the examination by means of a suction tube.

Women, and even little girls, were probed and poked with needles and syringes, and they tell of "egg harvesting" and "embryo implantation."

Throughout their abduction the humans were "controlled" by the aliens' large hypnotic eyes. One frightening procedure recalled by all abductees is what Jacobs calls "mindscan," in which an alien comes close to the abductee on the examination table and stares unrelentingly.

"It's like the eyes overwhelm me," one abductee said. "Their eyes go inside you. You just are held. You can't stop looking. If you wanted to, you couldn't look away. You are drawn into them, and they sort of come into you."

When the abductees are returned, generally after two to three hours, they have only vague conscious memories of what happened.

Physical evidence may consist of nosebleeds or bruises and a sticky gelatinous substance between the women's legs. But this evidence disappears. Women who were examined by physicians and told they were pregnant were re-abducted and the fetuses removed before they could have an abortion.

The abductees all gave similar descriptions of the alien beings — some two to four feet (60cm to 120cm) in height with large, piercing eyes and

hairless heads, bodies similar to humans but lacking genitalia and grey skin that feels rubbery or leathery.

The description fits the aliens in Stephen Spielberg's movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Jacobs said that was because "Spielberg did his homework, he studied the UFO literature."

But their actions were frighteningly different from science fiction accounts, Jacobs said.

"This is not a scenario we would ever have expected, and yet this is what everyone describes... It's a programme of exploitation, an alien agenda that we know nothing about, using people almost like ore out of a mine, over and over again," he said.

Jacobs is not certain that aliens exist but, he contends, if they do not science must deal with a phenomenon that cannot be rationalised by traditional psychological explanations or clinical categories. He describes his book as a warning.

The subject has fascinated him for more than two decades. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on UFOs at the University of Wisconsin and turned that paper into a book.

"It remains the only non-negative book about UFOs ever published by the academic press," Jacobs said.

He said the abductees do not exhibit any neuroses or pathology that would explain their stories, nor is there any evidence they had been victims of childhood sexual abuse, a frequent psychiatric explanation for unconscious memories of the sort they relate.