

ANTIMATTER



SECRET OF THE CHESHIRE CAT

Where did Lewis Carroll get his inspiration for the famed Cheshire cat, the wacky feline that vanishes—all except for its grin—during Alice's visit to Wonderland?

The answer, some experts now say, may have been accidentally uncovered by an American tourist visiting the tenth-century St. Peter's Church in Croft, County Durham, where Carroll's father, the Reverend Charles Dodson, preached for 24 years. The tourist was near the altar when he glimpsed a crude stone carving of a cat on a panel wall. Moreover, while crouching to kneel, the tourist watched the eight-inch-wide cat gradually disap-

pear from view. By the time his knees touched the ground, all he could see was the strange grin on the animal's face.

The tourist, one of 35 members of the British-based Lewis Carroll Society, was visiting the church for the very first time, according to the Society's membership secretary, Edward Wakeling. While Wakeling says he doesn't yet know what the significance of the discovery will be, he notes that "as you slowly kneel, the stone cat's face disappears, and all you can see is the broad grin, which stretches almost from ear to ear."

The cat's true identity, he added, was probably never pinpointed simply because no one ever bothered to ask.

—Ivor Smullen

ABDUCTEE OPPRESSION

Harvard psychiatrist John Mack says UFO abductees should avoid debunkers like the plague. "It's fine to study abductees and present a skeptical point of view," Mack says. But those who criticize abductees can be vicious about it, Mack believes—so much so that their verbal attacks amount to abuse. In fact, Mack contends, UFO abductees

BREAKING THE YOKE OF OPPRESSION: UFO ABDUCTEES NOW CHOOSE WHO THEY TALK TO BASED ON THE RESPECT ACCORDED THEIR FEELINGS AND THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS.

are a legitimate minority group whose rights are violated at every turn.

Mack is so incensed over the treatment his abductee/patients have received that he suggests they no longer come in contact with debunkers at all. Putting debunkers on

TV shows with abductees, according to Mack, "is like interviewing Holocaust survivors along with skeptics who say the Holocaust never occurred."

Still, political scientist and minority-rights expert Opuku Agyeaman of Montclair State College

in New Jersey hesitates to put abductees in the same class as a legitimate minority. He says that just making people feel uncomfortable for holding a particular view does not violate their rights; it's an example of free speech. Abductees would be considered a bona fide minority, he states, only if their views were called deplorable and unacceptable and if they were punished as a result.

—Paul McCarthy