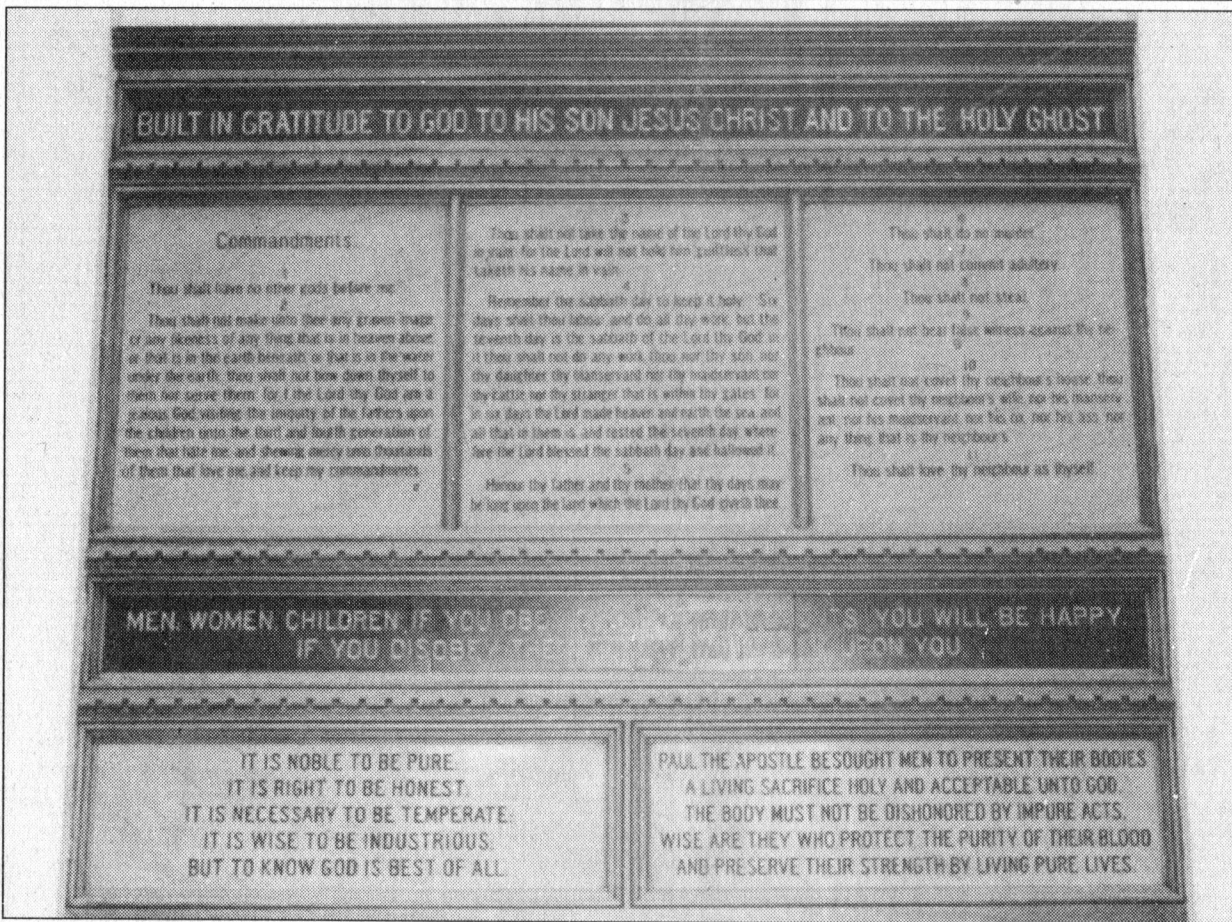


The Harvard Crimson

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

THIRTY CENTS



Crimson/Anna-Marie L. Tabor

An Arlington resident has threatened to sue the city due to the religious content of this public library tablet.

Public Library Target of Attack

Citizen: Church-State Division Violated

By C.R. MCFADDEN

Charging that religious inscriptions on the walls of the Cambridge Public Library breach separation of church and state doctrine, an Arlington resident has said he will sue the city of Cambridge unless the writings are removed immediately.

The tablets—which cover an entire wall of the library's old reading room—contain the Ten Commandments, several proverbs and quotes by St. Paul the Apostle.

The inscriptions are permanently carved into one wall of the library, which was built and donated to the city by Frederick Hastings Rindge in 1889. According to the building's stipulation that the tablets be "maintained forever in the same position or...some equally public and con-

spicuous position."

Eric T. Chester, 51, charged in an interview with *The Crimson* that the writings violate the First Amendment and the constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In particular, Chester cited one of the plaques which says the library was "built in gratitude to God, His Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost."

"It venerates God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost," Chester said. "That definitely proselytizes a certain religious viewpoint. It has no business being on the walls of a public building."

Chester also said that another tablet, which reads "Wise are they who protect the purity of their blood and preserve their strength by living

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Modern Journalistic Integrity Debated

By VICTOR T. CHEN

Four people who have been both journalists and politicians discussed the implications of the increasing tendency to cross between the two professions during a discussion last night at the Kennedy School of Government's Arco Forum.

"Like Alice stepping through the Looking Glass, the world where journalists become policy makers and policy makers become journalists can become disconcerting, if not for the actors, then for the audience," said Nieman Foundation Director Bill Kovach, who moderated the panel discussion.

About 90 people attended the panel, entitled "Through the Revolving Door: Journalism and Politics in

the Age of Spin."

The panelists were: Mickey Edwards, Kennedy School of Government lecturer and a former U.S. representative; Leslie Gelb, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and former New York Times columnist; Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, a former U.S. representative and former NBC correspondent; and John Mashek, an official in the Department of Justice during Robert Kennedy's administration who now works as political correspondent for *The Boston Globe* and is an IOP fellow.

Kovach began by speaking about the great numbers of former politicians who have turned to journalism, and vice versa, in the last few years.

"In about 10 minutes I came up with about 28 names [of those] who have passed through the revolving door," Kovach said.

Kovach cited people such as George Will, a former advisor to Ronald Reagan who writes a syndicated column, and John Sununu, former chief of staff for George Bush who now is a frequent commentator on CNN.

Kovach asked the panelists if they thought the "revolving door" between politics and the government was beneficial to the public.

Edwards said that there is "some benefit." Reporters who never worked in government often approach it with unwarranted cynicism, he said, while politicians-turned-journalists

"understand the process. They don't think there are secret deals behind every door."

Gelb said he agreed. "People in journalism don't understand what goes on in government. [The two] are different cultures," he said.

"The politician has different points of view, and mashes them together. The journalist deconstructs the mush," Gelb added.

Gelb said he didn't think that the revolving door was as much a problem for journalistic objectivity as the tendency of some journalists to befriend the people they cover.

"It makes it very difficult for you as a journalist to report on them," he

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System Needs Mikulski Says

Paul in Speech at HLS

life," said Mikulski, the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Administration, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies.

The current system, she said, makes it more profitable for the poor to receive public aid than to find employment because recipients lose their nutrition, Medicaid and housing subsidies as their incomes rise.

"If you step into work, it's like jumping off a cliff...because you lose your whole benefit package," Mikulski said.

The present welfare program also disrupts families because they prohibit women from receiving public assistance if their husbands live with them, she said.

"Republicans talk about family values, but [welfare rules] push them out of the picture," she said.

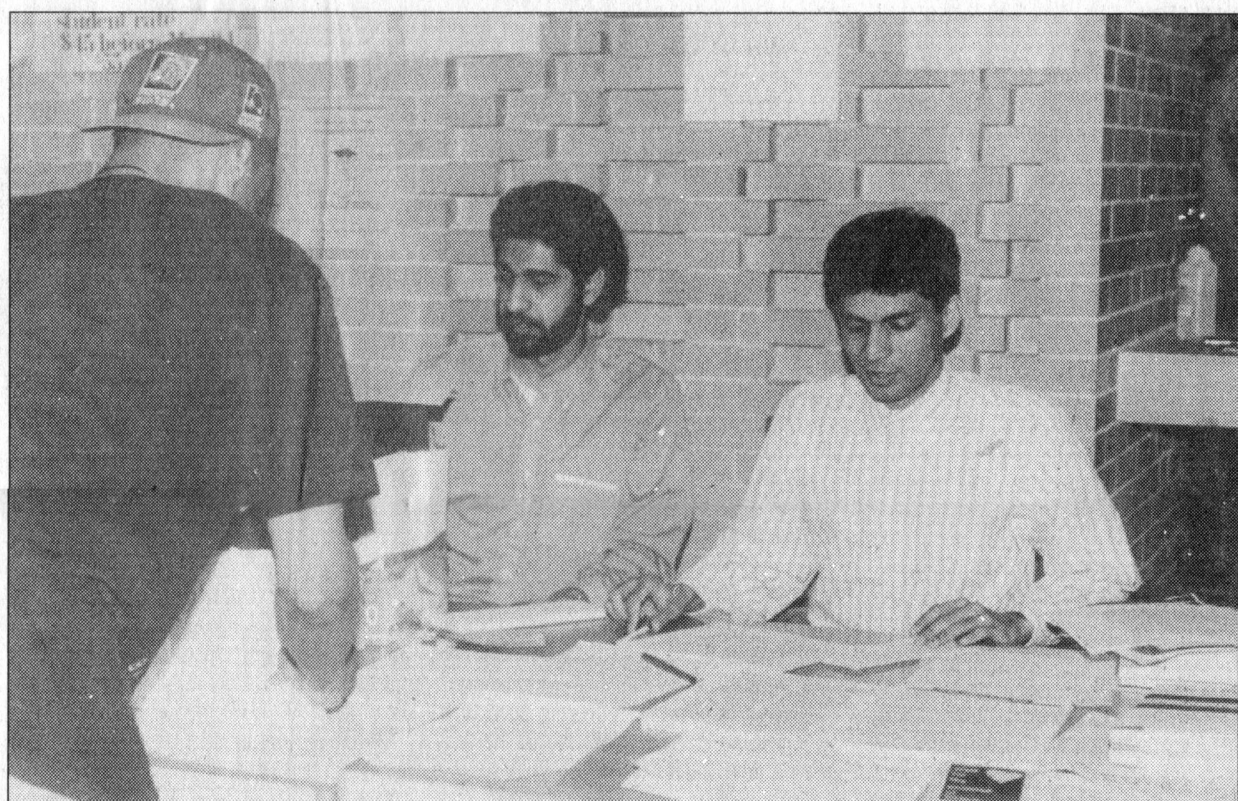
Additionally, the system penalizes families who must travel to work, Mikulski said, because it considers

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Crimson/Susan C. Horne

speaks at the Law School.



Crimson/Anna-Marie L. Tabor

Law School students table as part of Bosnia Awareness Week. The group will also sponsor speakers, movies and slide shows on human rights.

HLS Students Sponsor 'Bosnia Week'

Group Organized Speakers, Movies to Raise Awareness of Crisis

By ALISON D. OVERHOLT

Students at Harvard Law School (HLS) are taking a break from case studies and mock trials to try and increase their classmates' awareness of a very real crisis taking place thousands of miles from Cambridge.

Five HLS first-years are sponsoring Bosnian Education Week, which features guest speakers, movies and slide shows on human rights.

"[We are] trying to bring information to people who still find it difficult to fully understand the issues [surrounding the Bosnian crisis] even though they are intelligent people reading the newspapers," said Maria M. Green, one of the program's organizers.

Speakers will include David Rieff, author of *Slaughterhouse: Bosnia and The Failure of the West*; His Excellency Muhamed Sacirbey, Bosnian ambassador to the United Nations; Stephen Walker, executive director of the American Committee to Save Bosnia; and several representatives of other human rights groups.

The group is also collecting school

supplies at its table in Harkness Commons and at each event it holds this week in order to help offset shortages of educational materials in Bosnian schools.

The week is meant to have an "emphasis both on what Western governments can do to help with the Bosnian crisis, as well as on what Harvard students can do," Green said.

Handouts outlining possible courses of action are available at the program's table in Harkness Commons.

Representatives at the table noted that the group's members are divided on what action should be taken by foreign governments in Bosnia.

Shahzad A. Bahatti, who was tabling for the group yesterday, said he feels that students should rally for a lifting of the international arms embargo against the Bosnian government.

"If you're not going to help the victims, at least let the victims help themselves," Bahatti said.

Abid R. Qureshi, who was also

tabling for the group, said he agreed.

But others said lifting the embargo would result in more unnecessary killing and violence.

"I feel that there isn't enough information about whether lifting the embargo would bring about more killing in Yugoslavia," Green said.

The group is encouraging students to sign form letters addressed to President Clinton, United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and students' U.S. Representatives and Senators in Washington, D.C.

The letter to President Clinton urges him to lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina immediately, while the letter to Boutros-Ghali asks the Secretary General to support more funding for an investigation of alleged war crimes committed in Bosnia.

Chris W. Ford, a first year law student who signed a letter yesterday to Boutros-Ghali and to Senator Edward M. Kennedy '54-'56 (D-

Please see BOSNIA, page 7

Mack: Scientist Or Tale-Spinner?

By LANA ISRAEL

At first glance, Dr. John E. Mack would seem to be on top of the world.

A Pulitzer Prize winner, former chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and the individual who turned Cambridge Hospital's psychiatry department into one of the premier teaching institutions in the country, Mack has garnered high esteem for his work on topics ranging from nightmares and human conflict to teenage suicide.

Yet his interest in other worlds—namely alien abductions—has brought him both acclaim and extensive criticism.

Mack became something of a national celebrity after writing his best-selling book *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens*, which recounts the experiences of people claiming to have had encounters with extraterrestrial life.

Recently a secret Harvard "fact finding" committee was convened by Dean of the Medical School Daniel C. Tosteson '46 to evaluate Mack's research.

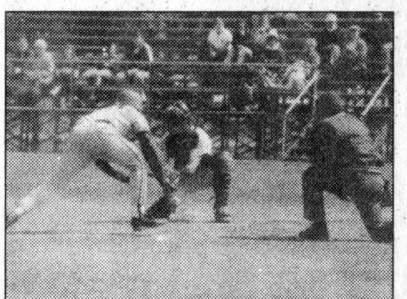
In 1983, Mack founded the Center for Psychology and Social Change at Cambridge Hospital, where he now works.

Originally founded to investigate the psychological dynamics of the Cold War, the Center now studies the psychological roots behind world problems in social, ecological and spiritual areas.

One project of the Center, the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research, deals almost exclusively with alien abduction experiences.

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INSIDE

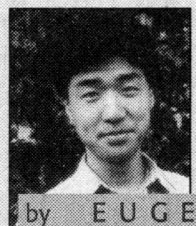


◆ **BASEBALL DROPS BEANPOT OPENER**
The Crimson booted seven balls as B.C. booted it from the Beanpot, 12-3. **Page 10.**

◆ **SCHOR FEATURED ON NPR SHOW**
Senior lecturer in the economics department spoke about her research on NPR's "The Connection" yesterday. **Page 8.**

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Science & Health



ON TECHNOLOGY

by EUGENE KOH

Spinning Your Own "Web"

Back in the old days, when kings and queens wanted to hear music, they summoned live musicians to play for them.

Today, when we want to hear music, we flip on the compact disc player.

Last year, when large companies began coming online in droves, they searched far and wide for computer programmers who knew HTML, the "hypertext markup language" used to develop World Wide Web pages.

Today, Microsoft Word Internet Assistant is here, so anyone can create Web pages as easily as creating a typical Word document. A knowledge of HTML is no longer necessary to create those colorful Web pages you see when you fire up Mosaic or Netscape.

The big "M" has taken a leap forward in Internet support with the release of this free add-on to Word. The concept is simple—with the release of Microsoft Word version 6.0 last year, it became possible to create exceedingly complex documents incorporating a wide variety of text styles, graphics, and even sound, using the word processor alone.

Someone thought it might be nice to harness this power so that the same tools could be used to create documents whose destination is the online "Web" page rather than the printed "paper" page.

The result: Word Internet Assistant, which Microsoft is making available free to the public via the World Wide Web (to download it yourself, use Mosaic or Netscape to open the URL <http://www.microsoft.com/pages/desktops/word/ia>).

All that is necessary to use Word Internet Assistant is an installed copy of Microsoft Word for Windows version 6.0a or later. (Public statements by Microsoft indicate that a Macintosh version of Word Internet Assistant is not likely to make it to market very soon, if ever.)

In essence, Word Internet Assistant turns Microsoft Word from a paper publishing system into an online publishing system.

The key to parlaying a Word document into a Web page is a new variant on the old "Save As..." command. This command, called "Save As Hypertext Markup," converts Word documents, including any special bells and whistles like custom formatting, to equivalent HTML code which can be "spun" onto the Web via a Web server (a computer specially configured to handle Web requests from other computers around the world).

It is this latter step of what one might aptly call "spinning pages onto the Web" that makes Word Internet Assistant especially useful to Harvard students, since, unlike most folks in the general public, we all have direct access to a Web server: the "fas" machine.

In particular, if you have a "fas" account, you can set up your very own Web page by creating a directory called "public_html" within your home directory and making it "world-executable." (By "world-executable," I mean that anyone on the Internet—anywhere in the world—can execute files located in that directory.)

Any HTML documents that you prepare with Word Internet Assistant can be placed in your "public_html" directory on "fas." So long as the HTML documents are made "world-readable," anyone on the Web can access them as Web pages.

A word of caution, however, in making files "world-readable" and especially in making directories "world-executable": by changing the access rights to your "fas" files and directories in this manner, you are unlocking the already-flimsy virtual "door" separating your home on "fas" from the rest of the Internet. So be careful.

For more details about how to set up your own Web page, visit <http://hcs.harvard.edu/news/fas-web.html> on the World Wide Web (this site is maintained by the Harvard Computer Society).

Until next time, happy Webbing.

Eugene Koh '96-'97 is Remote Staff Manager, Media Services, at America Online, Inc. He may be reached online at ekoh@fas.harvard.edu. His ramblings will appear for the final time this semester on Wednesday, May 3.



ReMacking REALITY

Med School Professor Dr. John E. Mack's Alien Abduction Research Remains Controversial

MACK, from page 1

Why Aliens?

Dr. Mack's fairly recent interest in abduction phenomena has left his colleagues "puzzled." Malkah L. Notman, acting chair of psychiatry at the Cambridge Hospital, says, "People who have known him for a long time feel both loyal to him and puzzled by what this particular interest represents."

Mack says he has held long-standing interests in unconsciousness, consciousness and "the depths of the psyche." It was in the course of pursuing these interests that Mack stumbled into the realm of alien abductions.

"I became interested in the work of Stanislov Grof, who had extended our understanding of the human unconscious through the use of non-ordinary states for consciousness for exploring the psyche," Mack says.

Grof, who initially used the hallucinogen LSD in his research, developed a drug-free technique for exploring the psyche.

Through the use of rapid breathing, powerful music and mandalas, Grof's holotropic breathing technique allows people to "explore the deeper realm of the psyche," according to Mack, who now uses this method with some of his patients.

According to Mack, Grof was also interested in "spiritual emergencies" involving various personal crises surrounding life and death, addiction problems, spirituality and UFO encounters. After Grof sent him an article on UFOs, Mack says, "I kept asking myself: Is this true? Are these UFOs really coming?"

Soon thereafter someone who was also studying Grof's work introduced Mack to Bud Hopkins, a New York artist who had been studying the abduction phenomenon for decades.

"My first reaction was that if he took this seriously there must be something wrong with him and that this is some kind of psychosis or psychiatric problem," Mack recalls.

Yet Mack's opinions about both Hopkins and the abduction phenomena changed after he began seeing abductees professionally in the winter of 1990. Mack, who dedicated *Abduction* to Hopkins, says, "It soon became apparent and remains clear to me that these are not experiences that can be explained in a purely psychodynamic or psychosocial way. They do involve some kind of actual encounter with some sort of entity."

"Now whether those entities are literally physical beings in our material universe or whether they represent some kind of cross-over from another dimension I really don't know," Mack says.

The Abductions

Most abduction reports follow a similar scenario. According to Dominique Callimanopoulos, the coordinator for Mack's International Abduction Project, people report being visited by a bright light, floating through a closed window, wall or ceiling, entering a ship, and undergoing certain procedures. [For an account from an actual abductee, please see adjacent story.]

Researchers say abductees share no specific defining characteristic. David Jacobs, associate professor of history at Temple University, says anyone and everyone can be abducted, and that experiencers come from a wide spectrum of people in terms of intelligence, education, ethnicity and religious belief.

Mack, however, is now studying the personality profiles of experiencers to determine whether or not abductees may share certain characteristics.

According to researchers, abductions can occur anywhere and at any time—in bed, while driving, even while canoeing. Jacobs says memories of the abductions vary among experiencers, from some people remembering entire episodes to some having no conscious recollection of the encounter at all.

The actual nature of the aliens is debated among abduction researchers. To Mack, the aliens are primarily benevolent entities, while to researchers like Hopkins, they have a more sinister motive.

Mack says such differences may reflect the different ways in which people interpret and react to experiences. Some may be frightened by encounters, while others might find them spiritual.

The different reactions to alien abductions may also reflect their varied appearances. Callimanopoulos says Mack is most familiar with the "little grays," what one might typically think of as aliens: they are about four feet tall, with grey pear-shaped heads and large oval eyes.

Another "species" of alien are the "Tall Nordics": tall, blond humanoids who look very much like gods. According to Callimanopoulos, other types of aliens include reptilian-looking entities and dwarves.

Controversy

Perhaps the only thing certain about Mack's abduction research is its surrounding controversy. According to Beverley A. Rubick, director of the Center for Frontier Sciences at Temple University, "anyone who is raising extraordinary questions about what we think about reality is going to be laughed at or ridiculed."

Since the publication of *Abduction* in 1994, scientists have criticized Mack's research methods and his contention that UFOs and abductions may be real.

Robert A. Baker, professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Kentucky, says that abductions are just delusions. "There are no aliens, no UFOs," he says. "Nobody's been abducted."

Yet ufologists—researchers who study UFOs—and some academics disagree. "The evidence for the abduction phenomena is overwhelming," Jacobs says. "The question is: why and for what reason?"

Mack and other abduction investigators say the consistency of abduction reports is one of the most compelling aspects of the phenomena.

"When case after case after case, these consistent stories occur, it became clear to me that this, although mysterious, was a robust phenomenon," Mack says.

Yet skeptics are quick to dismiss these consistent reports by charging that therapists are influencing their patients, especially during hypnotic sessions when the abduction memories are retrieved.

"They do not recognize that they've reproduced extravagant stories that are easy to get people to confabulate," says Richard J. Ofshe, a social psychologist at the University of California at Berkeley. "Hypnosis is a wonderfully powerful and interesting method of influence, and not to recognize that can be very foolish."

But Mack, who hypnotizes some of his patients, says the hypnosis does not impose anything on the patient's memory. "It's basically a way of extending the awareness that the person has of their experiences," Mack says.

And Mack points out that plenty of patients recall alien encounters consciously, without the use of any hypnosis. In the appendix to *Abductions* Mack concedes that hypnosis can lead to recollections of inaccurate memories, but writes, "My personal experience is that abduc-

tion material recovered under hypnosis parallels what has been obtained by conscious reporting."

John Carpenter, a psychiatric therapist at the Center for Neuropsychiatry in Springfield, Missouri, says, "Twenty-five to 30 percent recall exactly the same kinds of details without any use of hypnosis at all."

But critics say hypnosis or no hypnosis, patients may still be influenced by their therapists and by popular culture. Ofshe says hypnosis simply accelerates patients' tendencies to fabricate stories.

Still, abduction researchers press critics to explain why, if indeed culture or a therapist is a source of influence, consistent stories have been reported globally, even among three-year-old children and in primitive cultures.

"How could you get such incredibly matching memories over thousands of people over many backgrounds and countries?" asks Carpenter. "Why would everybody have the same imagination?"

Redefining World Views

Mack says he sees himself as pioneering a new territory in psychology. "This was not supposed to be a formal research study," he says. "I felt like I was in the tradition of Freud and Jung and Erikson and others who were trying to map out a new domain of human experience."

Mack says the abduction phenomenon has made him question society's most fundamental assumptions about existence, consciousness and reality.

"This phenomenon is confounding because it seems to cross over from some realm, we know not where, and enter into our world," says Mack. "I think that this field may have some value in opening human consciousness to a larger sense of who we are."

At the same time, Mack admits such a redefinition of reality and consciousness results in much public resistance.

Using a phrase coined by Michael Zimmer-

man, professor of philosophy at Tulane, Mack says his work challenges the notion of "anthropomorphic humanism," the idea that human beings are the highest intelligence in the universe.

Mack says people are often reluctant to accept a notion that threatens their "world view," which gives them a structured place in the universe. Experiences with other entities or energies cause us to reevaluate our Western, materialist outlook, says Mack.

Critics have found other ways of explaining abductions without having to radically shift their world views. While few doubt the actual pain and trauma abductees claim to experience, the cause and reality of these experiences are in question.

Some critics challenge the mental stability of the patients. But Mack says it is clear that these individuals are not expressing something that is the product of some mental illness.

Mack says any psychiatric problems a patient has could have resulted from the abduction or another unrelated aspect of the person's life.

Mack says most of the arguments against abduction fail to explain all five fundamental aspects of the phenomenon: the consistency of stories among widely separated people, the absence of personal psychopathology that could account for these experiences, associated physical findings such as scars and reports of missing people, the association between UFO sightings and abduction reports, and the reports of the phenomena in children under three.

It seems as if there's little escaping the debate and controversy surrounding Mack's current line of work, but he's not in this alone.

"John Mack is certainly not the only psychiatrist investigating these type of things," says Miller. "He's just the only one who's up-front and out in the open."

A Patient of Mack's Recounts His Abduction by Aliens

Peter Faust says he has been abducted repeatedly ever since his youth. His first conscious recollection of these experiences came in 1988 when he was 33.

During this encounter Faust says he saw two beings, about four to four and a half feet tall, with large pear-shaped heads and almond-shaped eyes. "What was striking to me was that I reacted to them as if I knew them," says Faust.

Faust recalls saying to the aliens, "Stop this. I hate this." He dismissed this experience as a "freaky" dream, but says he was shocked by his intense emotional response to the beings.

Confused, Faust went to see Dr. John E. Mack to tell him of his experiences. Faust says Mack said, "When somebody tells me about a dream like this that they've had and they have so much emotion attached, it tells me that there's something else happening. It tells me that it's a real event."

Upon Mack's recommendation, Faust says he underwent relaxation techniques and was able to recall more of his experiences. "[Mack] would let me find out my answers or let me validate my own experience through talking to other people in the support group," says Faust.

By talking with other abductees, Faust says he learned to accept his situation. "I couldn't deny it anymore when other people said they had the same experiences independently of me," he says.

According to Faust, during the abductions he is physically lifted, moved through a window up into a ship, which then moves into another ship that flies away. Faust says he recalls being shown movies and pictures by the aliens. In the chapter "Peter's Journey" in Mack's book *Abduction*, Faust also says the aliens performed physical experiments on him, such as taking sperm samples.

In addressing the critics, Faust says Mack had all the regression tapes evaluated by independent sources who agree that Mack did not lead him. Faust also underwent a battery of psychiatric testing and was not diagnosed as possessing any pathology.

In addressing the contention that abductees have been contaminated by popular culture and sci-fi, Faust says, "That's one of the things that freaked me out. I wasn't into UFOs and I'm still not into UFOs. There was no reason for me to have these experiences and I've gained nothing from them."

—Lana Israel