

Professor Will Not Be Censured For U.F.O. Studies at Harvard

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BOSTON, Aug. 3 (AP) — Harvard Medical School has decided not to censure a Pulitzer Prize-winning professor who studies people who say space aliens abducted them for sexual experiments.

But the professor, Dr. John E. Mack, was publicly warned by the dean not to let his enthusiasm for U.F.O. research steer him from the path of professionalism.

The decision, disclosed today, followed a one-year investigation that Dr. Mack's lawyer, Roderick MacLeish, called a challenge to academic freedom.

"This is the type of thing that almost by its existence can be intimidating," Mr. MacLeish said.

Dr. Mack's fellow professors supported him because they were afraid they might be the next to be scrutinized, Mr. MacLeish said.

Members of the faculty contacted by The Associated Press during the investigation refused to speak for the record.

The review began after Dr. Mack appeared on "Unsolved Mysteries" and other television programs to promote his 1994 book "Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens," (Charles Scribner's Sons) about his patients, including a man who remembers an alien female extracting a sperm sample from him, a woman who says she gave birth to a human-alien hybrid and a man who says he had an alien wife in a parallel uni-

verse.

The faculty committee investigated whether Dr. Mack's work met professional standards and whether it could be considered research on human subjects, which requires special permission from the university.

A medical school spokeswoman, Keren McGinity, would not say how often such investigations are conducted. The school would not release the findings, and Ms. McGinity refused to answer questions.

Dr. Mack, 65, was traveling today and could not be contacted, an assistant said.

In an interview last year, he said that he did not necessarily believe in space aliens but thought that some unknown traumatic experience explained his patients' memories.

Dr. Mack founded the psychiatry department at Cambridge Hospital, one of Harvard's teaching hospitals, and is director of the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research at the Center for Psychology and Social Research, which is affiliated with Harvard.

He won a Pulitzer Prize in 1977 for his biography of Lawrence of Arabia.