

Riddle of UFO kidnap stories compiled by psychiatrist

Sex, aliens and the man from Harvard

IT is a question that has split the highest American academic circles.

Yet it sounds like it would be more at home in the pages of the sensational supermarket tabloids.

Are there aliens out there ravishing our women?

Lurid stories of more than a dozen ladies who claim they have, indeed, had the closest possible encounter with extraterrestrial beings are the basis of a book by Harvard Medical School's Dr John E. Mack, one of the most lauded psychiatrists in the U.S.

But now a special three-man team from Harvard is investigating the background, methods and objectives of the Pulitzer Prize-winning professor in publishing *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens*.

To the world of serious study, its subject matter was startling enough — bug-eyed beings with grey bodies, triangular heads and bulging eyes, routinely spiriting away women to

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their spaceships and implanting and extracting embryos.

What was harder to swallow for the scholarly set was Dr Mack on the television talk show circuit — Oprah Winfrey one night, Larry King Live the next.

The investigators are trying to decide whether the professor conducted his research in accordance with Harvard's standards of academic investigation, or was simply exploiting patients who need treatment for hallucinations.

According to one source, the team has prepared a report sharply critical of him, which could lead to his removal from the psychiatry faculty.

The book details case histories of 13 patients, whose stories were obtained under hypnosis. But there is an almost pornographic theme running through their abduction tales.

All the women have their bodies explored by aliens, and one man graphically recalls how he was hauled aboard a spaceship to be seduced by a female being.

When the book was first published, Dr Mack vigorously defended it, pointing out that the similarities of the experiences could not be ignored.

After initially co-operating with the Harvard inquiry, he has now hired Boston lawyer Roderick MacLeish — who says the investigation, far from being benign, is now an issue of academic freedom.

A second lawyer, Daniel Sheehan — a public interest attorney associated with liberal causes — has also become involved in the row, submitting 100 pages of arguments in defence of Dr Mack.

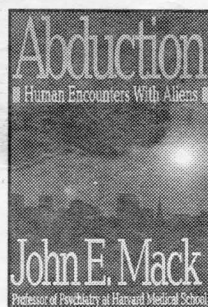
'History has not been kind to individuals and entities that tried to suppress controversial or unorthodox viewpoints, and this is that kind of case,' said MacLeish.

The investigating team is headed by Dr Arnold Relman, an emeritus professor of Harvard Medical School and former editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. He and his co-members have held 30 closed meetings over the last 12 months and Dr Mack has attended some.

According to one don, the professor did submit his original work to be published as an academic paper, but it was rejected. He then took it to a commercial publisher. It earned him nationwide publicity and is now in paperback.

The bottom line for the defenders of Harvard's standards is that a book of this type makes the institution a laughing stock.

'The underlying charge is that the stuff was so way



What big eyes you have: An alien as visualised in the film *Communion*. Left: John Mack, who wrote about space probes in his book (above)

out that serious academics wouldn't touch it,' said a colleague of Dr Mack.

'He then took a different route and, using the prestige of his Harvard position, made a bucket of money in the commercial field.'

However, the professor seems hardly in need of cash. In addition to lecture fees and other earnings, he gets a £170,000-a-year grant from philanthropist Laurence Rockefeller.

A faculty member who

has seen part of the investigating team's final report said: 'One member was deeply critical and deplored the methods of research, but he vigorously defended Dr Mack's right to pursue any subject he finds of interest.'

If Harvard does decide to dump the professor, his sacking could generate one of the most controversial cases in the institution's 359-year history. Then, it would not be aliens going into orbit — but legal bills.