

UFO talk puts 'RKO in black hole

INSIDE TRACK

GAYLE FEE / LAURA RAPOSA

The station's engineers have no explanation. But WRKO-AM must have had some kind of Close Encounter of the Third Kind yesterday because during **Marjorie Clapprood** and **Pat Whitley's** discussion about alien abductions, the signal went dead for a full eight minutes!

It happened about 9:45 a.m. during the Clapprood & Whitley show as Marjorie was interviewing **Denise Dianni**, the PBS producer who debunked **Harvard** prof **John Mack's** UFO encounters in this week's "Nova."

"I just got finished challenging her assertion that alien abductions aren't real," Clapprood told the Track. "And suddenly there was this loud crack, the entire board went dead and I said, 'We just got blown off the air!'"

While producers and engineers went into warp speed trying to reboot the crashed system, the station's phones began ringing off the hook with worried listeners who feared Pat and Marjorie had been abducted!

Eight minutes after the sudden outage, the signal inexplicably returned.

"It was the weirdest thing," Clapprood said. "Perhaps they were searching for signs of intelligent life in the universe and didn't find it."

Intelligence on talk radio? Now there's an alien concept!