

Letters

Haunted by Nixon and aliens.

se Horrors'

has faithfully summarized Nixon's "Nixon: A Life" which is perfectly entitled. Judis, too, has a similar presentation of the his-

serve a response. an embarrassment to friends; it is, most of all, a sea of scholarship. First, made little use of the except for those conveyed by a very grateful subject the last 20 years of his life at his history should be visited extensively with he proved to be an former President.

starts Nixon's Watergate on Len Colodny and "Silent Coup." To be that book simply lacks and credibility; further, the very elaborate and developed by two Committees, the Watergate force and various other agencies.

ontends that the "bad" only as a result of his death in 1967 and the Kennedy and Johnson. Really? And what of against Jerry Voorhis in against Helen Gahagan The 1952 campaign and e redbaiting of the Tru- ation? Mr. Judis has rained Roger Morris's early years in the "pan- books — now joined by rding to Mr. Judis. But lem is that Mr. Morris's orhis campaign, for ex- t 180 degrees from Mr. n.

nt, Mr. Judis agrees with "neither the Watergate e cover-up should have 's resignation." After of researching my book Watergate," I find this final campaign — his story — Nixon apparent- nduced historical amne- n and Mr. Judis. Nixon because he was going to

He had lost support d spectrum of partisan- y. Do the author and the believe that "Watergate" stitutional violations be-



SCOTT L. LIPPARD

Close Encounters of the Absurd Kind?

To the Editor:

James S. Gordon's review of John E. Mack's "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens" (May 1) is as signal a failure in assessing the book as it is apparently a fine success in describing it. (At once, let me admit that I have not yet read Dr. Mack's work, but I must also say at the start that I know the book's subject fairly well. I have been a student of U.F.O.'s for more than 40 years.)

It is always a signal failure when, in the very act of criticizing someone for missing the mark as to methodological and analytical standards, one fails to meet those standards oneself. Thus does Dr. Gordon perform. He peppers Dr. Mack with phrases like "cases . . . don't provide," "dearth of material," "don't have enough information" and "sketchy," but he himself doesn't provide us with so much as a sentence that seriously considers at least the possibility that the stories about abduction by aliens may actually involve aliens. (In fact, he addresses neither possibility nor improbability.) This egregious omission at the heart of the matter does not adorn his reprimands for lack of balance and thoroughness.

With grandiose condescension in

his concluding paragraph, Dr. Gordon pats Dr. Mack on the head for "enlarging the domain and generosity of the psychiatric enterprise." What if the abduction story has nothing to do with "the psychiatric enterprise"?

JAMES T. ANDERSON
Oakland, Calif.

To the Editor:

Do you think your readers are a bunch of morons? The Book Review provides us with one of the few reviewers who could ever take "Abduction" seriously. This book is the end result of the hysteria brought on by a small but influential group in the psychiatric profession who have thrust the recovered-memory theory upon the American people with such disastrous results. The reviewer, one of these unbelievably misguided psychiatrists, tells us that even if the memories of abduction by aliens are untrue, it may be because they are "disguised memories of sexual or physical abuse."

I think all your editors should have a reality check because your level of tolerance for the absurd is too great for any newspaper, much less The New York Times.

ROBERT LIGON
La Crescenta, Calif.

Reader, He Married Her

To the Editor:

Although this must be the 300th letter you've received about V. S. Naipaul's stump-the-band literary quest ("V. S. Naipaul in Search of Himself: Conversation," by Mel Gussow, April 1), as a professor of French literature, I am compelled to set the record straight.

Although Louis Malle was the only guest about whom Mr. Naipaul could say, "At least someone knows an answer," that answer was as infelicitous as the question. For not only does Swann never tell Odette that she is "not my type" (he mutters these words to himself, in the presence only of his barmaid), more important, he does not "disparage" his mistress at all — he marries her. If Mr. Naipaul and Mr. Malle had read just a bit farther in the work which "Swann's Way" is but a small part of, they would have known this. But perhaps not knowing is itself a Proustian kind of knowledge, desirable as long as it eludes us.

ELIZABETH M. ROCHER

The End of History

To the Editor:

In Martin E. Marty's tepid, unconvincing review of "Apocalypse: On the Psychology of Fundamentalism in America" by Charles B. Strozier (May 8), he refutes Mr. Strozier's claim that fundamentalism is "unsteady" and that apocalypticists use millennial beliefs to address their "inner divisions" as they "yearn for big-bang futures." What patronizing sense! I am an evangelical (or, to use the pejorative term, a "fundamentalist") who takes biblical revelation seriously and literally (with recognition of obvious symbolism) in its teaching about the denouement of human history in apocalyptic events climaxing in the return of the Messiah in judgment and redemption. To demean sane people who believe in scriptural prophecy as maladjusted and insecure seekers after wish fulfillment or as some kind of David Koresh-style Waco whackos is both condescending and inaccurate.

ROBERT L. CLAYTON
Arroyo Grande,

Corrections

A review on May 1 about "The Pursuit of the Whole: The First Edition," by Frederick Rolfe, was characterized as a I. A. Sumner th-

The spectacle of G. Gordon Liddy and also is said of him will follow those damn-