

6 AUG 1995

MANDRAKE

Search on

AFTER a year-long investigation Harvard University has cleared Professor John Mack, the award-winning psychiatrist whose research into the alleged abduction of humans by space aliens has caused uproar in American academic circles.

In a brief, unsigned statement last week the ruling body of the Harvard Medical School said it had met Professor Mack and "urged him not, in any way, to violate the high standards... of this faculty". But it also "reaffirmed Professor Mack's 'academic freedom' and agreed that his controversial work with abduction victims could continue.

The story of Professor Mack's long and bizarre battle with the Harvard authorities was told in last month's *Sunday Telegraph* review. Over the last five years he has interviewed more than 100 "experiencers" — as the victims are known to UFO buffs — and written a hugely successful book of case studies: *Abduction — Human Encounters with Aliens*.

"It's the most exciting work I've ever done," enthused Professor Mack earlier this year. "There is no conventional explanation for this phenomenon."

The investigation — an event almost unprecedented in the 360-year history of America's leading university — was launched after suggestions that Professor Mack had used hypnosis and then "planted" abduction memories in the minds of some of his subjects.

"I understand that the professor was holidaying abroad when the University's verdict was announced, but his lawyer, Mr Eric MacLeish, said: "Considering the inquiry should never have been held, it is a highly satisfactory outcome."