

KANSAS CITY FYI FOR YOUR INFORMATION

LOOK FOR

Preview

Another Patsy Cline show comes to Kansas City.



TAKE
Ten



HOME & GARDEN

Garden-variety vegetables, including carrots, potatoes and onions, can be turned into unusual houseplants.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1995

SECTION E

STAR Gazing



Pitt

Actor **Brad Pitt** has enough sex appeal to make even lesbians take notice.

Musician **Melissa Etheridge** reveals: "One night a few of us, shall we say, lesbians were in the hot tub watching the guys play basketball in the pool. We were staring at Brad, and we all agreed he could change a woman's mind."

See Page 5 for more Stargazing.

YOUR Turn

Your Turn usually focuses on a topic of the day. Instead, this week we'd like you to vote for one of two comics here: **Crabby Road**, a new cartoon, and **Real Life**. Which would you prefer to read each day? Call StarTouch at 889-7827 and enter 5103.

REAL Life



Pregnancy causes morning sickness long after the baby is born.

BY GARY WISE AND LANCE ALDRICH/Universal Press Syndicate

CRABBY Road

It's Friday the 13th! Time to make bad luck for as many people as I can.



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LOOKING Back

1864: Composer Stephen Foster died in a New York hospital.

1941: Novelist James Joyce died in Zurich, Switzerland.

1989: New York City subway gunman Bernhard H. Goetz was sentenced to one year in prison for possessing an unlicensed gun that he used to shoot four youths he said were about to rob him. (He was freed the following September.)

KC Calendar

For a list of events, see the Preview section

WEIRD News

Last year the government of Switzerland announced that its value-added tax would apply to sales by prostitutes and that beginning in 1995, customers should be supplied itemized receipts showing the 6.5 percent tax.

For more strange stuff, call StarTouch at 816/889-7827 and enter 5995.



Depression-era quilts surround Anne Jones, curator of collections at the Johnson County Museum of History. Jones is holding the dress Bertha Garrett is wearing at left in the photo below. It was made in the 1930s from feedsack cloth.

BEVERLY BYNUM/The Star

1930s QUILTS

more than a stitch in time

By ALICE THORSON
Art Critic

The Depression doesn't seem so depressing when viewed through the colorful and engaging quilts produced in the era.

Frugality, invention and a spirit of "making do" mark the 14 Depression-made quilts on view in the Johnson County Museum of History's Seventh Annual Quilt Show, which opens Saturday.

All of the pieces on display are heirlooms belonging to area residents, who have sent their family memories along with their quilts.

"There are all kinds of stories," said Anne Jones, the museum's curator of collections and organizer of the exhibit.

A cloth handbag and coverlet made from tiny squares of patterned silk represent a wife's effort to salvage what she could from her husband's necktie business.

See **QUILTS**, E-3, Col. 1



At right is a close look at a section of a Sunbonnet Sue quilt made in 1935 by Eula Cates of Blair, Okla., for the hope chest of Verna Zinn Tolson of Olathe (right in above photo).



Photo courtesy of the Johnson County Museum

DEPRESSION DISPLAY IS AN
EXHIBIT OF INVENTION, SPIRIT
AND FAMILIAL LOVE



Photo courtesy of Verna Tolson

Alien abductions? Anything's possible

Harvard professor
to speak tonight

By ERIC ADLER
Staff Writer

Don't tell Harvard psychiatrist John E. Mack that alien abductions — being spirited away by body-probing, malevolent extraterrestrials — make no earthly sense.

He knows that. He knows it sounds ridiculous, scientifically impossible, utterly "unreal."

But as Hamlet said to his compatriot when he saw the ghost of his murdered father: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

That is why, at 7:30 tonight at the Unity Temple on the Plaza, Mack will compel his audience to consider an entirely different realm of reality — one that includes aliens who not only routinely abduct earthlings, but also who have sometimes operated on and even sexually molested them.

Sound nuts? A lot of people think it is. Even Unity's Cornerstone Foundation, which, along with the local Psychic Studies Institute, is sponsoring Mack's visit, had reservations about bringing him to town.

"We thought long and hard if we wanted alien abductions associated with the work we do here," said Jamie Rich, Cornerstone's managing director. "But we thought if this is going to happen, it should happen where people can learn and decide for themselves."

Part of the foundation's goal is provide a public forum for compelling, sometimes controversial issues.

In effect, this respected professor at Harvard Medical School's Cambridge Hospital, a versatile man who once won a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Lawrence of Arabia, and is now causing controversy and consternation with his 1994 book *Abduction*, is asking people to open their minds as wide as a mysterious universe, or parallel universe, will allow.

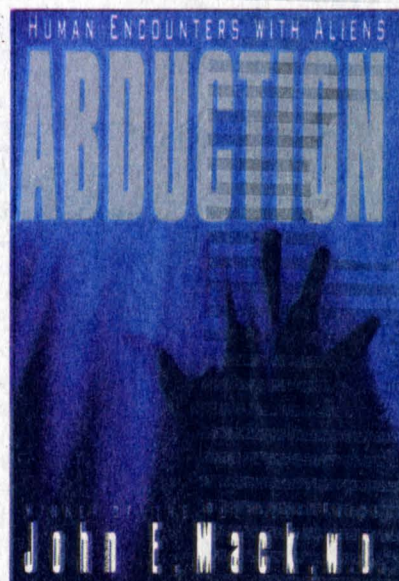
"I was raised as a very secular rationalist," Mack said in a telephone interview this week. That means he was as skeptical as anyone when five years ago he began the psychiatric evaluation, mostly through hypnosis, of hundreds of alleged alien abductees, whose stories are the basis of his book.

What has brought him scorn and derision is his professional belief that many of the stories are true.

Abductees are not lying, are not crazy, are not — as critics contend — hallucinating, fantasizing or suffering an odd sleep disorder or sexual abuse. They're telling the truth.

That the stories defy scientific reality.

See **ABDUCTION**, E-2, Col. 4



HELOISE *Hints*

While at a friend's house for dinner, I watched as she put aluminum foil in her microwave. I was always told never to put foil in the microwave. What gives?

— Deidre Lee, Roanoke, Va.

It is safe to use foil in a microwave if you use it properly. According to Cici Williamson, past president of the International Microwave Power Institute, "It can be safe to use aluminum foil for 'shielding"

and to microwave food in foil containers such as those in which frozen foods are packaged."

It's important to understand that if one metal touches another inside the oven, it can cause "arcing," or sparks that may start a fire. Because the microwave oven's walls are metal, don't place a foil pan or foil-covered food within 1 inch of the walls. If your model has metal shelves or a metal turntable, don't put food in foil pans on them.

When using aluminum foil for shielding (covering part of the food to prevent overcooking), don't cover more than one-

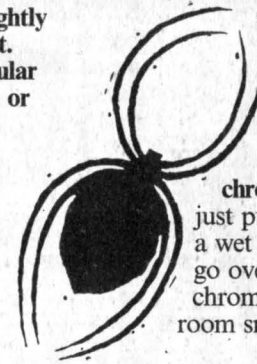
fourth of the food. Crimp the foil tightly to the food so no foil edges stick out.

For information about your particular model, consult your owner's manual or call the manufacturer.

Most have toll-free 800 numbers. When you call, be sure to have the make and model number handy.

— Heloise

It can be embarrassing when you have company and you see a cobweb in a conspicuous place. I think the easiest way to find cobwebs is to use my husband's large flashlight, sending a beam of light



around the room, especially in high corners.

— Frances F. Stein, Orrs Island, Maine

Aftershave will shine the chrome in the bathroom. I just put a little aftershave on a wet washcloth and use it to go over the faucets. The chrome shines and the bathroom smells great.

— J.C., Durham, N.H.

King Features Syndicate

Jackson denies lawyers to sue

Jackson and the teen-ager, whose name wasn't disclosed. The reports are based on allegations by Victor Gutierrez, a freelance writer who claims he saw the tape. He said it was given to the boy's mother, who wants to sell it to Jackson. "Enough is enough," Jackson said in a statement. "I will no longer stand by and watch reckless members of the media try to destroy my reputation. I intend to protect myself and my family." Jackson attorney Howard Weitzman said the tape does not exist. There was no immediate reaction in the London tabloids. "Hard copy" senior correspondent Diane Mond said she stood by her reports.

His statement, released through Weitzman, Jackson said the whole thing was a lie. "I have instructed my attorneys to immediately file lawsuits against

those persons who continue to spread vicious lies and rumors about me in their attempts to make money, benefit their careers, sell papers or to get viewers to watch their programs," he said.

The tabloids said Los Angeles authorities had reopened the Jackson child-sex investigation. But prosecutors said the case remains closed.

"We have heard about the alleged tape. We have not seen it and we don't have it," said Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office. She added that prosecutors aren't searching for it.

Jackson, 36, settled a sex abuse lawsuit filed by a teen-age accuser in February 1994, reportedly for as much as \$15 million. Prosecutors said they didn't file charges because the boy, who was 13 when he made the accusations, would not cooperate with authorities after reaching the settlement.

ABDUCTION

Continued from E-1

ty, Mack merely said, "I can't help that. I can't help that it doesn't fit."

Abductee's stories are too similar, he said. Their experiences are too intense: operations, probing, molestation, being whisked away, returned.

"This is such a traumatic thing for people, we often say it is a club that nobody wants to belong to," Mack said. "But when someone takes the trouble to sit in the room with these people I work with, they come away shaking their heads and saying, 'I see what you mean. These people seem to be telling the truth.'"

Since it does defy reality — after all, the spaceships alone would have to travel the speed of light to get here in any reasonable time — Mack came to another conclusion: That our reality may not be the only reality.

"If you say, yes, it was an alien abduction, does that mean it happened in the physical reality as we know it? Not necessarily," Mack said. "This requires, it seems to me, that we stretch our notions of reality, of how the universe might work."

Discussion

John E. Mack will discuss alien abductions at 7:30 p.m. today at Unity Temple on the Plaza, 707 W. 47th St., as part of the Cornerstone Foundation series. Tickets cost \$15; call 561-1627 or Ticketmaster, 931-3330.

That means considering things such as parallel universes that can be crossed, or other states of existence. In some cultures, Mack asserts, the idea of being visited by other beings, "aliens" from spirit worlds, is not considered unusual at all.

"When we work in other cultures — Brazil, countries in Africa or with Native Americans — they experience these beings entering into our world and doing these abductions.

"But that is not shocking to them. That is not such an unusual experience to them. But we've excluded that type of experience from our perceptions."

All of which leads critics to say that believing Mack is to believe in fairy tales.

"He is making a claim that people are being abducted and manipulated

and operated on. Is it happening or not?" said Paul Kurtz, founder of *Skeptical Inquirer*, a magazine dedicated to the scientific investigation of claims of the paranormal. "If you can't find hard or strong evidence, objectifiable evidence, you ought to be skeptical about it.

"The odd thing is, he is taking his patients' reports as true. They are inner, they are subjective. They may be hallucinating. He has to distinguish between fantasy and reality."

This doesn't deny that there are millions of galaxies out there and other forms of life. But that beings are visiting Earth and abducting with humans, and raping them, Kurtz said, is an extraordinary claim and deserves harder evidence.

"To say it is another reality doesn't help us," he said. "If someone says they see a mermaid. I say, OK, let's drain the ocean to see them. To say you can't find them, they're in a different reality — that's a dodge."

Rich from Cornerstone said: "People ultimately have to decide these issues for themselves. They can sit on the fence and decide ultimately if they are true or not.

"Obviously something is happening in these people's lives that merits investigation. At least we're getting the opportunity to talk about that."