

Believers in alien visits find ally in psychiatrist

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JOHNSTON, R.I. — Rhode Islanders who believe they have had contact with beings from outer space have an ally in the Ivy League.

Thousands of Americans have recounted experiences with beings from outer space, mostly with a race called the "Grays," said a Harvard University psychiatrist at a gathering of UFO buffs.

But out of fear of "ridicule, harassment and scorn," most people never talk about their experiences, said John Mack.

Mack, who authored a book on human contact with aliens, spoke to an audience of about 90 people at the Pocasset Lodge Friday night. He told them he uses hypnosis to help people remember their experiences.

In "Abductions," Mack details several cases where people have been abducted by aliens and taken aboard a spacecraft for experiments. They usually recount lying on a table, paralyzed and surrounded by several aliens, he said.

Mack said "nobody really knows" what the extraterrestrials want.

Some people at the gathering, which was sponsored by the Rhode Island chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, recounted their own experiences with aliens.

The aliens, according to Mack, are 3½ to 5 feet tall with large, elongated eyes without pupils and having leathery skin with a gray hue.

"These are the most widely reported type of aliens," he said, referring to them as "Grays."

David Rubien, director of local UFO network, said there have been numerous reports of other types of aliens.

Throughout history, people have reported contact with "Blondes," a race of beings that are human in appearance, light hair and eyes and "angelic looking," Rubien said.

Just about every culture on Earth has reported contact with Grays or Blondes, said Mack, who has appeared on television talk shows, including Larry King's Oprah Winfrey's.

Mack said the fascination — and skepticism — with which people in Western cultures approach the topic of aliens isn't unique.

"When the Dutch colonized parts of Africa, the tribal peoples thought they were beings from the sky that were part of their tribal lore," he said.