

# Three recount close encounters with space aliens

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## Visits have brought dramatic change

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**WEBSTER** — Two men and a woman, who believe they had encounters with alien beings, revealed their life-changing experiences to about 60 people at the Chester C. Corbin Library Tuesday night.

Chris, Julia and Peter matter-of-factly described feeling terrified and questioning their sanity before reluctantly accepting that they were being visited regularly by beings from either another dimension or another planet.

The three speakers, who declined to be photographed, asked that their last names not be revealed. They said they live in Massachusetts, but not in this area, and they keep their experiences private, rarely mentioning them to anyone except some members of their immediate families.

### THEY WANT TO LEARN

Chris, 26, is single and works in a warehouse in Somerville. Julia is married with two school-age children, and works for the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research — PEER. Peter, who is in his late 30s and is also married, is a hotel manager. All three attend support groups with PEER, a non-profit project of the Center for Psychology and Social Change, which is an affiliate of Harvard Medical School. PEER is headed by its founder, John E. Mack, M.D., Harvard Medical School professor of psychiatry.

Chris, Julia and Peter's talk focused on the alien visitors' overall impact on their lives, not specifics of the visits. While they offered no guesses where the beings are from, they seemed certain the aliens wanted to learn about human life, and had taken samples from them to create hybrid offspring. They said the beings told them humans would destroy this planet within their lifetimes.

### 'DRAGGED ... BY MY FEET'

Of the three, Chris recalls having the experiences for the shortest length of time, beginning about three years ago. "When I first had this happen, I thought somebody

**'W**hen I first had this happen, I thought somebody had broken into my house with a spotlight behind him. And the next thing I knew I was being dragged out of bed by my feet.'

CHRIS, 26

had broken into my house with a spotlight behind him. And the next thing I knew I was being dragged out of bed by my feet," Chris said.

His first reaction wasn't that he had been abducted by aliens, but rather that he was suffering from a mental delusion. After having the experience repeatedly, Chris sought help from a therapist, with whose help he ruled out possible causes of delusions involving victimization.

Chris said that except for sometimes seeing a gray or blue being next to his bed, who sometimes performed painful procedures on him, his life was normal. "I went to work. I came home. I went to bed and something strange happened," he said. "I stopped going to my therapist. Things continued and they got pretty vivid."

Three weeks after discontinuing therapy, Chris received a letter from his therapist suggesting he see Dr. Mack at PEER. Still, Chris said, he was hoping for an organic diagnosis. "If it was something internal, I would have fixed it and moved on."

Like Julia and Peter, Chris was put through a battery of tests by Mack, who told Chris he had ruled out mental illness or organic disease. And like Julia and Peter, Chris started attending support groups through PEER. Finally, while listening to others describe what had happened to them, Chris found an explanation for his experiences.