

WORLD

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NIXON LEGACY: Of course they were not planned as posthumous works, but two upcoming books will give poignant insight to the legacy of Richard Nixon. *Beyond Peace* is the former president's post-Cold War commentary. Due out from Random House later this month (\$21), the book's page proofs arrived at Nixon's office on the day of his stroke. *Haldeman Diaries* is the journal of White House chief of staff Bob Haldeman's years in the Nixon White House, 1969-1973. Due

ARTSWATCH

in June from Putnam (\$27.50), the book contains Haldeman's previously unpublished day-to-day notations on Watergate and the end of the Vietnam war. Haldeman, a Christian Scientist, died suddenly last November at 67 after he refused medical treatment for a stomach ailment.

SOUND LEGACY: This month Myrrh/Word release *Strong Hand of Love*, a tribute to Mark Heard, the Christian singer-songwriter who died from a heart attack suffered after a 1992 concert. The CD will feature contemporary Christian artists, including

Grammy winner Kevin Smith of DC Talk, Victoria Williams, Bruce Cockburn, Phil Keaggy, Pierce Pettis, The Choir, and others.

ALIEN LOGIC: John E. Mack is a Harvard psychiatrist who won respect in literary circles and a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of T. E. Lawrence (*The Prince of Our Disorder*, 1976). Apparently this reputation is what carried the author to a six-figure advance for his newest book, the sensationalist-sounding *Abduction: Human Encounter with Aliens*. (Scribners, \$22). Mack's work will elevate reports of outer-space creatures. He says he was attracted to the subject by the similarities among the 87 "abductees" he interviewed. "Based on this data, I don't feel that saying something real is happening that is not explainable is particularly risky," he said. Mack has had a few of his own near-alien encounters: He told *Esquire* that in one "past life experience"—attained by separating his consciousness from his body, he said—he was a 16th-century Russian forced to watch while a band of Mongols decapitated his four-year-old son.

NOTHING SUBTLE ABOUT IT: American glamour magazines are coy about betraying their narcissistic attitude toward marriage and divorce; not so a new French magazine called *Divorce*. It features quizzes and how-to articles to ease the split for unhappy couples. The French divorce rate has tripled in the last decade, and magazine director Jean-Michel Pascali, who has been divorced three times, is upbeat: "We can say divorce is a positive experience, because afterward, you can meet someone." —MINDY BELZ

