

Eco-Frontier



Other Worlds

by Harold Egel, Jr.

In a prelude to its Mission to Planet Earth, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration orbited its space shuttle "Endeavour" this month (April) with a highly advanced radar laboratory to explore both the Earth's endangered ecology and remote image of the planet's ancient past. NASA's Mission to Planet Earth is set to begin in earnest in 1998 to monitor the planet's environment from space orbit with remote-sensing instruments. Highly sensitive radar aboard the shuttle studied varied environments, from Michigan's forests and Amazon rainforests to the Galapagos Islands' volcanic geology, and through its powerful X-ray-like capabilities, penetrated the ground in search of lost, buried ancient civilizations.

NASA, however, may not be the only agency embarked on an environmental mission to Planet Earth. Some other agency from somewhere beyond our world and universe as we now know them may be deeply, intensely engaged in its own mission to Planet Earth, the dimensions and implications of which may soon be revealed to humanity.

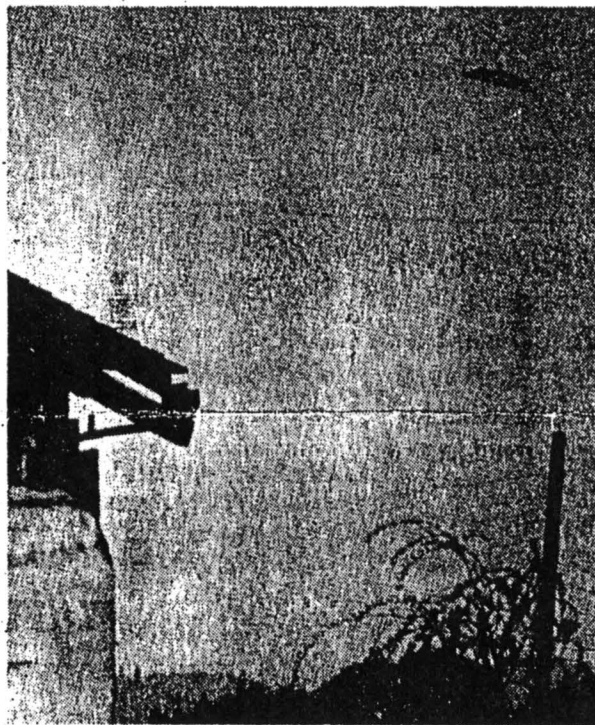
Throughout the "Eco-Frontier" columns we have examined the deeper Cosmic Ecology in which the Earth, the biosphere and the planet's place in the universe have their very essential being. We have attempted to examine the nonhuman dimensions of life, intelligence and consciousness which seem to support and sustain the world, now in the midst of an accelerating, epochal ecological crisis and emergency. We have hinted and speculated that there may be other lifeforms and/or other sentient energies and consciousnesses (including the Earth herself) involved in this Cosmic Ecology which seems to be beyond the veil of the physical, three-dimensional materialistic world, which we in the Western World are so immersed in. Let us look at a story from the non-Western world.

In *The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying* there is a fable told by Tibetans about an old frog who lived his whole life in a tiny well. He is visited by a stranger frog who says he came from "the ocean." The old well frog asks if the ocean is twice as big as his well water. The old frog says that it is far bigger without comparison. The ocean frog and the wellwater frog set out and come to the ocean. The wellwater frog is so shocked by the ocean's immensity, his head explodes. This tale is related in a new book by Dr. John E. Mack, a famous professor of psychiatry at The Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Massachusetts, about a fascinating, mysterious and

controversial phenomenon which shatters much of our current notions of what constitutes reality.

"The Dalai Lama once pointed out that the devastation of the planet's ecology was destroying not only the habitat of plants and animals but the realms in which spirits reside as well," writes Dr. Mack in *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens* (Scribner's, 1994, \$22). "Perhaps this has left them no choice but to manifest in our world, to appear to us in the only 'language' that remains to us, the language of the physical world."

It is through his introduction to "the abduction phenomenon" over four years ago, when he met New York artist and UFO researcher Budd Hopkins,



author of two groundbreaking books, *Missing Time* (1981) and *Intruders* (1987), that the at-first highly skeptical Dr. Mack started his own clinical research and discovered an ecological connection to a subject which he believes has a profound impact on the true nature of human identity, reality and the cosmos.

In his own exploration of this intriguing phenomenon, which he found involved a range of individuals without delusions, fantasies and psychological disturbances, Dr. Mack discovered a far-

reaching challenge to "the Western, Newtonian/Cartesian, or materialistic/dualist scientific paradigm of reality."

"What the abduction phenomenon has led me to see is that we participate in a universe or universes that are filled with intelligences from which we have cut ourselves off, having lost the senses by which we might know them," Dr. Mack writes. "It has become clear to me that our restricted worldview or paradigm lies behind most of the major destructive patterns that threaten the human future—mindless corporate acquisitiveness that perpetuates vast differences between rich and poor and contributes to hunger and disease; ethnonational violence resulting in mass killing which could grow into a nuclear holocaust; and ecological destruction on a scale that threatens the survival of the Earth's living systems."

Dr. Mack has been involved in peace and environmental causes. During the 1980s he founded a center at Harvard for dealing with nuclear arms race issues, now known as the Center for Psychology and Social Change, similar to a sister organization in New York City, the Center for PsychoSocial Issues in the Nuclear Age. He is the author of other books, including the 1977 Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Prince of Our Disorder*, a biography of T.E. Lawrence. However, the ecological concerns that come through the accounts of "abductees" or experiencers, as he prefers to call them, emerged on their own without prompting by Dr. Mack, when he conducts hypnotic regressions on them.

He has seen over 100 people, 76 of whom he considers experiencers. In his book, just published this month, he gives the accounts of 13 experiencers who came to him in search of answers for mysterious anomalies that seem to be part of their lives. They may have had an odd dream, unusual body marks and scars that could not be explained, seen UFOs in the skies or strange lights inside their rooms, experienced a period of missing time that could not be logically accounted for, or seen unusual, nonhuman beings or forms that frightened or intrigued them.

The experiencers are profoundly affected by their encounters, some experiencing the traumas of losing control, isolation and estrangement from others, "ontological shock," and unusual fears, pains or undefinable feelings. Dr. Mack focuses a lot on the transformational aspects of the encounters on the experiencers, "which can expand our sense of ourselves and our understanding of reality, and awaken our muted potential as explorers of a universe rich in mystery, meaning and intelligence."

The exploration of their experiences and encounters yield transformational personal growth, Dr. Mack notes strongly. Experiencers sometimes feel terror and rage at being taken by these visitors, but then acknowledges the reality of the beings, which starts a "more reciprocal relationship." Experiencers

may accept the "aliens" as "intermediaries" between realities, feel that their true "home" is elsewhere, remember "past life experiences," achieve a new sense of human identity with expanded consciousness—not so focused in the body, sense a dual "human/alien identity" and are opened to realities that transcend our notions of space and time.

Whitley Strieber, who wrote of his encounters with "the Visitors" in the best-selling book *Communion* (followed by *Transformation and Majestic*) in 1987, went through the terror and rage into a more transformational stage. In his first "Communion" newsletter in 1989 he wrote, "whether we know it or not, (humans have) a relationship with the Visitors. But the relationship is presently one-sided...Working in groups, supporting one another, I am convinced that we can create conditions that will provide the basis for a fruitful association with them." In recognizing and forming this relationship, Dr. Mack's experiences may be discovering that they—and their human identities—have unknown dimensions to their lives which connect to fields of consciousness which expand the concepts of being human.

A major factor in this Cosmic Ecology of "life expansive" seems to be the ecological connection of Earth's environmental woes. In the accounts of Dr. Mack's book there are strong, repeated informational experiences about the dire state of Mother Earth. Many times experiencers are shown scenes and visions of environmental destruction and an Earth in revolt against human abuse through earthquakes and polar shifts.

Arthur (all names in the book are first names only

"Our use of modern technology to tear resources from the Earth is bringing the biosphere to the brink of collapse," he writes: "We are a species out of harmony with Nature, gone berserk in the indulgence of its desires at the expense of other living beings and the Earth has given us life...For international business the world seems at times to be nothing more than a giant market to be divided up among the cleverest entrepreneurs."

to protect experiencers' privacy) sees a "blob" like a "great water balloon, black and huge that will cover the whole planet and suffocate it...and just kill everything." Arthur is very environmentally aware and active in his life. His companies bring in money which he uses to fund specific philanthropies involved in environmental work. He believes that his environmental activism is related to his UFO encounters.

Ed, a Massachusetts technician, awoke to his UFO experiences in his 40's and contacted Dr. Mack, after having flashbacks involving extraterrestrials. Ed told Dr. Mack that he always felt close to nature and the woods, did meditation and studied Eastern philosophies. With a strong empathy for the environment, Dr. Mack notes that Ed tried to find ways to integrate his ecological concerns with his scientific and technological talents and work. His ecological sensibilities and sensitivities made him feel a special responsibility to preserving the environment.

Using hypnosis, Dr. Mack hypnotically regressed Ed to an encounter he had in 1961. (This was two months before the famous Betty and Barney Hill incident in New Hampshire, the first U.S. abduction case, documented in the 1966 book *The Interrupted Journey* by John Fuller.) Taken from his family's cabin, the younger Ed experienced various procedures aboard a craft, including the forced taking of a sperm sample, a technique common in many encounters. But it was the informational exchange that highlighted Ed's experience.

The regression account, Dr. Mack reports, "was filled with apocalyptic images" given to Ed telepathically in "allegorical terms." These imaged ecological "eco-spiritual and emotional instability." Ed sees "towering, pounding surf, shifting plates, instability, Earth shuddering in anguish, crying, weeping at the stupidity of humans losing contact with the inner soul of their being...Volcanic eruptions are a sign...Convulsions of the Earth...shunning us off. They will get rid of parts of us."

A female alien being talks to Ed, telling him that he "can talk to the Earth, can sense the Earth, can sense the interplay of Nature...Listen to the Earth. You can hear the Earth. You can hear the anguish of the spirits." This female being, with a large head and huge, deep eyes, tells Ed that he has a gift of

SUSAN SHERMAN & DANGEROUS DIANE SPODAREK

MONDAY, MAY 16, 8 p.m.

Susan Sherman, a poet, playwright & editor of IKON magazine will read from her memoir of the poetry scene and radical movement of the Sixties.

Dangerous Diane Spodarek is a poet, prose writer, video & performance artist and cartoonist (Vulva TV) who publishes a regular column in Downtown.



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intuitions and hunches, of being in tune "to the music of Nature, the exquisite sounds of Nature." Ed actually began to see, during the experience, "mirthful, playful spirits" that are "energy forms" who are part of Nature's realm, which seem elfin-like. Many were healthy, but some seemed distorted or harmed by human destructive attitudes and actions against Nature. Rebalance is the urgent necessity.

Ed wondered if his beautiful Earth would be totally destroyed, then felt it was "more a reconstitution." He told Dr. Mack that "humans have to learn how to work on this planet with the laws of Nature and not to plunder the Earth." Human disharmony with Nature, the beings convey, will have disastrous consequences, whatever the exact nature of the visions they convey to experiencers.

Like Ed, with his deep sensitivity to the Earth, Dave, a health care worker from Pennsylvania, is an experiencer with a deep feeling for the woods, Nature and animals, who worked to open his Chi energy ("a force which pervades the universe from which reality arises," he told Dr. Mack). Dr. Mack reports that Dave lives in "a universe filled with mystery and strange intelligence." He is very much drawn to the Pemsit Mountain, a traditional Indian place of power and magic.

In a regression by Dr. Mack, Dave recalled Native Americans as recognizing the reality of alien beings and "looked upon them (the beings) as 'guardians' or protectors of Nature." Dave, a down-to-earth man by Dr. Mack's description, intensely tried to resist accepting the reality of his encounters.

Dr. Mack writes of these encounters which involve an intelligence from outside consensus reality as not "making much sense in the framework of the Western ontological paradigm, which has no place for unseen forces of Nature, intelligences in the cosmos that guard our destiny, beings that enter our

(continued on next pg.)

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world in physical form but are not of it, past lives, or even UFOs themselves." It should be noted that Dr. Mack and MIT physicist David Pritchard put together a five day comprehensive, intensive Abduction Study Conference at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in June 1992, closed to the press and public. Many of the issues related to the UFO experience were discussed and the proceedings will soon be published. This is very serious stuff, for reality is much more than we could ever comprehend.

The reality of Earth is that it is a planet very much in trouble. Put all the ecological ills together, and the diagnosis is that the biosphere is dying. In the very years that humanity reaches out into space, the home planet from which it cosmically leaps from is dying. In this Space Age, some unknown intelligence flies through our skies, enters our homes, draws circles in crop fields, plays in our dreams and takes some of us through the equivalent of a shaman's vision quest which lets experiencers travel between the worlds and report back.

"Even as they (experiencers) are saddened, and even become hopeless about the ecology of the planet and the fate of the Earth's lifeforms, they feel that their experiences are, ultimately, about preserving life and that they must do something toward that end," Dr. Mack states. "Each abductee discovers that he or she is but one intelligent being in a universe, populated with various other entities that are not 'supposed to' exist. Human beings are not the lords of the Earth, they realize, but children of the cosmos who must find their way to live in harmony with all matter of creatures on the Earth and elsewhere." These nonhuman beings are puzzled by human destructiveness and aggressiveness, Dr. Mack notes.

Perhaps these nonhuman intelligences, as advanced beings who are participants in a breathtaking cosmic ecology which encompasses the universe and beyond, have already declared humanity an endangered species on the verge of inevitable extinction. Dr. Mack suggests that explains some of their sudden intrusions into our world, taking humans far away from their consensus reality. British scientists, in 1992, released a study indicating that the male sperm count, worldwide, was down 50 percent from normal. Their theory was that it had something to do with pollution. If true that the sperm count is down that much, it is extraordinary and ominous.

The abduction phenomenon includes the creation of hybrids, half human/half alien children reported in many accounts. Budd Hopkins, who has researched abductions for over 15 years and has uncovered the hybrid phenomenon, reported concern over some reports from his subjects of an impending mass human die-off, which he told listeners at a UFO conference in New Hampshire in September 1992. In Dr. Mack's book, experiencer Joe reports that the human species is in great trouble and that the hybrids are being created to preserve the human species in a new lifeform. Whitley Strieber would call this part as witnessing "evolution at work."

Sara, a graduate student who has been hypnotically regressed by Dr. Mack, felt she was "receiving information linking other entities to issues of planetary preservation and ecological transitions, especially polar and geomagnetic reversals." Under hypnosis, she saw species merger at work, and later sensed more to the meaning of ecology than biospheric balance.

Her encounters conceive of "an expanded notion

of ecology or 'environment' to bring about a paradigm shift from a consciousness of division and separation to one of openness, creativity and unconditional love."

Carlos, a father of three children, is an artist, writer and poet whose works incorporate a love for Nature. He honors the feminine in Nature, and feels that his UFO-related experiences have helped him "create and develop ecological values." Dr. Mack notes that Carlos' "concern is for wisdom in action about the Earth, other species, and the ecological universe within which the Earth and its inhabitants are a part." Carlos, himself, said, "Earth is a garden, and these creatures are gardeners in our sense." Carlos is an eco-activist and helped found the Green Party of Tennessee.

Carlos adds, "If human beings were empathic, and learn to identify with that which is not themselves, then they will be less predatory and destructive." He has seen the Earth through "alien eyes." In a hypnotic session with Dr. Mack, he recalls himself as a small being viewing the Earth with his own "large luminous eyes...and I was seeing this beautiful paradise, Earth, in every direction."

Dr. Mack, in bringing forth this information conveyed to experiencers about Earth's destruction from human environment abuse, feels that this is not simply a device used by manipulative aliens intent on testing humans and deceiving them into being concerned for the Earth, as the aliens fulfill their own agendas, whatever they might be. He feels it is far more significant and meaningful for human destiny and the fate of the Earth.

"Our use of modern technology to tear resources from the Earth is bringing the biosphere to the brink of collapse," he writes. "We are a species out of harmony with Nature, gone berserk in the indulgence of its desires at the expense of other living beings and the Earth that has given us life...For international business the world seems at times to be nothing more than a giant market to be divided up among the cleverest entrepreneurs."

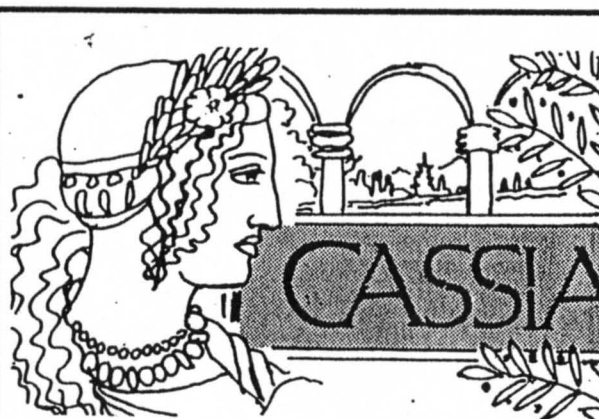
But more than this marketplace, exploitative consciousness which is destroying the Earth, Dr. Mack notes that "there are psychospiritual vested interests that resist change and that are perhaps even more powerful than these material ones." These forces seem intent on remaining in control when confronted with the uncertainties that the UFO mystery places into the world's psyche. SETI (the government's Search for Extraterrestrial Life program) looks through the tiny door of limited radio technology, in hopes that some alien lifeform is using radio signals on a distant world.

"Mystery and the sense of not knowing are antithetical to the need to maintain control and seem, at times, to inspire such terror that we fear that we might blow apart, like the frog in the Tibetan story when confronted with a universe too vast to comprehend," Dr. Mack speculates. "This might explain why it is the intellectual and political elite in our culture that seems most deeply wedded to perpetuating the materialistic view of reality." It is time for the elite to give up their false ownership of the planet. That change is coming, no matter what the materialistic forces do, for there are agencies at work and at play in the cosmic ecology that will stun, amaze and shock humanity.

The implications for human consciousness, the planet's future and the quantum leap in our view of reality are immense beyond words. The preparations are well underway for the greatest revolution in worldviews ever for the human species, as the truth of UFOs and the vast, subtle nonhuman intelligence presence on Earth finally emerges into human consciousness. Dr. Mack, building on the groundbreaking research of others, has done a vital service by courageously bringing his book to the public. He has truly gone boldly where no one has gone before, bringing out more information about this phenomenon, which has played in our skies and homes for almost 50 years, and exploring its significance.

Being a participant-researcher of the UFO experience, this columnist concurs with the research and suggestions of Dr. Mack, and wishes him well in the face of an expected storm of controversy that may well accompany his book. There is much in the book beyond the ecological implications which the reader will find endlessly fascinating.

The ultimate source and origins of these non-human visitors remain unknown. Their UFOs will not need to land on the White House lawn. Dr. Mack calls the way this amazing intelligence works as "subtler." He says that "its method is to invite, to remind, to permeate our culture...and to open our consciousness in a way that avoids a conclusion...It is for us to embrace the reality of the phenomenon and to take a step toward appreciating that we live in a universe different from the one in which we have been taught to believe."



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