

Alien abductions topic

By **WANDA T. FREELAND**

Special to The Times

WEBSTER — The Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER) will present an evening of dialogue with three experiencers of the "alien abduction" phenomenon on Feb. 28, at the Chester C. Corbin Library.

PEER claims that people around the world have described consistent experiences with beings "not of this Earth." Their stories present many more questions than answers.

In an exclusive telephone interview this week, Dr. John E. Mack, the Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Abduction* and the Founding Director of PEER, tried to answer some of those questions.

Dr. Mack has worked with around 100 people who believe they have been abducted by aliens. He has been researching this phenomenon in other countries, particularly in Brazil, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Mack began working with abductees early in 1990. He feels that these cases are of importance to "our view of ourselves, the nature of the universe and our relationship with the universe." He theorizes that cases recounted in the book involved beings from another dimension, rather than another planet.

Mack explained that although the abduction experiencers may at first think that the beings are extraterrestrial, "they later begin to realize that during these experiences space and time change and col-

lapse and disappear as ideas. They get the sense that these beings emerge from some other dimension."

"Scop marks" have been found on the bodies of many abductees. These gouged out areas in the flesh may be very small or, like one found on an African medicine man, large enough to "put a half-an-inch marble into."

Some people had visions of past-life experiences (suggestive of reincarnation) shown to them by the aliens. Mack said that for many of these people "this was not part of their belief system." These visions have caused them to become "more open" to the possibility of reincarnation.

Abductees feel quite distanced from the rest of society, Mack said, "because they know that they've had experiences which the society does not accept. Mack is pretty seasoned about being on these [talk] shows but he said some of the abductees who have appeared on television find that "it's quite disturbing to them what happens" when they decide to go public with their experiences.

Mack also wrote the preface to a book authored by Dr. David Jacobs.

Anyone interested in finding out more about PEER, UFOs and alien abduction is invited to attend the program scheduled Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Chester C. Corbin Library in Wester. Peter, one of the three abductees who will be there, is discussed in chapter 13 of Dr. Mack's book *Abduction*, which is available at the library.