

# CONTACT

FORUM

the round table of universal communication

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## Special: The controversy around Nova's program: *Kidnapped by UFOs?* that aired on February 27th

### John Mack's Letter to Nova in Advance of the Program

NOVA WGBH Science Unit  
125 Western Avenue  
Boston, MA 02134

Dear Ms. DiIanni,

I am in receipt of your letter of February 13 and have also viewed the film *Kidnapped by UFOs?* for presentation on PBS on Tuesday, February 27. First, I want to extend my appreciation to you and the staff at Nova for attempting to give the subject of alien abduction serious attention. There is an opportunity for a dialogue on this controversial subject to emerge.

However, I am disappointed and disturbed that you did not meet your usual high standards for scientific reporting. I would have welcomed — indeed, was looking forward to — a scientific presentation of the data. Instead, the film has been seemingly constructed to self-fulfill a predetermined point of view. A hypothesis is to be considered in light of all of the aspects of a given phenomenon, yet in your program the viewer is not given the benefit of the full range of possibilities. This is irresponsible scientific journalism.

In addition, the implication that my assessment is based on such flimsy data is insulting to my level of experience and competence after forty years of psychiatric practice.

Specifically, I have five main objections to the program as it currently portrays alien abduction research in general and my work in particular.

(continued on page 4)

### Budd Hopkins' Response to the UFO Abduction Phenomenon, or *Science is Not Always What Science Programs Do*

On February 27, 1996, WGBH-TV presented a Nova program entitled *Kidnapped by UFOs?* which outrageously distorted the nature of the UFO abduction phenomenon. It's fair to say that as a result of this show Nova has abandoned its right to be thought of as either objective, balanced, or scientific.

What Nova presented in its program on the abduction phenomenon was a deliberate mangling of the truth, a polemic having absolutely nothing to do with a scientific investigation of the available data. Typically, on a show filled with hostile authority figures with little or no acquaintance with the case material, astronomer Carl Sagan essentially stated that he believed all abduction accounts could be explained as delusions or hallucinations. Nova was obviously unconcerned that Dr. Sagan, whose uninformed opinion on the subject is well known, has yet to mount a serious investigation into even one abduction report.

This Nova UFO program was designed to air during sweeps week, worldwide audience now, and in later reruns and videotape sales. The main reason for the program's destructiveness is its message, implied and delivered directly, that all abductees —

(continued on page 7)



NOVA'S response to: CONTACT FORUM  
Interview With John Mack  
And More

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# A Letter from the Editor

Hello Everyone,

By now you probably have seen the PBS series Nova's episode on the alien abduction phenomenon entitled "Kidnapped by UFOs?" that aired Feb. 27, 1996. Whether you were angered, hurt or just plain indifferent to the show, you would probably be amazed to find out how much controversy it has generated.

About 30 hours of filming and hundreds of pages of available information and documentation went into the creation of this program. The question raised, "from all that information, is the final 52 minutes really the most accurate, balanced, and true-to-fact representation of the ET encounter phenomenon?" In this issue of CONTACT FORUM you will be given a unique look at some of those facts that didn't make it into the broadcast, to help you decide.

It was rather interesting how the staff here at CF became involved with this complex and important issue. While surfing the net I came across an abridged letter attributed to Budd Hopkins about

the problems with the upcoming Nova special. I called Budd right away to verify this letter and he told me a bit about what caused him to write it. This is when I learned that John Mack had been misrepresented as well.

Now that was convenient. I had a face-to-face interview already set up with John to talk about his recent trip to Australia and what he had learned about the contact phenomenon while traveling among the Aboriginal people. (This interview will be in an upcoming issue!)

When I arrived at John's office, I was pleased to hear that he felt CONTACT FORUM had the integrity and commitment to the truth that would make us a perfect vehicle for exploring the Nova situation without the spin or ridicule one is likely to find in the main media press. So we began our interview exploring the issues surrounding the Nova program. Since then, I have kept in touch with John and the people at the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER) for breaking details on several developments around the show and to confirm or put to rest rumors.

Of course, I wanted to make sure CONTACT FORUM readers received all sides of the story from as close to the source as possible. To this end, I contacted Nova's production staff at WGBH-TV in Boston and arranged an interview with the Producer, Denise DiIanni. (See page 13)

As the story progressed, I was informed that John Mack and his attorney, Eric MacLeish, presented evidence to the WGBH officials that undermined the credibility of Nova's witness, Donna Bassett. I understand that Nova edited out the majority of the defamatory comments but later denied changing the show.

In a brief statement to the Boston Globe, WGBH said that they acknowledged Dr. Mack's many strong objections to the show, but insisted they had not acceded to Dr. Mack's demands, even though the show that aired was slightly different from the show that John Mack and his lawyer previewed. WGBH is quoted as saying it is the same with "the

exception of a handful of minor word changes made to avoid the possibility of misinterpretation." They also said they "stand behind the film as it aired." When I called about this update, I was told the producers had no comment and were not taking calls at this time.

To be completely honest with you, when I started this line of investigation I wondered if this were much ado about nothing. Of course the truth is very important. But there was a part of me who wondered if "this too shall pass" and maybe it was better to leave it alone. After all, it isn't the first time a TV show put down the phenomenon nor will it be the last. I thought it was so easy to see through. But then I realized I already HAD the inside facts. I could see behind the scenes, so I could discern the truth from the spin. I decided to look at the situation from the eyes of those without all the information. That's when I found myself once again impassioned to get the whole story.

The real impact of the Nova program and how it is affecting people only hit me when I started seeing what it was doing to the people I love — people I believed were too strong to be effected by this type of propaganda. To hear one of my friends, who has a long history of ET encounters but has only recently come to terms with them, on the verge of tears because he worried all night that maybe he really is crazy after all; to talk to a close family member about the ridicule she was subjected to at her church bible study because the people there saw the show and knew one of her relatives is having these experiences (me); to see people I know and work with in this field who are usually happy people, so angry and hurt, that they are feeling dark and depressed, all this and more made me realize that this Nova program is not just a passing thing.

Nova is considered by most people to be an unquestionable authority. By presenting the phenomenon as they did, with all the spin, innuendo and downright untruths, they have done a grave injustice to not only the experienter community and UFOlogy, but to all the people of this world who value the truth. It is a sad

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reflection on our world when the reality of peoples' lives are treated so lightly and dismissed so easily.

The only way to correct inaccuracy is with facts. Despite my personal feelings, none of the interviews you will read in this issue have been edited for content in anyway. This includes the interview with the Nova producer Denise DiIanni. We present her own words as she spoke them.

After you have read through this issue, I'm sure you will have a lot of thoughts and comments about the whole Nova controversy. If nothing else, this is a wonderful way to open up a dialogue between our readers! Please feel free to jot down your comments and share them with CONTACT FORUM. Remember this is a Roundtable. Your opinions and reflections are important!

So fasten your seat belt and let's go head-on into the exciting and complex world of the Nova controversy.

Peace and Strength,  
Michelle

Dear Editor,

I had a dream where I was driving my dad's old car, a 1954 coffee-colored Chevy. My mother and my sister were with me, and we were a block from home. My mom shouted "STOP! Look out the window!" We all got out of the car to get a better look.

"See that plane?" cried my mom. We all looked up and we all saw an airplane circling overhead in a clear blue sky. It was about 30,000 feet, but we could see someone opening a side door on the plane, and down came the stairs. They dropped and [the bottom rung] landed right next to the driver's side of the car.

I took this dream to mean that I was being given the opportunity to go to a higher plane. They had opened the plane's door and set "the stairs" down for me to climb up.

Valerie Benson

Ed note: Ms. Benson told me that after telling this dream to a friend, she realized it was probably a screen memory for an ET encounter and wished to share it with CONTACT FORUM's readers.

## John Mack's Attorney's Letter to Nova

*The following are excerpts of a letter written by Dr. Mack's attorney, Eric MacLeish, to Nova. This was their attempt to prevent the false accusations from being aired.*

First, let me state that I recognize the wide latitude which is afforded any media producing a documentary of a newsworthy subject. Certainly, Dr. Mack's ideas are controversial and there is no question that the subject matter of his work is an entirely appropriate topic for your broadcast....

The factual statements of Ms. Bassett which are untrue and which, taken together, are defamatory, include the following:

1. Ms. Bassett is described as a "writer." This lends her an instant air of credibility. If Ms. Bassett is a "writer" what are her published articles? To Dr. Mack's knowledge she is not a published writer and instead described herself as a "research analyst" whose past efforts include "work with the government and military."

2. Your program states that when Ms. Bassett heard about Dr. Mack, "she smelled a story...." This segment falsely implies that Ms. Bassett is (1) a journalist of some kind, (2) that up to this point in time Ms. Bassett had no involvement in the abduction movement, and (3) that she was simply intent upon investigating my client "by going undercover" in an effort to "infiltrate" his growing organization.

Ms. Bassett states that she comes "from a family that has had experiences such as those you describe on and off as far back as anyone can remember (several centuries)."

3. Your announcer states in the program that in order to proceed with her "undercover operation," Ms. Bassett sent Dr. Mack a letter filled with concocted tales of childhood abuse and possible abduction. However, this is not a factually accurate description of how Dr. Mack and Ms. Bassett met.

Ms. Bassett first sent Dr. Mack a letter on 9/4/92 (Exhibit "B"): The letter says

absolutely nothing about "childhood abuse." Moreover, it does not describe "possible abduction," but states that Ms. Bassett's background includes "multiple events that are now being referred to as abductions." There was no request made by Ms. Bassett to see Dr. Mack for therapy or hypnosis...."

4. Your program asserts that even before her "appointment," Dr. Mack sent her articles "detailing the abduction experience." The camera then pans to a note from Dr. Mack. I have a copy of that note (Exhibit "C.") Your program, in an unconscionable violation of journalistic ethics, deletes the upper part of that note so that the view cannot see the addressees on the note. These assertions are absolutely and categorically false.

5. On September 23, 1992, Dr. Mack met with Edward and Donna Bassett at the Charles Hotel. They did not meet in a bedroom as your program later implies, but they met in a restaurant/lounge area. They talked in a collegial manner about the phenomenon.

6. Your program next asserts that Dr. Mack conducted a "series" of hypnosis sessions with Ms. Bassett. The camera then pans to Ms. Bassett walking into the entrance of the Charles Hotel. Ms. Bassett is then shown on the program stating that she was in a bedroom with a "strange man" (Dr. Mack) leaning over her. Dr. Mack never undertook hypnosis or any other sessions with Ms. Bassett in the Charles Hotel. Rather, these sessions took place in Dr. Mack's home/office... and attended by Dr. Mack's assistant, Pam Kasey.... Dr. Mack is appalled by the lack of fact checking by your producers, and your obvious failure to verify these allegations is consistent with the one-sided portrayal of these issues which is contained on the tape I viewed.

*Some of the statements addressed in this letter were cut from the show or altered before it aired. Nova said these changes were not made based on the information in this letter, yet it was primarily the situations in this letter that were altered before the show.*

# John Mack's Response

*continued from pg. 1*

1) You have presented a biased view by omitting scientific data directly relevant to the discussion.

2) Carl Sagan defines the question (internal vs. external) in a manner which prematurely restricts the investigation of the abduction phenomenon.

3) Individuals without clinical credentials or expertise make allegations about the ethical and clinical nature of my work.

4) You have neglected to check factual data and have misrepresented the truth.

5) By choosing to present this topic as stated above, you are disregarding the potential psychological harm to this population.

I will address each of these points in turn.

## 1) A biased view

None of the critics you interviewed have collected data which tests their hypotheses related to abduction experiencers. *Furthermore, you neglected to mention data which have been collected by other researchers to test these hypotheses.* You fail to evaluate the theories in terms of all three factors that make abduction a coherent phenomenon.

• You show me saying that there are no adequate psychological theories to account for abduction reports, yet you do not allow me to explain how and why the theories are inadequate. You therefore imply that I have naïvely dismissed or overlooked these theories, an action which would be irresponsible for a man of my senior standing in the psychiatric community. Why was I not asked to comment? It was my clear understanding, when you asked me to be interviewed for the program, that you were going to present alternative hypotheses and I would be given the opportunity to comment on them.

• My consideration of the alternative theories and how they are inadequate is on record. (See the appendix of the *Abduction* paperback, available since 1994, which I am enclosing). Why didn't you look there while preparing your research?

• 40% of abduction or alien contact experiences are associated with daytime, not sleep (Spanos). You neglect to mention this in your presentation.

• Sleep paralysis is an inadequate hypothesis to account for the phenomenon. Because two or three symptoms may look like what occurs in sleep paralysis doesn't mean that this explains the whole phenomenon. Baker and other critics leave out the 45 or 50 phenomena that do not correspond to sleep paralysis, such as the detailed consistent narratives that are the substance of the alien abduction accounts (Carlson).

• 30% of abduction accounts are obtained without hypnosis of any kind. Most of the data collected by me is not collected under hypnosis (Bullard).

• Data show that abduction experiencers *are not* unusually suggestible or hypnotizable, and do not suffer from mental illness consistent with hallucinations or self-deception (Rodeghier; Parnell and Sprinkle). The late distinguished psychologist researcher Nicholas Spanos writes of his data: "these findings clearly contradict the hypothesis that UFO reports—even intense UFO reports characterized by such seemingly bizarre experiences as missing time and communication with aliens—occur primarily in individuals who are highly fantasy prone, given to paranormal beliefs, or unusually suggestible" (Spanos, pg. 64). Loftus and Baker may have found suggestibility and hallucinations in the general population, but there is no evidence that these psychological explanations account for abduction reports.

• Contrary to the slant of your program, I am actively testing the alternative hypothesis you propose. The question of how suggestibility and hypnotizability affect the reports of alien abduction is worth studying. For this reason, I and the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research (PEER) are conducting a controlled study to investigate this matter. Although we informed you of our study, you chose not to report on it. You imply that the data you review is the latest and the best.

• Carl Sagan suggests that people do hallucinate, but he knows little and says nothing about the conditions under which

hallucinations might occur. There is not one shred of evidence given that hallucination applies to this particular population. As an astronomer, Sagan is not qualified to determine psychiatric criteria for hallucinations and the conditions under which they might occur. Those conditions are not fulfilled in the case of abductees. Sagan also speaks of the human capacity for self-deception. Here, again, he is making a clinical statement, albeit a general one, but then glibly ascribes this mechanism to abduction.

• The validity of information obtained under hypnosis has been a source of controversy in both the psychiatric and the UFO communities (Frankel; McConkey; Schefflin and Shapiro). Hypnosis is limited to a corroborating role in my investigations at this time. Nevertheless, it is my impression that data obtained through hypnosis in abduction cases is often *more* reliable because it comes without the conscious mind's distorting efforts to provide reasonable, coherent narratives.

• No theory explains all of the following three elements: 1) the consistency of subjective reports, 2) the level of affect, associated with these reports, both in and out of hypnosis, and 3) the physical evidence that corroborates the subjective reports.

There is no evidence that Loftus or anyone else can induce the level of emotion associated with these experiences, whether in hypnosis or by direct suggestion. In your program both the hypnotic subject working with Baker and the young woman given the suggested memory of being lost in a shopping mall show a clear lack of emotional expression related to their experiences. The experience does not seem to be of central importance to them. Abduction experiences tend to have high impact on the person involved (McLeod). Research tells us that memories of central importance are more likely to be accurate than memories of peripheral importance (Christianson).

You define the controversy in terms of physical evidence, yet fail to report cases in which the physical evidence and corroborative reports by others supports the subjective reports. You state quite

clearly that physical evidence is never recovered; MIT physicist David Pritchard (among others) has studied and written about physical evidence consistent with the reports. It does not prove or disprove the existence of aliens, but does corroborate the stories. You have a responsibility to report all data.

Contrary to Baker's assertion, most experiencers look for alternative explanations to their experiences, and find no comfort in the content of their stories. This should have been evident from your interviews of the experiencers themselves.

- Loftus is mistaken. There is evidence for "body memories," as reported by, for example, Harvard Professor van der Kolk.

- It is impossible to interview the nuns from centuries ago to investigate whether their stories meet our current criteria for abduction experiences. Baker's point about this is irrelevant to the argument.

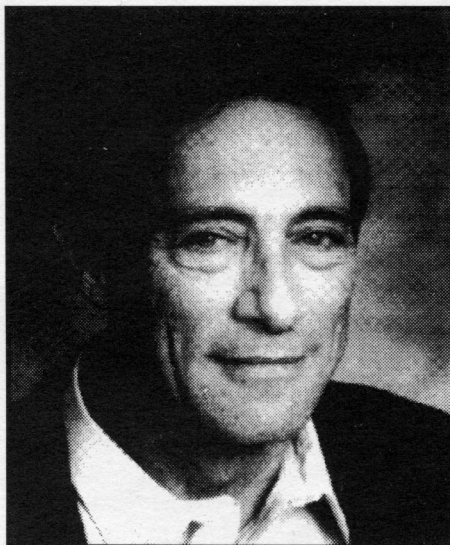
## **2) The manner in which you define the controversy prematurely restricts investigation**

You frame abduction research in terms of ridiculous dichotomies that do not reflect the complexity of the data we and others have collected.

- Reducing proof for the validity of the abduction phenomenon to proof of the existence of extraterrestrials is overly simplistic and reflects neither my opinion nor the current status of the field. I cannot explain the source of these experiences; different researchers have postulated that the experiencers come from different places or domains.

- The question is not "Is the phenomenon real on an internal vs. external level," but, "How can we begin to investigate a phenomenon that has strong characteristics of *both*?"

- We are facing a problem like that faced by the people of the fifteenth century. In that day many people could not believe that the world was round because common knowledge dictated that people would fall off any round object. Similarly, many doctors in Lister's time did not believe in germs because reality dictated that nothing existed that was smaller than could be seen by the naked eye. In both cases, scientific knowledge progressed because researchers continued



*Dr. John E. Mack, M.D.*

to make observations in the face of criticism by those who claimed that the observations were impossible.

## **3) Absence of qualified clinical opinion**

There were no other clinicians on your program in addition to myself who have worked with people who report these experiences. In no other field would it be permitted that unqualified individuals present as witnesses outside their domain of expertise.

In addition, individuals are making negative allegations about the ethics of my work, despite the fact that 1) they are not clinically qualified to make such judgments, 2) they are clinically unfamiliar with my cases, and 3) evidence against those allegations is documented in the public domain.

- Baker and Sagan, neither of whom have clinical expertise, offer the opinion that I am doing harm by listening to experiencers' accounts. Baker even suggests that I would serve experiencers better by telling them that an experience is "all a dream, and it was all imaginary, and it will probably never happen again." His suggestion is clinically unsound and, as any psychiatrist would agree, would do harm.

- A basic counseling principle is that any individual with any kind of problem requires a listening ear. Baker's suggestion that a person's distress goes away if he or she simply stops talking about it is (at best) psychologically unsophisticated.

There is documented evidence that being able to speak candidly about their experiences is helpful to them.

- Abduction experiences are distinct from usual imagination and dreams in that they occur with similar details across cultures and people of all ages, and have no apparent relationship to the details of the individuals' ongoing lives. If abduction reports are the result of a common, detailed dream experienced by thousands of people across cultures, than that itself is an extraordinary event that should be studied.

Contrary to Baker's allegations, I do not tell experiencers they are victims; the transformational aspects of the abduction experience are detailed in my book and in the articles I have written.

- In its apparent zeal to discredit my work and show me as doing harm, the program fails to include testimony from any of the experiencers whom I have helped or the mental health professionals who value my approach. Furthermore, in its (mistaken) depiction of abduction experiencers as disturbed people prone to disturbed "imaginings", the program is potentially doing harm to the well being of a large group of vulnerable people.

- Current research is being conducted in accordance with APA ethical standards, as interpreted by the Human Subjects Committee of The Cambridge Hospital at Harvard University. As noted in your program, there has been an internal review of my work, but you do not represent its conclusion accurately.

Although Harvard Medical School did not necessarily agree with me, they have encouraged this current study and have also asked me to bring in more colleagues into discussion of this work. An accurate representation of Harvard Medical School's position is stated in the attached press release of August 3, 1995, to which you undoubtedly would have had access. [see page 6.]

## **4) You have neglected to fact check the story of one of your principle witnesses**

The segment of your broadcast dealing with Donna Bassett is factually inaccurate.

*John Mack cont.*

rate, and the statements which she has made and which appear on the preview are totally false.

Ms. Bassett is described as a "writer." If Ms. Bassett is a writer, what are her published articles?

- Your description of how I met Donna Bassett is inaccurate. We met at a UFO conference at which extensive details about abduction were presented by a variety of speakers. She was already highly informed about the phenomenon. Her interest in the field is documented to at least ten months before meeting me.

Your program states that I sent material about the abduction phenomenon to Donna Bassett in preparation for a therapy session. I sent this material to *both Edward and Donna Bassett* in preparation for a collegial meeting with them in the lounge of the Charles Hotel. There had been no discussion of my working with Ms. Bassett as a client at this point. Your program, in an unconscionable violation of journalistic ethics, deletes the upper part of that note so that the viewer cannot see both of the addressees.

- Your program implies that I met with Donna Bassett in a bedroom at the Charles Hotel. I met twice with both Edward and Donna Bassett at the Charles Hotel lounge. It was only until after these meetings that Ms. Bassett requested working with me. I conducted three hypnosis sessions with Ms. Bassett. These sessions took place in my home/office and my female assistant was present at all of them.

- Ms. Bassett has a history of making misstatements in print. She has no credentials except that she lied to me and was supposedly "believed." In *Time* magazine Ms. Bassett reports that "hearing the tale, Mack became so excited that he leaned on the bed too heavily and it collapsed." I'm sure that as you reviewed the tape of our session, you heard no such thing.

- There is no evidence that I took her account at face value or that I was "ecstatic." In fact, to the contrary, even prior to her "exposé" her account was uncharacteristic of the majority of abduction reports. For this reason, I put

aside her material, choosing instead to write about other, more consistent accounts

- It is not possible to determine at this time whether Ms. Bassett, or anyone else, was abducted by aliens. It seems to be that she is a person who has been traumatized.

Of the more than one hundred individuals I have worked with you have chosen to rely heavily upon the testimony of a person whose story you did not fact check. Donna Bassett's interview and your editing of it are an unconscionable misrepresentation of the truth. My attorney has provided you with extensive detailed documents related to this matter.

### **5) Disregard for potential psychological harm to this population**

Finally, and, in my opinion, most importantly, by choosing to present this topic in the manner stated above, you are seemingly disregarding the potential psychological harm to people who have been isolated and anxious about sharing their experiences. I see no reason to be disrespectful to those individuals who are attempting to make sense of them and are willing to share their experiences with the rest of us.

In our work thus far, we have found isolation to be one of the most damaging aspects of this phenomenon. As a psychiatrist, I want to go on record saying this program is potentially harmful to many people. We are not saying what is generating this phenomenon; we are not drawing conclusions. As a psychiatrist with more than forty years of clinical experience, my assessment is that these people are having real experiences that are not the product of a psychiatric condition or psychological distortion. *The source of these experiences is unknown.* But as a clinician I am compelled to respond to my clients' distress, their ability to function in their daily lives. *This has gotten lost in the show.*

After your unnecessarily biased presentation, individuals who have had these experiences may feel obliged to return to the closet and become silent once again. People will consider them crackpots, not in touch with reality. They

## **News Release from Harvard Medical School August 3, 1995 Professor John Mack**

During the past year, a committee of peers was appointed by the Dean of Harvard Medical School to review the clinical care and clinical investigation that Professor John Mack has carried out with persons who believe that they have been abducted by aliens. The review has been completed. Dean Tosteson has discussed the issues raised in the review with Dr. Mack. He has urged Dr. Mack that in his enthusiasm to care for and study this group of individuals, he should be careful not, in any way, to violate the high standards for the conduct of clinical practice and clinical investigation that have been the hallmark of this Faculty. He also reaffirmed Dr. Mack's academic freedom to study what he wishes and to state his opinions without impediment. Dr. Mack remains a member in good standing of the Harvard Faculty of Medicine. It is the School's long standing practice not to disclose the content of findings of such reviews. No further comment will be made.

may once again suffer in isolation. I wish to be a voice that enables them to share their experiences appropriately.

Sincerely,  
John E. Mack, M.D.

*Due to a lack of space, we were unable to publish John's complete bibliography of references that he refers to in this letter. For a complete list, please contact us or visit our Web Site at URL: <http://www.bluewaterp.com/~bcrissey/cf/macknotes.html>.*

## Budd Hopkins Response

*continued from Pg 1*

all—fall into two basic groups: people suffering from delusions or repeated hallucinations, and others who are so weak-minded and suggestible as to be unable to tell dreams, fantasies, books or TV shows from personal experience. Liars aside, Nova implied that anyone who reports such experiences is more or less mentally abnormal.

What evidence does Dr. Sagan, for example, present to buttress his sweeping — and to the abductees, damning — indictment of their ability to separate fantasy from reality? None. None whatsoever. For a man regarded within popular culture as a kind of Pope of Science to offer such a wholesale denigration of UFO abductees with no supporting evidence is worse than irresponsible. In the psychological literature there is only one report of an in-depth, blind study of the mental health of abductees — the 1983 report by Dr. Elizabeth Slater — and it shows that Dr. Sagan's opinion is totally unsupported.

Did Nova make any effort to find out if there is any evidence supporting Sagan's "diagnosis" of the abductees he'd never met? More to the point, how many abductees on the show did Nova ask to submit to psychological tests, psychiatric interviews and the like? To my knowledge, none. John, a former counselor and an abductee who appears at length on the program, told Nova by letter that he would present himself for any type of test, medical, psychological, MRI, X-ray or whatever that they wished to administer. If Nova were trying to do an objective, scientific study as they claimed, they should have instantly accepted John's offer. Instead, they chose to ignore it.

When one considers the destructive conclusions Nova presented about the abductees they showed on camera, they cannot argue that they refused John's offer out of concern for his reputation. There seems to be only one reason to decline the opportunity of conducting tests of any kind: the fear that the results might destroy their theories and thus expose Nova's deceptions. And to compound their dishonesty, Nova's

producers recently circulated a letter saying no abductee had been presented to them for such testing, as if John's written request from the spring of 1995 had never existed.

So, having declined to employ any type of scientifically valid testing, the producers went on, in effect, to have John diagnosed via screenings of pre-selected videotapes by consultants who never met him. This was the program's basic *modus operandi*. "Experts" ignorant of the mass of UFO abduction case material were given no opportunity to interview the witnesses they were being asked to judge. Their comments therefore have the same degree of validity as the diagnoses issued by pop psychologists on daytime radio and TV after two- or three-minute conversations with the caller, a practice Nova's producers would otherwise be the first to condemn.

But even worse is the show's blatantly dishonest presentation of a family case to which they devote a great deal of airtime. The young mother of two small children had written a letter to me, and with her permission I presented a copy of it to producer Denise DiIanni of the Nova staff. In her letter the young woman said this about her abduction experiences: "My memories are real and I have not had to use hypnosis to remember them." From a lifelong series of encounters she records the following details: "The little men, as I used to call them would enter my bedroom from the same place in the wall.... (They) were small, had large heads with large dark eyes that seem to look right through me." Describing painful physical procedures, she added, "The tears would roll down my cheeks into my ears, an uncomfortable feeling. I was unable to wipe my tears away...." She described the alien figures as moving in unison, and in another encounter she described "being slowly lowered into my mattress, so slow that I would think 'hurry up, I just want to feel my mattress under me and go to sleep." On another occasion she saw her brother being taken in broad daylight: "He looked so tired and was slumped over... I remember being very worried that he was too little to get into that object in the sky."

In these accounts and in later, face-to-face interviews with the Nova crew

present, she described many more experiences from childhood to the present, all recollected without hypnosis. What's more, her husband vividly described watching their little son being floated out of the house by the aliens while he lay paralyzed on the floor of their front hall. With Nova's camera recording it all, he lay down exactly where he remembered having fallen and described where each alien had been standing. He explained that the master bedroom was on the other side of the wall he was leaning against. Desperately trying to alert his sleeping wife, he showed us how he tried in vain to move his leg enough to bang against the wall to summon help.

His testimony was the most vivid and important of our visit to their home. It corroborated his wife's account and explained their powerful fear for their children's safety. But all of this eyewitness testimony and dramatic film footage was suppressed by Nova. All of it.

In its place, producer DiIanni assembled an emasculated case in which only the vaguest, most tenuous aspects of the family's testimony were presented. Having thus suppressed all of the strongest evidence, Nova went on to slander my view of the case's validity with the following summary: "Budd Hopkins thinks (portentous pause) this provides compelling evidence: Children pausing at drawings of aliens, dreams of strange events that feel real, and images of traumatic sexual assault, remembered only under hypnosis!" (My emphasis.)

Through "creative editing" I'm portrayed as trying to ascribe an abduction memory to an innocent child. In addition to the anguished father's eyewitness account of lying paralyzed while he watched the aliens taking his son out of the house, the child's mother had included in her letter the following account of what they went through when their boy was three years old:

"My husband and I saw blinking lights in my son's bedroom.... We continue to have problems with our son at night.... When his dad gets him dressed in the morning he will ask questions [such as] 'How do they come through the walls? How do they park it there, there's no road there'.... He talks about tables with no

legs, 'but those are the kind you don't eat on.' He tells me how chilly it was outside last night."

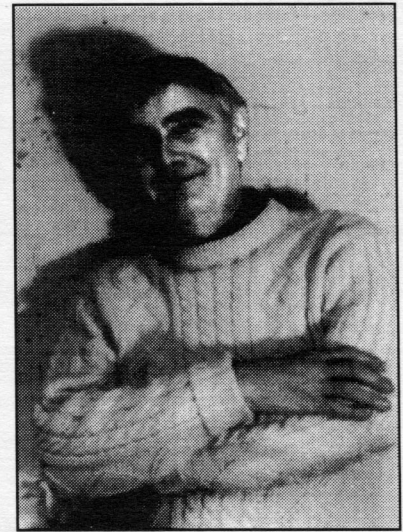
There is, of course, much more, all of which was known to Ms. DiIanni. But in the script I am portrayed as suspecting the boy's possible abduction solely because of one piece of evidence: a child "pausing at a drawing of an alien." As Nova well knows, no one on earth would ever describe that isolated, ambiguous reaction as 'compelling evidence' — unless their goal was a conscious attempt to make the individual look like a fool.

I won't devote much time to demonstrate the ways Nova edited my hypnotic sessions to make it appear that I'm leading the witness, though I must provide at least one. For many years I've used what I call the "body inventory" method to avoid leading hypnotic subjects. When the witness describes being stretched out on an examination table, I say that we will now explore all the sensations that he/she feels from the feet, systematically up through the body, to the top of the head. I explain that the subject might feel a different sensation in some part of the body: pleasure, pain, an itch, a tickle, heat, cold, etc., that part of the body may feel perfectly normal. I begin with the feet, proceed to the ankles, shins, calves, then the thighs, the sexual organs, the lower abdomen, the stomach and chest, the arms and hands, the head, and then the eyes, the nose, inside and out, the mouth, inside and out, and the ears, inside and out. The purpose is to avoid leading the subject to any one particular part of the body by naming most all of them at the very outset. Nova, of course, didn't devote even three words of explanation to this painstakingly slow and objective process — it can take up to a half hour — but suddenly cut in as I direct the subject's attention to her "female parts...." To put the least damaging interpretation on Nova's deceptive editing, its result is to suggest that I'm leading the witness directly into sexual recollections or fantasies, something that a full transcript of the session would clearly refute.

When I was originally approached by Nova's Denise DiIanni, I was told that she would only deal with people who agreed to show their faces on national TV. I

explained that of the more than 500 likely abductees I've worked with one-on-one, only about 15 would agree to appear on national TV. Unfortunately, among the 97% who declined to appear were all the police officers, the (7) psychiatrists, the scientists, Ph.D.'s, business executives, psychologists, physicians and even a NASA research scientist with whom I'd worked; in short, the people with the most to lose by subjecting themselves to potential public ridicule. Obviously, this reluctant 97% included the most highly credentialed and scientifically sophisticated abductees, the very individuals one would think Nova should be most interested in interviewing if the program were to have scientific relevance. I asked if some of these highly credible people might be allowed to discuss their abduction experiences on camera, backlit or in silhouette, but Nova declined, refusing to interview anyone outside the self-selected 3%. This decision alone demonstrated to me Ms. DiIanni's preference for potentially sensational TV footage over any attempt at scientific depth or inclusiveness.

The very brave handful who agreed to appear on national TV were mainly young and independent and for the most part not subject to the career risks of corporate politics. None were offered, and none requested, financial remuneration. All agreed to appear as a way of helping other abductees, in much the way a few rape victims will also come forward publicly, despite potential humiliation. Rape victims are guaranteed to receive sympathy. However, the abductees on *Kidnapped by UFOs?* were subtly but thoroughly discredited, beginning with that lurid title and the question mark that cast doubt on their testimony before it was even heard. Their bravery and generous spirit of cooperation was rewarded by Nova's implication that all of them were either deluded, hallucinating, or simply weak-minded because, as Nova's experts said, such experiences simply cannot happen. At one point, physicist Paul Horowitz, who apparently has no idea of the range of evidence supporting UFO reality, categorically stated that UFOs don't exist and have never landed!



*Budd Hopkins*

Nova interviewed me at length in my studio, and, knowing all the fashionable theories debunkers use to discredit anyone reporting an abduction experience, I chose to stress the reports that fell outside these conventional explanations. I dealt with the huge number of abduction accounts that surface without use of hypnosis, knowing that Nova was sure to deride the process. True to form, the program implied over and over with sledgehammer thoroughness that hypnosis should be thought of as the generating cause of these (automatically false) abduction accounts. My discussion of contradictory data — the mass of non-hypnosis abduction reports — wasn't even mentioned on the program.

I showed producer DiIanni a collection of photographs of the physical marks and scars that are the common sequelae of UFO abductions, and urged her to interview some of the people bearing the more dramatic wounds. Since these individuals were among the 97% unwilling to run the risk of ridicule by appearing on camera, Nova not only refused to film them in shadow, but the slides of their wounds and marks, which I was asked to lend to Nova were never shown. Also suppressed were the photographs I submitted showing ground traces and alterations of the soil caused by UFO landings. Nova staffer Liesl Clark, in charge of the program's Internet Web, informed me that to show such physical evidence would be "to open a can of worms." She was right about that.

So, after being told that the abduction phenomenon was merely an artifact of hypnosis, the public was also deliberately denied any chance to see, to hear about and to consider photographic evidence of reported alien physical procedures and UFO ground traces. Thus, another of the debunker's false but favorite myths was reinforced: "There is no physical evidence."

It's one thing, of course, to disagree as to the meaning and the degree of probative weight to ascribe to physical evidence, but it's another thing to suppress that evidence altogether.

Knowing that "sleep paralysis" is one of the most preposterous general explanations of abduction reports yet offered, I described to Nova's representative the existence of hundreds of accounts of abductions that took place in the daytime with all of the participants fully awake, and I cited examples. Since this fact also wasn't mentioned during the program — which naturally restricted itself solely to those cases which more plausibly fit the sleep paralysis theory — the public was misled yet again: "It's always hypnosis, there's never any physical evidence, and like sleep paralysis, it always happens at night." Ms. DiIanni knew that thousands of case reports prove all of these statements false, but chose to suppress that information, too, on her show.

Though it's been painful having to spend so much time describing some of Nova's many systematic deceptions, distortions and omissions, the denigration of thousands of decent, mentally sound people who have reported UFO abductions cannot be left unchallenged. Not once did any of Nova's on-camera, debunking consultants admit that any of these people might simply be telling the truth.

I was not naïve enough to think that Nova, having produced an earlier program opposing the reality of UFOs, would now turn around and proclaim the reality of UFO abductions. I was naïve enough, however, to credit the producers and Ms. DiIanni in particular, with sufficient honesty to make a very small admission: that despite all the debunkers' theories, all the data has not been explained and that an intriguing mystery does remain. In my wildest imagination I never thought

they would have the arrogance to imply that ALL abduction experiences can be explained away by these (mutually contradictory) debunking theories, or that in doing so Nova would be so unscrupulous as to deliberately suppress all evidence to the contrary.

People who trust Nova will also unknowingly accept falsehoods such as the following, as true:

Nova said that after the film *Close Encounters* appeared, the number of UFO sightings increased, an example of the media generating 'false reports'. But in fact during that time, the number of new sightings actually decreased. For my part, Nova often referred to me as "a therapist", though they are well aware that I've never made that claim and have never charged an abductee a penny for any help I've given.

But the acceptance of false information isn't the worst result of Nova's deceptions. Far more damaging is the fact that anyone currently thinking of going public with a personal abduction account will be extremely hesitant to do so. Any physicians, policemen, psychiatrists, scientists, military officers or the like who have experienced UFO abductions will now have even more reason to keep silent. Having seen how Nova distorted and dismissed other abductees accounts, few of these potentially valuable new witnesses will agree to step forward. In the light of all this, it's fair to describe Nova as having both tampered with evidence and intimidated future witnesses.

On top of everything, Ms. DiIanni's show is being hyped for all the sensationalism and controversy that Nova could squeeze out of the subject, going so shamelessly low as to beg the on-camera abductees to appear in promotional spots without first informing them how they would be treated on the program. It was as if innocent people were being asked to sell tickets to their own public humiliation. What Nova produced was not a science program but a kind of middlebrow Jenny Jones or Geraldo. Denise DiIanni and executive producer Paula Apsell and all those responsible for the final edit of this show should be ashamed of themselves. ★

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## Update on Dr. Richard J. Boylan

*On Aug. 7, 1995 Psychologist Richard Boylan had his license to practice revoked by the Board of Psychology. Dr. Boylan has strong reason to believe this action was a response to his high-profile work interviewing and counseling persons who report extraterrestrial encounters.*

News Release Feb. 29, 1996

Although the Superior Court judge who heard Dr. Richard Boylan's Appeal of the licensing board's action has not yet issued an Order, the judge has communicated to Boylan's attorney that he is not granting Boylan's Petition for a Writ of Mandamus, i.e., not vacating the board's license revocation.

An out-of-town remote-viewer passed on to Dr. Boylan information that the judge had received various telephone calls from intelligence (Cover-Up) officials in Washington, D. C. hostile to his Appeal.

It has now been over six weeks since the Hearing and the judge has still not yet signed the Order.

Dr. Boylan is exploring involving an advocacy organization in taking his fight to the State Appellate of Federal District Court, since he is out of funds. Boylan said: "My efforts to expose the government harassment targeting me is far from over. As the Bible says, 'The mill of the Lord grinds slow, but it grinds exceeding fine.'"

As for what has been accomplished by these two rounds of court fights, Dr. Boylan noted that the Administrative Hearing Officer threw out all accusations of sexual misconduct, and the Superior Court judge threw out all the mind-control/manipulation accusations. These were the heart of the Board's "case." Now the Board's "case" is left with the subjective squabbles about the best way to do psychotherapy. Boylan said, "I guess it is a moral victory for me, and for those who would have been very distressed and scandalized if these accusations had been true."

*Continued on page 20*

# Interview with John Mack...

## part 1. Feb. 22, 1996

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CF: John, we initially met to talk about your trip to Australia, but I understand there is a great deal of controversy over an upcoming Nova program, so let's talk about that.

JM: A few months ago we learned that PBS Nova wanted to do an hour on the alien abduction phenomena. They came across to us as wanting to do a fair and balanced account. So we were cooperative and felt this was an opportunity to bring national attention to something all of us consider to be one of the most serious and important phenomena of our times with very great human and scientific importance.

So we went ahead in good faith and discovered about two days ago, when we saw an advanced tape of the program, that they had set up the experiencers and the people, particularly Budd Hopkins and myself, who worked with them, trying to depict us as charlatans and the experiencers themselves as irrational, misguided people who are suffering from sleep paralysis, false memory or other currently in vogue psychological phenomena.

They brought as expert witnesses on the program only people who've had no experience working with abductees, or who have had a bias against the reality of the phenomenon to begin with. In short, the structure of the program clearly reveals a preconception, an intention to present the phenomenon as something that is understandable within a conventional, rational, left brain, established scientific framework.

That wouldn't be so serious, but they go further. They actually malign the experiencers themselves and in certain respects defamed the people that work with them. For instance in the case of Budd Hopkins, they present material around his work with a child in which they make a case, weak I think, that he is

trying to introduce into that child's mind that he has had experiences. [See p. 7] What they leave off is all the material from this child and his family that Budd had given to them, including the father actually seeing the beings in the house, and the spontaneous communications from the child and the family members about the abduction encounters. That was all left out. Only selected material that shows Budd in the worst possible light was presented.

They even found Donna Bassett and brought her back, but failed to fact check what she put forward, and presented her as a witness. Among other things they let her repeat the lie that I sent papers in order to influence her before a regression. They actually show a piece of a handwritten note I sent saying I was sending her these papers. But we looked back at a copy of that note. It was written to her and to her husband Ed in an earlier time in our relationship when there was no question of doing a regression. They had come to me originally as colleagues to explore together information and research related to this phenomenon. It had nothing to do with prejudicing her in advance about the phenomenon, for at that time there was no question of doing a regression with her. The program by never checking who she was accepts this.

CF: I hear that her husband Ed possibly worked with Phil Klass.

JM: And Klass may have been a consultant on the program. [Phil Klass was included in the special thanks at the end of the program.]

We now have documented evidence that she went off with the GRAA money. But they (Nova) didn't know anything about that. There is also a criminal complaint outstanding against her in Milton MA., but Nova never bothered to find out any of that sort of thing. Yet they used her as a witness to discredit me.

We have affidavits, for example, in connection with the Harvard thing from 30 people saying that I didn't lead people, that I was open, that I helped them, etc. But they didn't speak to anyone that was helped.

They only have experts, so called, who

haven't worked with this population saying that these people are imagining things and I should have told them that, or that by taking their stories seriously I was harming them. The same old business, only this time there has been a large outcry in response to the program by informed people, so it is a good opportunity in a sense. In that sense I think Nova has served a useful function in contributing to a national dialogue.

CF: Do you think it was the producers' personal agenda, or do you think it is part of a larger agenda?

JM: I think it's probably part of a larger agenda. Which individuals in PBS actually made the policy decision to do a debunking or hatchet job on experiencers and us I don't know. The person we've been in touch with, Denise DiIanni, is probably not the ultimate decision maker. She took part in the editing, but she herself has been caught in the storm. She seems to be caught between what might be her true feelings and having to represent the company. It's very difficult to know where the decision got made. There are big business corporate sponsors that may have been involved in the decision. Perhaps they may have been afraid in this Republican climate that they would lose their funding if they accept something which is not chauvinistically American nationalist but shows us rather, as connected to a larger intelligence in the cosmos. That is not a help to American egoism. *John pauses, then comments in relation to Donna Bassett's appearance on the program—*

But isn't it expectable, the way the energies of the universe go, that these things have a way of cycling back? It's like you go through the eye of a hurricane, and there is a quiet in the middle, like after the Harvard thing, and now here's the other side of it.

CF: At least you can take the energy and turn it into a positive influence.

JM: Exactly, That's exactly right. That's what we are trying to do. I think it's an opportunity, just like we were saying about the use of the word

"irrational". On the one hand you can say that's a bad word. You're irrational, a real put down. On the other hand, you can speak of "super-rationality" to the exclusion of letting in feeling and spirit and the forces of nature, which are part of who we are. It is our super-rationality that allows us to exploit nature, to be destructive to the planet and ignore our larger connections. There's a chance here to use the same language, the same energy, but in a creative, positive way.

CF: So, in that creative, positive way, what would you like to see come out of this? What would be the "prize" if you will? How can we change this to something positive?

JM: I think that's a good question. I would like to see a national dialogue that brought in top scientists, government people, ordinary folks, mental health professionals, even military people, any kind of interested, intelligent professionals, just about anybody who wants to get into the debate, who cares about human identity. That is who we are in the cosmos and our relationship to nature and one another, and how the abduction story relates to human experience.

I would like to see the program provoke that kind of discussion. What is Science? What are the limitations of Science? Is Science with a capital S the only way to know or has Science narrowed itself to the official functioning of the left brain, a completely separate kind of "I'm here, you're there" dualism? Or is some of the most important knowledge gained from narrative, from conversation and the sharing of information between and among people? In other words, to treat anything that one human being tells another as anecdotal if it doesn't fit what you want to know, that's irrational, I think. For example if someone says they had these experiences, but it's painful, there is fear connected to them, you have to enter into a relationship with that person to get that person to talk to you, to learn what that experience was. But then you don't have absolute subject/object distancing, or pure detached objectivity, because the person won't talk to you if there isn't an empathic, feeling relationship. So it's already not pure science.

You can't learn about this phenomenon with just measurements and questionnaires and objective interviews, because the person won't feel a supportive context in which to talk about deeply meaningful and powerful experiences. You have to think about a different way of "knowing" when you are talking about human memories and experiences of the most profound and powerful sort like these surely are.

A useful debate would open the whole question of the issue in Science (with a capital S). How do we go about knowing when we are dealing with something deeply buried in the human psyche as an experience, and how do we assess where the source of that experience is —i.e. as coming largely from within the person or evoked by outside stimuli?

CF: A lot of the people who watch the Nova show take Nova as being a truth filled science show. It is viewed as kind of like "going to school" to some people. If it's on Nova it is right. They will not even question what Nova feeds to them. So many people who see this are not going to say to themselves "I wonder if there is more to it? I wonder if there is another side to it? Lets get together and explore it?" How do you open up this dialogue?

JM: Well ideally a program would be different, though perhaps with Nova this would not be possible. There would be a forum discussion before or after, or they would take some parts out and put in some knowledgeable people who could bring in a more balanced view. They are probably not going to do that, so it's going to depend on the response to the show. Publishing of letters like Budd Hopkin's, ours, some interviews on radio and television that follow the (Nova) show or demonstrate a bias or prejudice could be useful. A kind of culture of knowledge around the show might develop, so people who saw the show get to know there is much more to it, that there are different positions and different points of view.

We are in a time now where information can travel very quickly. If the show is off on 10 basic points, that will come out. It won't remain hidden.

For instance, take all the attacks on me personally. This is not the first time. There was *Time Magazine*, etc. Nevertheless, I think I emerged from all of that with kind of mixed reactions. A lot of people felt that I presented something that people needed to think about. I didn't go away. The phenomenon didn't go away.

None of the attackers came up with alternative explanations for any cases that have held up. There have been a lot offered, and they keep getting offered, but they're kind of silly, like sleep paralysis to explain a complex abduction narrative. So a lot of these experiences happen at night. So what? People do feel paralyzed, but that's only one part of the story. Or, take childhood sexual trauma being displaced onto aliens. People may think of that, but there isn't a single case where that has actually explained anyone's experiences. Or what about as Carl Sagan says on the program, hallucinations. Yes, people can hallucinate, but he's not a psychiatrist. He never offers anything to suggest that these people are hallucinating. He calls it hallucinations because in his world view the abduction phenomenon is not possible, and therefore by definition people must be hallucinating. Hallucination is a psychiatric symptom that occurs under certain conditions in a particular context. There is not a shred of evidence provided that those conditions, or that context, applies to these people. There is a lot of opportunity here to develop knowledge about who this population really is.

I'm hoping another thing that will come out of this is that the abductees will be so upset and enraged that they will actually be strengthened in their coming together with one another. Discussions will go on around the office. Somebody will say, for instance, "Oh, God. Those crazy people. Those Abductees. They really..." you know. Then an abductee that is in the office will say "Wait a minute. I'm one of those people and I don't like you talking like that because you've been working with me for a long time now."

Someone might then reply, "You? You're one of them? Oh really, I didn't know that."

This happened here around drug abuse. We had a lot of trouble here at Cambridge Hospital getting a program for drug

abusers going. In a City Council meeting where the most prominent city councilor was present, one of our clients got up and said, "You know, I'm a drug abuser. I take drugs. I need that program." Her father was a poker playing friend of this city councilor. He said, "You? You're a drug abuser? But you always seemed like such a nice girl." Then he completely changed his attitude about the drug program. He never voted against a drug program again. In other words, somebody had the courage to speak up in a public, political, context and say "This is me."

If experiencers could feel supported. If there were enough dialogue out there now, enough open consideration of this, even if some of it is negative (you've got to expect that), more experiencers might be willing to go public.

Experiencers don't speak a lot from that position. They don't speak up politically and angrily and say, "wait a minute, I'm an experiencer. We've got to speak up. This is serious business. We're not crazy."

This program may incense people enough. It's a last straw. What makes people come out? I don't know. That is an interesting political, social and cultural question; at what point does a minority come out?

You see, this is a very powerful group. Let say 2 percent or 5 percent of the population are experiencers. As an "underground" they are not very powerful. But what if they become a cohesive political group saying human identity is different from what we thought it was? We are a cosmos full of life, full of intelligences, including little aliens with big black eyes and other beings, whether they are nice or not nice, whether they are making hybrids, or whatever they are doing, it's a fact. Just the fact of the mystery of this connection changes the whole notion of who we are as a species. So the experiencers are in a very powerful position to leverage a change of human identity around our relationship in the cosmos, which is not about whether the aliens are good guys or bad guys. The fact that they exist is important.

Take Peter, for example, who is totally out. He's in my book. He used his own name. Peter said the most powerful thing for him is not the question of whether or

not they are traumatizing him, taking his seed. The most powerful thing for him was acknowledging the reality or the existence of the beings, because by acknowledging that these beings existed, acknowledging in his body which is where we really learn things, it changes consciousness for a person. He was then a different person. He could say then "I am now a person who exists in a universe filled with this other intelligence, and if these guys, e.g. grays, exist, there are probably hundreds or thousands and millions of other species who haven't found a way to manifest before us."

So this means that when people talk about beings and entities, it's not just mythology for the anthropologist. It has a reality to it. That means the western intellectual enterprise, who's main achievement seems to have been to cut us off from spirit, has to be reconsidered. These are some of the things that this program (Nova) could help us explore or move into.

CF: Obviously one of the things Nova didn't touch on is how wide ranged and how many cultures this phenomenon goes through. You've been traveling recently and exploring this phenomenon across the world. I was wondering if you could tell us a little about that.

JM: My initial experience with the abduction phenomenon was in the United States, of course. I've now worked intensively with about 120 experiencers, which means initial interviews ranging from an hour and a half to many many hours with people, including some relaxation sessions to help flesh out the recall of their experiences. My colleague Dominique Callimanopulos and I thought it would be really valuable to see whether this was something restricted to the U.S. or western "high-tech" psychology and experience, since we are so exposed to aerospace images here and to high-tech communications, to ballistic missiles and such phenomena in the sky. Is this something, we asked, which is restricted to the western orientation? So we thought, let's see what's going on in other cultures about this. We have interviewed experiencers in Brazil, in many countries in Europe, Australia, South Africa,

Zimbabwe, and also among Native Americans. In Australia we met with both white Australians and Aborigines. What's emerging is that something like the experiences that American abductees undergo is occurring around the world, but with differences.

At first we thought that there might be kind of one uniform abduction experience. But then we had a rather startling experience recently with an Australian Aboriginal who described abductions, being taken up on blue lights into the sky by a friendly being. She said this is well known in her culture. But it wasn't UFO related. She said in effect, "It doesn't appear as a UFO because that's not part of our perception. That's not how our culture works." These agencies or intelligences don't need to show up as UFOs, as if the form of the vehicles, or the form of the manifestations, seems to in a degree follow the culture and its particular orientation and mythology. The experience of being taken up and communicating with strange beings in the sky seems to apply across cultures.

We don't really have enough information to generalize about what's going on around the world, except to say that this does not appear to be restricted to the United States. It does seem to be widespread and a lot more work needs to be done along those lines.

While we were in Zimbabwe, we interviewed 12 children in a private school in Ruwa which is 20 minutes outside the capital of Harare. They described a remarkable event that occurred on September 16, 1994, in which all the children — more than 60 in the school yard during the morning break — saw a large UFO and several smaller ones that hovered over the grass. They also saw one or more, as they called them, strange beings with big black eyes that were looking at them and beseeching them with messages through their large eyes about the earth and in terms the death of its life forms. This was very powerful for these children.

The children ran in excitedly to tell their teachers of what they had undergone. Of course the teachers and the headmaster disbelieved them at first, but after questioning them, and finding the consistency over and over again of the stories, it

became clear they were not making up a prank. If it were a prank, the story would have broken down, or there would have been major differences from one child to the next. But all the children maintained this is what happened, this is what they saw, so the teachers and the headmaster came to the conclusion that these children, as the headmaster put it, "saw something that was not of this world."

It does appear that around the world, some kind of intelligence is trying to get through the armor of the western psyche. For several hundred years we have armored ourselves against the awareness of the existence of life in the universe other than that which we can prove in conventional, scientific terms.

Apparently, for the universe's many beings and spirits to manifest as real, they have to somehow appear to us in some kind of physical form that can reach through to a mentality, namely our western psyche, which has reduced all other life in the universe to a projection of the human mind.

One way to look at the alien abduction situation is as the universe reaching out to us, and trying to speak to us in the only language we seem able to understand, which is this material, physical way of talking. Most cultures around the world, other than our own, know there are spirits and that they can manifest physically, that they are real and exist. But we have lost the capacity to perceive them, so the universe has to reach out to us and somehow get through our armor. This phenomenon seems to be a way to reach us even though the mainstream scientific community, as in the Nova program, still tries to reject it, tries to say it's not true. ★

## Interview with Denise DiIanni, Producer of NOVA's "Kidnapped by Aliens?"

Feb. 26, 1996

CF: Denise, I would like to talk to you about the upcoming Nova program "Kidnapped by Aliens" that is going to air on Feb 27. As you know, there has been a lot of controversy about this episode of Nova already. I was wondering if you would tell *Contact Forum's* readers about your perspective of the show and the surrounding controversy, as producer of the show.

DD: Budd Hopkins, John Mack and many others are making charges against Nova. Among others is that Nova has suppressed evidence that would bolster the case of alien abductions. My question to you and your readership, and I don't know what the perspective of CONTACT FORUM is, what possible motivation would I have for not reporting on what would have been the biggest story of my career, and arguably to use Budd Hopkins' words 'the biggest story ever?'

If Nova could have found evidence to substantiate these claims, I assure you we would have reported on it. And I assure you we will in the future, as would any news-gathering organization.

Budd Hopkins is saying we suppressed evidence we didn't like. Quite the contrary is true. It's bewildering to me, having never been involved in this sort of thing, that there actually is a level of real dishonesty going out. For instance, Budd Hopkins had shown us some material that he thought was evidence of alien abductions. . . . in October of '95, I wrote a letter . . . to him. Let me read you just one paragraph.

"Budd, what I would need to report on such information as evidence would be an independent review of such materials by a licensed radiologist not associated with this case. I offer now, as I have offered before, if you know of *any case* of a scar or implant that has been medically verified and is still available for independent confirmation, I stand ready to hire an independent licensed medical professional

to examine this person and to analyze the root of such injury or implant. More than this I can not do."

That letter went out to Budd Hopkins in October because he was saying "you're not looking at the evidence," and I said, "Budd, you give me photographs that you allege to be evidence, but it could be anything. A photograph of a scar does not necessary prove an alien abduction."

Certainly, if hundreds of thousands of people are being abducted every year, there must be some current case that we could actually have an independent examiner look at. He never got back to me. I called his office three times subsequent to this letter. The third time I spoke to his fiancée who said, "you have to understand Denise," (and this is something Budd Hopkins has said to me elsewhere) "that when you are going to look closely, the aliens come and take the evidence away."

I said, "Well if that is true, we can't really talk about physical evidence. Let's talk about the other evidence. How about the evidence that doesn't disappear?" The evidence that doesn't disappear is the stories themselves, the similarity in details and the apparent sincerity and emotionality with which these stories are told. And that is in fact the center and the heart of the Nova program.

CF: Is the program that Budd saw the program that is going to be aired tomorrow night?

DD: Yes. Actually I don't know what Budd saw. The show is not published until it is broadcast tomorrow night. We never make programs available, except to the press. Budd Hopkins and many people in the alien abduction community have gotten a [copy of the] show. Budd Hopkins has widely made it available. This is an infringement on copyright law, but they proceeded to do it anyway. Then they are coming back and criticizing us for an illegal preview of a tape they never were supposed to have had.

*Denise DiIanni cont.*

So I don't actually know what Budd Hopkins saw. I assume he saw the finished program. It's possible he might have seen an earlier tape that someone might have smuggled out. I have no idea how he got the tape.

CF: I would like to ask you about a couple of things I've heard. I have a copy of Budd Hopkins' letter, but I haven't seen John Mack's letter yet. I don't know exactly what John Mack is "officially" saying about all of this.

DD: I have John's letter here. His letter covers much of the same ground, though in a more scholarly way than Budd Hopkins.

CF: It's been said that some people who have been brought up as witnesses to discredit the abduction phenomena have questionable pasts, and that Nova failed to look into the pasts of these people. I can't believe that a show like Nova would fail to verify where a witness is coming from. Have you done verification on all the people involved with the show?

DD: We stand behind the reporting on the show. This show is basically about a complicated phenomenon, as I'm sure you and your readers will agree. In this show we try to present everybody, at least initially, as they present themselves. For instance, when we present Budd Hopkins and different abductees and experiencers, we don't editorialize about who they are. We allow them to present themselves to the camera as they want to be presented. The show unfolds, and an analysis emerges. We do that with everybody in the show.

Many of the people that we proposed, or in fact interviewed, have been charged by Budd Hopkins and John Mack as being inappropriate witnesses to this phenomenon, including Carl Sagan. They have made all kinds of slanderous accusations against Carl Sagan...against others that we have considered putting in the show and...to some that are in the show.

It's a tough area to evaluate the stability of any particular witness. In each case, we try to treat each witness with respect, allow them to present themselves as they want to be presented, and allow other analysis within the show to respond to that.

Let me say one thing specific that is really something to keep in mind for your readers: It's really important to know that there is a difference between a theoretical belief in UFOs and actual belief that aliens are currently abducting people—men, women and children — from their beds or their cars and conducting reproductive experimentation and producing a human hybrid species.

I understand the evolution of the relation between the UFO community and the alien abduction community, but I think in part, it's unfortunate, because I think the claims made by the alien abduction community and proponents are so much more implausible and actually dangerous than what the UFO community has for years believed. I think it's unfortunate they have become so incredibly intertwined. I understand why that has happened historically. I understand the necessity of it.

You have to understand that you can believe in the theoretical possibility of UFOs and certainly in the theoretical possibility of ET life forms out there, as many scientists do believe, without buying into these frightening stories of reproductive rape and kidnapping of men, women and children.

Budd Hopkins is saying we have discounted the UFO phenomena. We do not at all. We don't address it. We have one small historical mention of UFOs, and we say the government explained away UFOs as celestial bodies, hoaxes, etc., yet many Americans remain suspicious. We don't take it either way. That's not the business of the film. We say in the film whether or not extraterrestrial intelligence exists somewhere in the universe is a very different question from whether or not aliens are here on Planet Earth today. The theoretic possibility of ET life is also not the content of the film. The film concerns itself with some very

specific and explicit charges. These are ones that I think are upsetting to many people.

As you may know, John Mack has a much more benevolent alien in mind when he talks about aliens — aliens with a benevolent message, a message that most of us can support, a message of world peace and environmental sanity. That's a good message. But you have to understand that many of the other aliens that are out there, [the] aliens that Budd Hopkins or David Jacobs talk about are very menacing beings.

There is a profound split in the "abduction" community. There is enormous criticism from one camp to the other going on. Because John Mack is taking a somewhat more spiritual and almost metaphysical take on aliens, he's distancing himself from the real physical, literal take on aliens. Budd Hopkins and others are taking a more literal approach to alien abductions. So even in the "abduction" community there is a huge split about how literal, and by that I mean reality based in the here and now, these stories are meant to be taken.

CF: After reading Budd's letter, I get the feeling, and I have heard many people say that they believe the people in the show were not treated with respect... that you feel the people were treated with respect. It is the phenomenon that doesn't bear respect. Is this an accurate perception on my part?

DD: What I think is this: Budd Hopkins has accused us of saying these people are lying or addle-brained or simple minded. Nothing can be further from the truth. If I was going to make a film that said these people are lying or mentally unstable, it would have been a very short film. How interesting is that to say?

John Mack says in the film, and we do not dispute it, "There have been many psychiatric and psychological studies of these people, and no psychopathology has been found in a single case." We let that stand because we take no exception to that fact. John Mack is probably right.

John Mack accuses us of not having reviewed the psychiatric and psychological research on this, such as studies done

by Nick Spanos, studies done by Elizabeth Slater. We are very aware of them. We let John Mack have the last word. No psychopathology has been found.

In fact, the only generality we make about the psychological profile of these people is one neurobiologist who says in the film that these people tend to be highly creative. These people are presented as their own witnesses to their own experience. I think they are treated with respect. We've written letters to every person who appeared in the film. I got a response from a John Mack experimenter who said that of all the radio and TV he's done, Nova was the only organization to write him a letter in advance of the broadcast to say "Look, you might not like our conclusions, and we are sorry if it in anyway disturbs you, but we want you to know before broadcast." And he thanked us for that. Though he hasn't seen the program yet, in terms of the process, he felt very respectfully treated.

I know this is a very important subject to a lot of people. I know it's very sensitive. In some ways it's been the toughest film of my career. Because nice people who believe things sincerely are having Nova say that we're not sure you are right about this. I think there is great need to be sensitive to this and respectful of the experience.

We are a science journalism organization. You can't have the credibility of science without submitting to its rigors. Certain standards have to be met before you can claim something to be a literal, legitimate reality.

CF: I heard that professional "debunkers" such as Phil Klass were actually hired as consultants on the program. Is this so?

DD: That is completely untrue. We shoot 30 hours of material for an hour-long program. Phil Klass was one of about 8 scientists, debunkers or skeptics whom we interviewed. Because of issues of cutting and time and space he doesn't make it in the program. But his only role in the program was to be an interview subject. Like a few others he didn't make it into the final cut. He does appear

on our website because we had collected materials and because Budd Hopkins was interested in having more debate about the alleged physical evidence. He was in no way a consultant to the program.

Budd Hopkins is making a lot of specious charges which are in themselves defaming. They are defamatory to Nova and of me as a journalist.

CF: Please don't misunderstand me. I didn't get that from Budd Hopkins. It wasn't even attributed as coming from Budd Hopkins.

DD: I understand. There are a lot of rumors. In fact, I will tell you one thing that did happen. John Mack and Budd Hopkins said they would not be on a show

that includes Phil Klass. I said "It is not for you to determine the editorial standards by which Nova is going to work.

It is only for Nova as an independent journalistic organization to decide whom we include and not include. If you don't want to be in our film, that is your prerogative. Don't try to muscle us into saying whom we can and can't have in the film."

They did not want to have Baker in the film and they did not want to have Phil Klass in the film. Phil Klass does not appear in the film only because of the editorial demands of the project. It was cut down from 30 hours to 10 hours to 2 hours to 1 hour. Doing such we lost a lot of very powerful material.

In fact another charge that Budd Hopkins has been making widely is that we suppressed evidence by not showing more of what he did with hypnosis, by not showing more of the people he interviewed. Again Budd Hopkins in two cases did hypnosis sessions that are 90 minutes long. We have a 52-minute program. How in heaven's name are we supposed to show the entire 90-minute hypnosis session in a 52-minute program? Budd Hopkins is seeming to be as naïve about the constraints of television production as he seems to be about scientific methodology. Of course, we cut these things down.

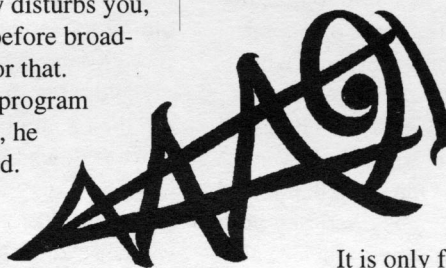
And of course, we cut them in a way that gave our audience insight to the most important moments of hypnosis sessions and interviews.

Budd Hopkins further charges that we have experts talk about hypnosis and support group meetings based on "preselected videos." This is completely untrue again. We did have experts come in and look at materials, but in every case the experts saw the complete materials. By that I mean, we had an expert talk about a hypnosis session. The expert saw the entire 90-minute hypnosis session. Again, on the film, her comments were only in reference to the two minutes you can see on the film. That's because we are dealing with a huge reality edited and distilled down to 52 minutes.

Budd Hopkins would have you believe that our experts only saw these particular two minutes that I wanted to direct their attention to. A complete untruth. The experts saw all the material from the hypnosis sessions, all the material from the support sessions, all the material from the relevant interviews that they comment upon. So he's out there writing letters that say based on pre-selected videos, two minute clips, experts are making all these statements. That is not true. The experts saw the material. And if this were an interactive CD-ROM, the audience would be able to see all the material as well. But since this is, in fact, not—it is a 52-minute film documentary — we had to make choices and selections. The experts saw everything and reported on their conclusions. We did not make their conclusions for them. This is highly appropriate journalistic practice.

CF: Like I said, I haven't seen John Mack's letter yet. We will probably be taking excerpts from it for the article. I just wanted to let you know so I can give you the chance if there is anything in his letter you wish to address.

DD: He says, "no theory explains all the following three elements, 1. The consistency of subjective reports. 2. The level of affect associated with these reports both in and out of hypnosis. 3. The physical evidence that corroborates these subjective reports." That's what they say. And that's the main complaint. And



I would counter that we do take those things on. We report that there is no independently verified physical evidence. I stand by that. I will tell you and your readership that Nova would be crazy not to report on real physical evidence as would any news gathering organization would in the country and arguably in the world. And if anybody still comes up with real evidence, independently verified, (not a story about evidence) Nova would report on that. I would personally get it to news if someone came up to me with anything that could be really independently verified to be a nasal implant or a scar that had to come from an alien abduction and not some other source. We would absolutely report on it. [See p. 19 for physical evidence.]

We do talk about the fact that we believe these are sincere people. We acknowledge that people come up with these stories regardless of hypnosis. Although contrary to what Budd and John claim, most abduction stories are in some way aided by hypnosis. It is indisputable that some people have abduction stories without being in hypnosis. We go on to talk about other ways that people can be influenced. We bring on a social psychologist, who is a Pulitzer Prize winning social psychologist, who talks about social dynamic forces. His theories explain how even if you don't have hypnosis, you could still be subjected to subjective influences. In some cases there is evidence that it can create beliefs that are not wholly true.

So again, Budd would have your readers believe, and John Mack would have your readers believe, that we are saying that every case has been under hypnosis and they can all be explained away. Then they accuse us of being simple-minded. It is their read of the program that is being simple minded. The program doesn't say that at all. The program doesn't say there is one answer. The program says that there are seven or eight factors that coalesce, perhaps, to provide a more parsimonious and likely explanation that the fact that aliens are truly defying every physical and biological law we know, abducting people without detection and creating a human/alien hybrid race.

CF: Earlier you said that you feel this belief is dangerous. Can you explain why you feel this way?

DD: I think that there are different beliefs out there. I think John has one belief system. But I think there are beliefs out there being supported by researchers like David Jacobs and Budd Hopkins and others that are dangerous.

I have seen people who have been troubled by this. I've seen people who are troubled by the notion that they and their children, for generations now and into the future, will be abducted and there is not a thing they can do about it. I think as a mother of a small child and as a human being that is a really frightening proposition. I'm glad that science and scientist methodology exist to tell me that perhaps there is a different explanation.

When you get John's letter and when you read Budd's letter there are a lot of charges. I think that we have an honest to goodness, sincere and truthful answer for every single charge. One thing that is really fascinating to me is [that] one of the questions we asked all the abductees and all the researchers was "if there were an alternative explanation, something that was more plausible, or as plausible then actual, physical, literal abduction how would you feel?" In every case they said, "That would be great. I would rather be crazy. I'd rather be something else. I don't want this to be true." Yet, when Nova, a responsible press organization with no motivation for withholding information presents seven scientists who collectively say, perhaps it's this or this or this, instead of saying "thanks for presenting an alternate view. Let's look into this. Maybe there is some liberation for some people who believe they are being abducted," they are furious with us. They are furious with us because we broke rank with the dogma.

I don't know what your readers will think, but you have to understand how unlikely these stories are, given what we understand the physical universe to be. They are talking about aliens creating a human/alien hybrid race, women giving birth to alien hybrid/ human children or having fetuses removed from them. They

are talking about this happening repeatedly through generations. They are talking about all kinds of technology implants and things being left, and that for all the years this has allegedly been happening and for all the tens and hundreds of thousands of people to whom it has allegedly been happening, there is not one case that is available for independent confirmation.

Whatever they may say about Nova, I will tell you as a person who has long been open to the theoretical notion of ET life and has been curious about UFOs, if there was one piece of information that could have been presented to me, I would have reported on it.

Further, Budd Hopkins said we suppress evidence. Let me read for you something that I asked Budd Hopkins on film. I looked at a lot of these cases very, very closely, contrary to what he would say. I did two full interviews with him and then a number of smaller interviews as we followed him around when he was working with people. I said at the last interview, "Budd I want to give you another chance to talk about the best cases. I feel our audience is not going to be convinced by what you offered. What about a case that can't be explained away by hallucinations or some neurological factor or hypnosis, or the power of suggestion? What other case can we bring to our audience to convince them?"

I gave him that chance. You know what case he gave me? The Travis Walton case.

When you think that Budd Hopkins is one of the premiere abduction researchers who is working on his third book, and is working on a second mini-series, who allegedly sees hundreds of people all the time, who allegedly have hundreds of thousands of abductions a year, yet the case that he refers back to is the Travis Walton case, which you may or may not know, that case is not beyond argument. There are many who don't buy that case. Wouldn't you think given that opportunity by a national production that you would say, "actually there is a case right here, take a look." He didn't. ★

# Reclaiming Your Personal Power

By Debra Lindemann

*Debra Lindemann is a certified, registered clinical hypnotherapist who has extensively researched human-extraterrestrial encounters, and has interviewed and worked with hundreds of cases in her practice. Debra teaches and has demonstrated in her own personal life that "the power of the mind is unlimited and defines and creates the experiences and perceptions of each of our lives." Debra also hosted several radio programs on the subject in the Los Angeles area.*

All over the world and in every stratum of society, we are one by one being changed forever by incredible encounters that defy our very sense of reality. From angelic visitations to contact with extraterrestrials, these experiences are life altering and sobering. While these face-to-face events are not new in human experience or recorded history, no one is ever truly prepared for such an extraordinary incident when it happens to them.

A few years ago I began noticing what appeared to be a symbolic relationship between the outer events in people's lives and how they inwardly viewed themselves, or how they saw the world. You probably have heard the age-old saying: "As above, so below." One way of interpreting that statement is: as it seems in your mind, so it is in the body of your experiences. Is it possible that what appear to be random outer situations also represent inner metaphors or a mirror for how we perceive life?

Frightening and unsettling events seem quite commonplace around the world. Collectively, as a global society, we probably feel more out of control at this point, in this time, than we've ever felt before. We feel less individually empowered, less in control over what affects our own lives. We are also being violated by a loss of many of our freedoms, loss of privacy, even by traumatic events such as

terrorist bombings. There are deadly viruses that are killing thousands. The global environment that supports us is possibly on the edge of collapsing. All of this adds to the collective consciousness that we have somehow lost a certain measure of control, lost a sense that we can trust and that our life is somewhat predictable.

On top of all of this, many have experienced sexual or emotional abuse as children. These children may grow up believing they are victims and are out of control. Because of these early experiences, they see the world through the eyes of a victim. Many will continue to demonstrate victim behavior throughout their lives.

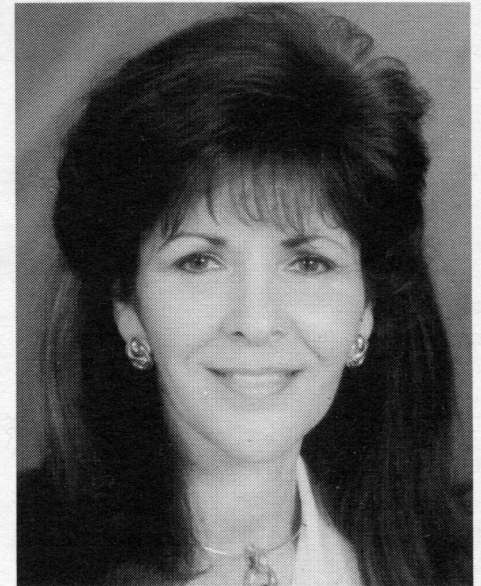
If we have an overall consciousness here on the planet that we have no control on an individual basis, isn't it rather curious that these feelings of no control and personal violation are also an earmark of many abduction experiences? We are experiencing events that support the perception of our lives, abduction being one of them. The word choice of "abduction" also connotes a sense of "victimhood" and being powerless.

After centuries of looking outside of ourselves for truth and support, to our institutions, science, world religions and governments, many of us are feeling deeply violated and disenchanting. What we were trained to trust is not working. The world outside of ourselves and everything that we know seems to be falling away. Each of us is being challenged to begin looking within for the answers, to take personal responsibility for correcting what others have not. It is time for all of us to grow up. The other choice is to remain "helpless" and continue to see ourselves as victims, and that life has somehow done us wrong.

In reality, the outside world has never offered the answers we are each seeking in our lives. We have not really fallen short in what we have built or created. Where we have fallen short is in looking solely to those structures outside of ourselves to find what is missing.

Coming to grips with the realization that you have had an encounter with non-human beings is one of the most compelling life changing events imaginable. It forces you to look within, because it

becomes self-evident quickly that you are not likely to get answers from anything outside of yourself. Finding a supportive and nurturing group of people who have had similar experiences, or a trained professional familiar with this phenomenon, is the most intelligent choice you can make that is outside of yourself. However, in the end it is you, the "experiencer", who must make ultimate



*Debra Lindemann*

sense of all of it and learn how to incorporate this unexpected twist of reality into your own.

Even further, the experience of contact with non-human intelligence, whether it be angelic or extraterrestrial, is complicated by the fact that we have been conditioned to not trust our feelings or our intuition. Somehow we are taught to ignore this natural-born ability to perceive and understand and to trade it for answers outside of ourselves. We have de-pressed (pushed down) a very important part of our whole self. It is no wonder that we often feel depressed. We are trained to not trust ourselves. It is time once again to know that you can trust yourself and your experiences.

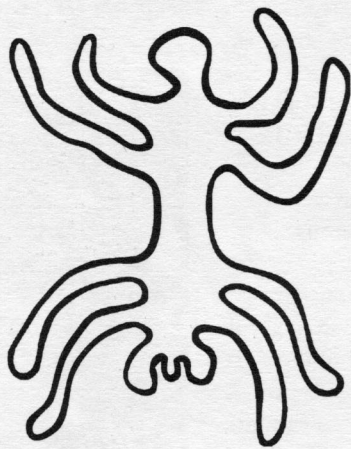
In my practice I have seen and heard a complete array of interpretations of encounters, from extremely traumatic to uplifting and positively transformative. Though no one really fully understands yet the intent or agenda, if any, behind these visitations, fear and trauma is a

natural reaction to such an experience when it is so wildly outside of normal reality. The fact that we fear it does not necessarily mean that it is negative. What it does mean is that it is an experience that makes us feel vulnerable and out of control, because we have no previous references for interpretation or knowledge to draw from.

There is nothing more frightening than the unknown. It is our familiar life experiences that we use as a framework to interpret events and give a sense of control. When there is no such prior knowledge to draw from we feel completely destabilized and disconnected from everything, as though we are dropping into a great black hole of non-existence. Many "experiencers" have a deep-seated fear or feeling that in these encounters they will somehow cease to exist; as though they would be swallowed up by this huge dark void of the unknown. Author Whitley Strieber spoke of this personal experience in his recent book, "Breakthrough". The basic reason for this natural fear is that when everything that is familiar (our very framework for reference) has been challenged and questioned, we feel as though suddenly we are standing on nothing.

There are, however, some comforting thoughts that can help us through all of this. When someone has encountered such a visitation, it may seem as though everything has changed and that they can never go back to "the way it was before." It is true that with this new experience, we can't go back to the sense of reality we knew before. However, even though it seems that everything has changed, at the same time, almost nothing has changed. Think about this for a moment. If indeed these beings have been around for a very long time, which ancient writings suggest, the main thing that has changed is our own awareness of their presence, and of course our interaction with them. That new awareness throws a big wrench into

our old safe and predictable world view. Yet, while these visitors have always been around, it appears that the world still continued to exist and evolve. Children were born, families were raised, and the world continued. I suspect that all of that will continue. Further still, if these beings had an intention to bring any lasting harm



to us, that could most certainly have been accomplished a long time ago. I am not taking a position, however, that any or all of these visitations are of a benevolent nature, only that we can go forward with our lives in either case. I believe only time will tell the nature and purpose of these encounters.

Through all of these experiences, sometimes it might seem as though we are lost, that there is no safety anywhere and that there is no help. It is comforting to remember all the numerous and wonderful stories we hear of people who have had encounters with angels. We have all heard the life-changing dramas that many have told about angelic intervention during times of danger or life-threatening situations. What that can tell us is that we are all indeed watched over and protected. It suggests that there are loving and divine beings that do care about our safety and do intervene when necessary. I believe we are not alone and we are not forgotten and we are all important. If this angelic help is available to one, it is certainly available to all who ask for it. This is something you can do by going within yourself.

I do believe there is a hidden blessing within every dark or fearful experience, and that is that we are often forced, through our own pain, to finally reach out to something more powerful within. I believe that there is a deep yearning going on around the planet; it is gaining critical mass. There is a need to reconnect with our divine or our spiritual self, which is individual for each person, and within each person. There is a need to feel whole again. I believe it is through that connection that we can gain a greater sense of

strength, healing and inner peace. It is that connection that can put us back in balance again, because our spiritual nature is part of the whole spectrum of who we are. Without it, we feel fragmented and cut off. We feel isolated and incomplete. Western thinking has conditioned us not to honor that need.

I feel strongly compelled to share the importance of prayer and meditation in the healing process. It works! This has nothing to do with traditional religion, but everything to do with the spiritual self. Prayer transcends religion and is universal. That might not sound like a typical suggestion one would hear from a clinical hypnotherapist, but my reason for writing this article is to share ways in which we can mend and reclaim our own personal power again. I am not suggesting that prayer or meditation will stop abduction, but it can give such a wonderful inner strength and can help a person see their life from a stronger, more centered perspective. It is amazing how one's life can take on a whole new level and how much can change for the good, through prayer and meditation.

When a person is traumatized, fear can be absolutely immobilizing. It is as though the fear itself becomes an entity; it seems to have a life of itself. The more one fears, the more power that fear seems to have. A person can become so absorbed by fear that there is no other room for anything else. It seems to become a vicious cycle, and often one feels as though he or she can't break free. It is especially true at times such as this, that prayer and meditation can be most effective. It can help to break that cycle. All we need to do is to practice the art of tapping into that powerful divine connection that is already within us for the asking.

I found it fascinating that currently the national #1 bestseller is a lovely little book by Marianne Williamson, called "Illuminata, A Return to Prayer". I highly recommend it to anyone wishing for greater help and strength in their lives. I will leave you with a lovely quote from her book that really says it all: "Through prayer we find what we cannot find elsewhere: a peace that is not of this world." ★

# SURGEON TELLS FIRST RESULTS OF IMPLANT ANALYSIS

## Sims, Leir Say They Might Have Hard Evidence of Abduction

*This story summarizes information presented by hypnotherapist Derrel Sims and physician Roger Leir at a public meeting in Thousand Oaks, California on February 23, 1996, sponsored by the local chapter of MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network). Contact Forum thanks ISCNI for providing this significant story. To order ISCNI's Flash Magazine see page 24.*

Dr. Roger Leir is a California surgeon who has removed what may be actual alien implants from two people brought to him by hypno-anesthesia therapist and abduction researcher Derrel Sims of Houston, Texas. Sims was the main speaker at a MUFON meeting on Feb 23 but turned the podium over to Dr. Leir for the medical part of the presentation.

On August 19, 1995, several alleged "implants" were surgically removed from two abductees who have been working with Sims. If preliminary findings are confirmed by further laboratory testing, these implants might provide hard evidence that the abduction phenomenon is a reality.

Dr. Leir removed a total of three objects, two from one patient and one from a second patient. Both specimens in the first patient, a woman, were located in her large toe, one on each side of the toe. The third object was removed from the back of the left hand of the second patient, a man, slightly above the web area between the thumb and the index finger.

According to Sims, these people were originally unaware that they had the implants. The objects were accidentally discovered on X-rays taken for unrelated reasons. At the time, these individuals were seeing Derrel, as there were indications that they had a history of abduction. After extensive interviews were taken by Derrel, he ordered copies of their medical records and these objects came under scrutiny. There was no pain associated with these implants, and neither patient had any prior sensation of foreign objects in the body. Another peculiar fact is that these implants also left no sign of entry into the body; if there was an initial incision, it healed so perfectly that there was no outward scar.

To help locate the implants more specifically prior to surgery, Dr. Leir used a stud finder and a gauss meter.

A gauss meter measures electromagnetic fields. When the gauss meter was put near the object in the man's hand, the meter "went crazy." Dr. Leir first tested the man with the gauss meter indoors, then took him outdoors away from all other magnetic influences. The results were the same. Similarly, when he used the stud finder, it lit up brightly over the man's hand, so they knew there was something there.

Prior to the surgery, both individuals received a type of local anesthetic which would normally anesthetize the area of surgery for up to six hours. While Dr. Leir was searching within the woman's toe for the first implant, he accidentally touched the object and the patient "almost jumped off the table." Dr. Leir explained that the only time a surgeon gets this type of pain reaction under anesthesia is when something, in this case the object, is in close proximity to a nerve fiber. This is because the nerve fiber arouses the sensation of pain directly in the patient's brain, outside of the field of anesthesia. This happened in all three spots with both patients. When the objects were extracted, both patients had the same painful response. Dr. Leir concluded that these objects were somehow attached to nerves.

The first object removed was flat and approximately triangular in shape, about half a centimeter on each side. Though metallic inside, it was covered with a thick, dense gray membrane. Dr. Leir tried to cut into the membrane with a scalpel, but couldn't.

When foreign objects have been in the human body for a long time, they get covered with a dense fibrous coating, but usually such material can be scraped off with a blade. In this case, however, the membrane was nearly impossible to remove. A similar coating was found on all three objects.

Derrel Sims took the implants back to Houston for further analysis, while Dr. Leir sent samples of surrounding tissue to a local pathologist. When the objects were taken out, Dr. Leir had noticed that the tissue around them was a discolored gray tone, not the color normally seen in tissue inflammation surrounding a foreign object. He received three reports back from the pathologist, one for each of the tissue samples. He was excited to see that none of the samples showed any signs of inflammation.

Normally there is an inflammation response to any foreign object in the body. This results from white blood cell activity in the area, attempting to rid the body of what it considers garbage that doesn't belong there. If the object is something soft, like a splinter, the body is able to disintegrate it and take it away one piece at a time. If the body can't remove the foreign object, it does the next best thing. Thousands of cells join together in a process called differentiation, changing form and surrounding the object to wall it off and separate it from the rest of the body. Any type of foreign object placed in the body — whether by accident, such as a splinter, or something surgically inserted by a doctor — will show this type of inflammation. So it was extremely strange that the pathology reports on these objects showed no inflammatory cells at all.

Similarly strange was the discovery that in the tissue around each implant, there were numerous nerve endings that didn't belong there. None of the investigators could say why these nerve endings were there, but it suggests the possibility that the implants act as some kind of monitoring device through attachment to the nervous system.

When Derrel Sims got the objects back to Houston, his first test was to expose them to ultraviolet light. He found that they all glowed brilliant fluorescent green. Derrel has found in his research with abductees that patches of some substance, invisible to the naked eye but fluorescent under black light, sometimes show up on the abductee's body following an abduction. He suspects that whatever this substance is, it could result from direct physical contact with the body of the abductor. With this in mind, he said he was not surprised to see that the three removed objects were fluorescent.

Later, Derrel dried out the three objects, and the membranes surrounding them became brittle. He was then able to scrape some of the membrane material off and send it back to Dr. Leir for analysis. After scraping off the brittle membrane, he found a highly magnetic, metallic, shiny black material inside.

When Dr. Leir received the three different scrapings of the membrane coatings from Derrel Sims, he sent them

*Continued on page 21*

# The Net Connection

*With each issue of CONTACT FORUM we will strive to bring to you the most fascinating and informative contact-related topics we can find in cyberspace. Remember, things that come from the internet are not guaranteed to be true. The readers are encouraged to use their discretion. If you have anything you would like to add, such as your comments, your favorite "contact" spot on the web, or maybe a home page we must share with our readers, please let us know!*

As you probably have guessed, the Internet is ablaze with chatter about the NOVA program "Kidnapped by UFOs?". I wanted to share a few of the many reactions and responses that seem to represent some of the prevailing views on the Internet. (Full screen names have been withheld from posting where requested)

In response to the Nova issue, DaveZzz@aol.com writes:

"It is bad enough to have your life torn apart by the abduction experience, to be assaulted in your home as you sleep, and to be powerless to stop the process. It is hard enough to carry on a normal life when every night you hear their footsteps, hear their sounds, see their faces.

"To say that I have imagined these events is ludicrous. To suggest that thousands of people in this country are having the same hallucination is equally ridiculous. I am a computer programmer and analyst. I spend all day every day working with things that can be explained with hard concrete realities.

"I know what I have seen and felt. I have enough of a hold on reality to recognize a hallucination. My abduction experiences have had a profound influence on my life. I am angry at Nova."

Author Whitley Strieber said:

"In February of 1995 I wrote Nova that they should not be doing a show on abduction because they are a science program and there has been no science done for them to do a program about. I therefore declined to participate. The program they did was irresponsible and vicious in the extreme...I felt that it was an example of religious fundamentalism (in this case, scientific) run amok. Irresponsible, stupid and vile."

Jon said :

"For once this Nova show demonstrated something to me I long needed to see: Mack and Hopkins are UFO investigator wannabees, and they are definitely not scientists; Carl Sagan still has a degree of credibility. At least he acknowledged something important is happening here even if it is most likely psychological in nature. I might disagree with his assessment, but I agree that he treated the subject with scientific objectivity as neither Mack nor Hopkins did."

In response to the above, Amy writes:

"They did it to you! You are an intelligent and sharp individual but a lot of expertise and techniques were used against you! You saw exactly what they wanted you to see. You have been psychologically screwed! But don't worry, you probably had a lot of company."

Eric is quoted:

"I was up all night after that [Nova] show. Could I really be crazy? Maybe it's all a dream? How can I know?"

Migca@wco.wco.com said:

"I just don't get it. What more did Budd Hopkins want?? He got PLENTY of air time to express his views and show how he works. I've seen the guy many times before and his methods and conclusions were not misrepresented."

nhechava@ucsd.edu said:

"Skeptics, believers, and those of us in the middle should look at this Nova show as pure entertainment. It is not a credible show. If they really came to this show in a scientific way then they wouldn't deny Hopkins and others the chance fully show us the 'evidence' they have that has convinced them that this phenomenon is in fact a physical one."

As you can see there are plenty of different opinions on line.

# Altered "UFO" Airs on "Nova"

*Boston Globe* • Thursday, Feb. 29, 1996

While politicians spin this week's primary results, combatants on both sides are spinning their takes on "Nova's" documentary about alien abductions that aired Tuesday.

"Kidnapped by UFOs?" was reedited prior to broadcast after objections were raised by Harvard psychiatrist John I. Mack. Mack, who had seen a preview version, is the controversial author of a book about abductees and one of the movement's highest profile apologists. He appears prominently in the film, though in no flattering light. Mack threatened to sue WGBH last Friday if changes were not made in the finished product.

In a statement released yesterday, Mack attorney Eric MacLeish detailed the changes that "Nova" made, most pertaining to a segment on Donna Bassett. Bassett was described in the original version as a writer who "smelled a story" and posed as an abductee to expose Mack. In the recut version, the "writer" appellation is gone. altered, too, is a scene shot at the Charles Hotel, where Bassett and her husband first met Mack. As the edited version makes clear, Mack conducted hypnosis sessions with Bassett in his Cambridge office, not the hotel, and in the presence of a third party, not alone. A letter from Bassett to Mack was also recharacterized after Mack's objections.

"There was a very strong innuendo in the preview tape that something inappropriate — possibly sexually inappropriate — took place in this hotel room," said MacLeish, added that Bassett should have been dropped altogether after Mack presented evidence undermining her credibility to WGBH officials. According to MacLeish, legal action is still being weighed.

In a brief statement earlier this week, WGBH acknowledged Mack's "many strong objections" to the show but insisted it had "not acceded to Dr. Mack's demands" in recutting the film. With "the exception of a handful of minor word

changes made to avoid the possibility of misinterpretation," the station said, it "stands behind" the film as aired.

Nova producers declined further comment yesterday. A representative did say it was not unusual for a documentary to be reedited between preview and broadcast.

—Joseph P. Kahn  
*Globe Staff*

## Objective Reporting?

*The Wall Street Journal*

Saturday Feb. 24, 1996

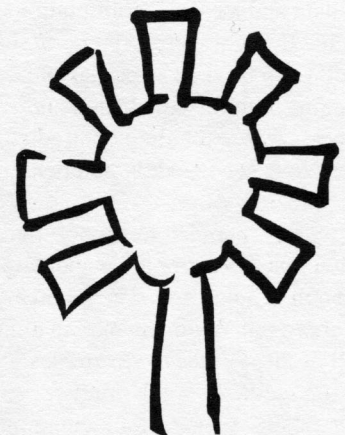
TV section

"Nova" looks into the fantasies of alleged abductees now finding a wide audience for their stories of victimization by rampaging aliens. The film begins, seductively enough, with respectfully reported introductions to the principles trafficking in these hallucinations — people like the graphic artist John, whose busy abductors took semen from his genitals and also, we learn, removed John's eye. Here, too, is the self-styled therapist, Budd Hopkins, who has made a bundle flogging books of gibberish about alien visitors and their victims. We meet, not least, Harvard University psychiatrist John Mack, now famous for his efforts to advance the cause of irrationality in our times. Dr. Mack, who gives credence to the alien-encounter experience, will likely not be pleased with this film, which proceeds to demolish the claims of the various hucksters, charlatans, assorted exhibitionists and garden variety nitwits immersed in humbug about alien abductors — and does so with quietly killing authority. On hand to help out are Carl Sagan, sociologist Richard Ofshe, memory expert Elizabeth Loftus and psychologist Robert Baker — dead shots all.

—Dorothy Rabinowitz

## *Dr. Boylan cont.*

There are additional related developments. Both criminal and civil investigations are quietly under way into illegal and improper behavior which took place within the Board of Psychology, the Board of Behavioral Science Examiners, the Medical Board of California, and the Department of Consumer Affairs regarding destruction of evidence and other prejudicial actions against Dr. Boylan. State investigations continue into filed complaints of unethical and misfeasance behavior by Psych Board Exec Tommy O'Connor, and Col. Ebert's buddy, Major Joseph George, the lawyer who colluded with Col. Ebert's Board in the lawsuit and license complaints filed against Boylan. ★



# Heretics in the New Church of Science

by Brian L. Crissey, Ph.D.

Science is the new Church, and as Budd Hopkins observes, Carl Sagan is its Pope. This Church's dogma states with a straight face that the entire universe sprang out of dark nothingness for no apparent reason one morning a long time ago. Further, this Church asks its faithful to believe in quarks and bosons and the like, even though no one has ever seen one. Instead, indirect and ephemeral traces are presented as scientific evidence of their existence. At the same time this Church deems it heresy to present as scientific evidence indirect and ephemeral traces of the existence of alien beings.

The February 1996 Nova program on alien abductions was a Mass called to condemn the new heretics that dare to question the word of the Church.

These new heretics, John Mack and Budd Hopkins, join Galileo and many others in a long line of courageous pioneers who chose to report what they observed rather than what was deemed acceptable. John and Budd should feel honored by the attention that Nova has lavished on them. After all, Nova has not spent even a half-hour debunking the flat-earth society or any other known fairy tale. There may be something here if Nova feels it is worth an hour of prime time to attack it.

Curiously, Nova's alien abduction Mass cannot be considered to be science, which requires an acceptance of *all* relevant data and a careful formulation of a defensible hypothesis to explain *all* the data. But it can be seen as propaganda, which begins with the conclusion and works backwards, excluding contradictory evidence. Nova seems oddly heretical by its own standards.

Nova clearly intended to support the conclusion that the entire alien abduction phenomenon is nonsense. The mundane, Church-approved, dogmatic explanation is that all of these cases are examples of unscientific methods, weak minds, hoaxes, publicity seekers, hallucinations,

sleep disorders, suggestions from science fiction movies, and leading questions from ill-trained hypnotherapists.

Thus, cases involving the discovery of body scars and implants after abductions cannot be included, because psychological disorders do not leave physical evidence. Also excluded are cases such as *The Allagash Abductions*, which involve multiple experiencers reporting identical details, because group hallucinations are not in the dogma. Strong-minded, credible witnesses such as doctors, law officers and scientists are excluded because they cannot be assumed to have weak minds. Experiencers such as Michelle LaVigne, who recall all the details consciously, without the benefit of hypnotherapy, must also be exorcised, if the blame is to be laid on leading questions from hypnotherapists. Alien abduction cases such as those reported by John Mack from primitive aboriginal cultures, and cases such as Ida Kannenberg's abduction in 1940, which preceded the science fiction movies, are disallowed because the media cannot be blamed for planting suggestions in the minds of the experiencers. Finally, scientific data such as Dr. Courtney Brown's scientific remote viewing of Martians and Greys on earth, using replicable methods developed by the CIA to locate Soviet submarines, cannot be used because Science is expected to serve this Church, not reform it.

If you saw the Nova "Mass", you know that all of these data sources were excluded. You also may have observed the special thanks given to Phillip Klass in the credits. He is a well known exorciser for the Church of Science. Donna Bassett, who purposely misled John Mack in order to discredit him, is married to a former coworker of Klass. Nova's decision to present Donna as John's innocent victim instead of as a cold coconspirator against him underscores the biased nature of this presentation. ★

*Dr. Crissey is Publisher  
of Wild Flower Press.*

## *Implant Evidence cont.*

out to three separate pathologists. When the reports came back, it turned out that the main ingredient in this very tough membrane was something simply made from blood. In this bloody mass were some brown granules. The pathologists did an iron stain test and found that these brown granules were made of oxygen-carrying pigment from human red blood cells. Besides this, they also found a material called keratin, which comprises the outer layers of human skin, hair and fingernails.

Dr. Leir pointed out that if medical science could figure out how to duplicate this membrane, we would solve one of the biggest problems in medicine, that of transplant rejection. The membrane around the objects was apparently composed of material from the patients' own bodies BEFORE the objects were inserted. If we knew how to do this, we could put almost anything into the human body and have absolutely no rejection.

Leir and Sims illustrated the structure of one of the implants taken from the woman's toe. When first removed, it was flat and triangular. When the outer membrane was removed, inside were two separate pieces of shiny black metal, tightly joined together in the shape of a "T." Apparently only the membrane itself held these two metal pieces in alignment.

On February 22, the first preliminary lab reports came back on the metal itself. Leir and Sims both said they would await the final reports before announcing any details. They stressed that they had sent the samples for testing to highly specialized labs and had not indicated anything about where the samples came from. Dr. Leir told the Thousand Oaks audience that the preliminary findings are "mind-boggling," and that the first metallurgist simply said: "Wow, you guys really found something here." Dr. Leir stated that as soon as they get final reports from all three labs, they will make their findings public. "I think you're watching history," he said in conclusion.

Prior to working with Derrel Sims on this project, Dr. Leir had been an occasional consultant for MUFON, but had not been deeply involved. Now, he says, this project "has literally changed my life." ★

## Contact Spots on the Internet

Need to know what a word in UFOlogy means? Check out the UFOencyclopedia page.

<http://www.bahnhof.se/~mike/ufo/ufoclope.html>  
\*\*\*\*\*

You would like to see photos of the face on Mars? Then visit "The Face on Mars Home Page"

<http://www.daimi.aau.dk/~u940266/marsface.html>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Some really interesting things can be found on the Fortean Times "Journal of Strange Phenomena" website

[http://alpha.mic.dundee.ac.uk/ft/ft.cgi?-1,ft\\_links](http://alpha.mic.dundee.ac.uk/ft/ft.cgi?-1,ft_links)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Looking for a spot just for encounter experiencers on the Web? Try "Abductee's Anonymous"

<http://www.cybergate.com/~ufonline>  
\*\*\*\*\*

For a great list of UFO and related links check out "UFO Links"

<http://oasi.shiny.it/homes/CISU/english/http.htm>  
\*\*\*\*\*

A favorite place of the net for many people is "Roswell's Home Page"

<http://www.dma.be/p/amphion/ufo/content.html>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Are you interested in the predictions of Nostradamus? Look into "The Nostradamus Home Page"

<http://morra.et.tudelft.nl/~nijweide/ncents/nostradamus.html>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Check out the latest on the Hale-Bopp comet. Visit the "Hale-Bopp Home Page" at

<http://newproducts.jpl.nasa.gov/comet/>  
\*\*\*\*\*

To reach Nova's page on ETs:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/nova/aliens/alienhome.html>  
\*\*\*\*\*

# ISCNI

## News Page

On Feb. 28, 1996, ISCNI hosted a live Chat for its Members with Whitley Strieber. He is a world famous author whose own story of contact with "the Visitors" was first published in 1987 in the book *Communion*. That book was later made into a movie. It was followed by a sequel, *Transformation* and more recently by his latest book, *Breakthrough*. Whitley took questions from the live audience for about an hour and a half. Here are some of them....

ISCNI: Do you think hypnosis is the only way to reveal these experiences, and have you figured out yet, who and what force(s) are behind them?

W. Strieber: Patience and kindness to your inner self work well, and maybe better than hypnosis. Never use hypnosis if you don't have any natural memories to begin with that are more clear than just vague feelings. As to what is behind the experiences, I can say that it operates separately from human beings in the normal world as we know it. It is without question the most extraordinary of all experiences. But it is also a very big question, as to who and what "they" are. I have guesses, but no definite answers.

ISCNI: When did you have your first conscious recollection of your childhood experience?

W. Strieber: I have always remembered my childhood experiences, in the sense that I recalled going out on my bike in the middle of the night into an area called the Olmos Basin to do, I did not recall what. Specific recollections of what happened during the summer of my ninth year started coming during April of this year.

ISCNI: How are your perceptions of the Visitors similar/different from Betty Luca's? (*The Watchers*)

W. Strieber: Too big a question to answer through this little slit of a window! Basically Betty and I are on the same wavelength. All witnesses who have chosen to go into close contact end up in about the same place. What Betty took with her that made her experience so much richer and more beautiful than mine was her Christianity. I did not have the blessing of such faith, at the time my adult contact was initiated, and the experiences, therefore, were much narrower and darker than they need have been.

ISCNI: Do you have any information from the Visitors regarding such earth changes say, in the next five years or so?

W. Strieber: The ancient stellar calendars, apparently emerging from a sublime but forgotten science all point to this era as a time of major change. The fish, Pisces, leaps out into the air of the more formless Aquarius. At this time, so many different things are approaching climax, from population to pollution, that we cannot fail to be entering a period of great change. In the *New Scientist* for Feb. 17 there is an article saying that human population will never double again, and shows every sign of going into decline. Meantime, the environment is under great stress, foreign objects are entering the solar system (the latest being a comet that was just discovered in January). There is every sign that human knowledge is exploding as never before. It is one incredible time to be alive. Just two nights ago I did get one of my rare messages from the visitors. It was "A shadow hangs

# ISCNI News Page

(continued from page 15)

over the cordillera" accompanied by a picture of the great spine of the Americas, from the Canadian Rockies to the southernmost Andes. There have been extraordinary UFO sightings for three years along this enormous spine, from Colorado to Argentina. What does it mean? I do not know. But it is very, very interesting and disturbing.

ISCNI: As humans we like our free will. How did you get comfortable with the Visitors' ability to control one's mind and body?

W. Strieber: I found out that they would not interfere with my REAL free will, which is the right that my soul possesses to seek the truth. I do not like the abduction experience, but I also don't see how they would ever have gotten my attention without a real kick in the pants, a shock so great that I could not deny. Remember that to a man turned away from the good, an angel must of necessity appear terrible.

ISCNI: Was your book *Nature's End* influenced by the Visitors, and would you write it differently now?

W. Strieber: I think that everything I have ever written was influenced by the visitors. Every word. I would do no more with NE than update it. A lot of the prophecies in that book are right on schedule, unfortunately.

ISCNI: Your next book, what's the title and what will it be about specifically?

W. Strieber: The title is *The Secret School*, and it is about the summer of my ninth year, when I had a series of nine lessons with a group of other children, during which we entered the future and the past, and saw the reality of human history and what is about to happen in the future. We saw a picture of a species in amnesia, and the emergence of childhood memories like these in myself and others

is a sign that the long amnesia that we call history is ending, and we are about to open our eyes to our true selves, and so also to remember our real past and face our true future. The book is more specific, of course, but that is, in general, what it is about. ★

**Note:** ISCNI offers complementary issues of their on-line magazine *ISCNI Flash*. (For a sample article, refer to pg. 19.) To receive one send an e-mail to [ISCNI@aol.com](mailto:ISCNI@aol.com)

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## VISIT OUR ONLINE SITES:

ISCNI:  
<http://www.iscni.com/>

Bluewater Publishing:  
<http://www.bluewaterp.com/>  
~bcrissey  
This site includes *Wild Flower Press*,  
*Swan•Raven & Co.* and *CONTACT FORUM OnLine!*

## Announcement!

Our layout editor for Wild Flower Press and Contact Forum, Amy Owen Demmon, just had a baby boy! His name is Cailean Campbell and, hold onto your hat, he came in to the world weighing 10 lbs. 10 oz.!  
Baby and mother are doing fine!

Remember...*CONTACT FORUM* will be holding LIVE Chats every 2nd Thursday of the Month (9 P.M. to 11 P.M. Eastern Standard Time) on America Online to discuss in detail the topics presented in *CONTACT FORUM* and to explore new ideas and cutting edge information for future issues.

The most interesting and informative excerpts from these chats will appear in future issues—so no one is left out!

To get to these chats, just go to AOL's people connection and click on private room, then enter: ContactFrm.

The staff here at *CONTACT FORUM* encourage anyone with a computer and America Online access to come by and check it out!

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# Upcoming Conferences

We at *CONTACT FORUM* want to have the most complete schedule of UFO and metaphysical conferences available anywhere. To do this we could use your help! If you are holding a conference or know of any upcoming conferences, please call our editorial office at 603-598-1492, or write to us at P.O. Box 1862; Merrimack, NH 03054-1862.

Conferences will be listed in the form below at no charge. If you would like a larger, graphical ad, see advertising details on the back page.

**March 15 -17:** Whole Life Expo 1996 National Tour. Pasadena, CA. 800-232-8828.

**March 22 -24:** Whole Life Expo 1996 National Tour. Seattle, WA. 800-232-8828.

**April-May, 1996:** Greece Expedition hosted by Dr. Jonathan & Rachel Sherwood. Contact: Beyond Boundaries, Inc.; 2109 Hwy. 377 East; Granbury, TX 76049; USA. Telephone: 800-259-8747.

**April 12-14:** The Eighth Annual Ozark UFO Conference. Confirmed speakers include: Bob Shell, Joe Lewels, Linda Moulton Howe, Antonio Huneus, forest Crawford, Yvonne Smith. Contact: P.O. Box 431; Eureka Springs, AR 72632. Telephone: 501-354-2558.

**April 19-21:** Body, Mind, Spirit & Environment Expo (Asheville, NC). Contact: Russell McBride, 704-687-7838.

**May 3 -4:** Whole Life Expo 1996 National Tour. San Diego, CA. 800-232-8828.

**May 4, 1996:** Second Annual UFO & Alien Abduction Research Conference (Holiday Inn, Greenville, SC). Confirmed speakers include: Katharina Wilson; Yvonne Smith; Kim Carlsberg; Darryl Anka; David Jacobs, Ph.D.; Budd Hopkins; Jesse Marcel, Jr., M.D. Contact:

Shannon Kluge; 102 Woodridge Cir.; Greenville, SC 29607; USA. Telephone: 803-675-9328.

**May 13-15:** 2nd Annual Wesak Celebration (Mt. Shasta, CA). Speakers include: Norma Milanovich, Marcia Dale Lopez, Asthar Athena, topics include UFOs, Lightwork, Metaphysics. Contact: 310-672-3073.

**May 24-27:** 2nd Annual Rocky Mountain UFO and New Age Expo. Keynote address by Betty Andreasson-Luca. Regency Hotel, Denver, CO. Contact 212-685-4080.

**June 12-22:** Star Knowledge UFO Conference and Sundance. Yankton Sioux Reservation, Marty, South Dakota. The Lakota/Dakota Oyate invite all nations to come together for the spiritual gathering of the century. For information 504-349-1750 or 605-384-5152.

**July 5-7:** 27th annual MUFON International UFO Symposium (Holiday Inn Four Seasons/Joseph H. Koury Convention Center; Greensboro, NC). Contact: MUFON headquarters, 210-379-9216.

**July 27-28:** Great Plains UFO Conference (Howard Johnson Convention Center; Sioux Falls, SD). Contact P.O. Box 84131; Sioux Falls, SD 57118. Telephone: 603-497-2633.

**July, 1996:** Crop Circles & Stonehenge Expedition hosted by Colin Andrews. Contact: Beyond Boundaries, Inc.; 2109 Hwy. 377 East; Granbury, TX 76049; USA. Telephone: 800-259-8747.

**July, 1996:** Mysteries of Scotland Expedition hosted by Robert & Cecilia Dean. Contact: Beyond Boundaries, Inc.; 2109 Hwy. 377 East; Granbury, TX 76049; USA. Telephone: 800-259-8747.

**Aug. 2 - 4:** UFO Encounters and the Birth of the New Age Movement. Palm Springs Marquis Crowne Plaza Resort, Palm Springs, CA. Contact: 619-778-3374.

**Aug. 10:** Great Smoky Mountain UFO, Crop Circle & Alien Contact Expo International Symposium (Gatlinberg, TN). Confirmed speakers include: John Hunter Gray, Travis Walton, Mike Rogers, Michelle LaVigne. Contact U.S. UFO Information & Research Center; Telephone: 423-283-0737; Fax: 423-854-8998.

**September, 1996:** Peru Expedition hosted by Robert & Cecilia Dean (a study of the insights from James Redfield's *The Celestine Prophecy*). Contact: Beyond Boundaries, Inc.; 2109 Hwy. 377 East; Granbury, TX 76049; USA. Telephone: 800-259-8747.

**Oct 11 -13:** Whole Life Expo 1996 National Tour. Denver, CO. 800-232-8828.

**Oct. 18-21:** Enigma Con '96 sponsored by Inner Light Publications. Phoenix/Mesa Holiday Inn, AZ. Contact: 212-685-4080.

**Nov. 1 -3:** Whole Life Expo 1996 National Tour. Los Angeles, CA. 800-232-8828.

**Nov. 8 -10:** Whole Life Expo 1996 National Tour. Las Vegas, CA. 800-232-8828.

Don't see your conference or expedition listed? Send us information so we can get it in the next issue!

# Bulletin Board

Please address all letters to the editor, article submissions, advertisements, art work, etc., to be published to:

Michelle LaVigne, Editor  
*CONTACT FORUM*  
P.O. Box 1862  
Merrimack, NH 03054-1862

You may also reach us by phone at 603-598-1492.

## Call for Papers

*CONTACT FORUM* invites anyone who has experienced contact with other non-human intelligences to send us articles about those experiences. These events can be physical or nonphysical, but must be original. We do not accept fiction.

Of course, we encourage therapist who work with contactees and investigators in the field to submit articles and share their knowledge.

We will need written permission to publish your articles and/or artwork. Along with this permission, please advise us if you want your name, address and phone numbers published along with the article. Otherwise, we will publish the article or artwork as "name withheld". We will keep your information confidential. In addition, if you would like your photograph included with your piece, please include a black-and-white print and give us written permission to use it. We will also be glad to print any information about a book you have published and biographical information about yourself after the article.

For more detailed information on how to submit your work, please refer to the section, "Writers' Guidelines," on the back page.

## Networking

Are you a professional counselor who works with experiencers? For only \$5.00 per issue, we will print your name, address and phone number, along with your area of expertise in this section of *CONTACT FORUM*. Are you a person who conducts support-group meetings? Then we will list your support group's name, address and phone number for free!

We often receive calls from people who are looking for this kind of support, so we encourage any of you who are willing to offer this service.

Notice for experiencers seeking counseling! *CONTACT FORUM* does not endorse any of the people who are listed in this area. We advise always using discretion when seeking a counselor, especially in this area.

Notices about non-profit discussion groups and upcoming conferences will be listed for free on a first-come-first-served basis, as space allows. To guarantee a space, please refer to the advertising rates on the back page.

## Training

The Academy of Clinical Close Encounter Therapists (ACCET) offers CE-IV workshops, information, networking and support for clinicians and referrals in this specialty. Annual dues: \$20. Obtain membership application from ACCET; 2826 O Street, Suite 3; Sacramento, CA 95816. c/o 916-455-0120

## Counseling

Ron St. Laurence, M.A., CCHT  
Codependency New Life Seminars, Inc.  
11740 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 202  
Dublin, CA 94568  
510-829-3500

Bette St. Laurence, M.A., CCHT  
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## Hypnosis

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Codependency New Life Seminars, Inc.  
11740 Dublin Blvd., Ste. 202  
Dublin, CA 94568  
510-829-3500

## Experiencer Support Groups

June Steiner will be starting a new UFO discussion and support group this fall. The group will meet for 2 1/2 hours, two Mondays per month. June is on the PEER, OPUS, and IF referral lists, and is an experiencer. Call 408-395-9202 for information.

Barbara Lamb, M.S., MFCC  
has a monthly no-fee support group  
1517 Marjorie Ave.  
Clairmont, CA 91711  
909-626-8332

Aerial Connections  
UFO Outreach Group  
P.O. Box 6281  
Woodland Park, CO 80866  
719-687-6143 (Connie)  
719-748-3103 (Melissa)

Lois Kimberlin  
Rt. 2, Box 94  
Chapman, KS 67431  
913-922-6002

Sharon Pacione  
C.A.U.S.E.  
Cleveland/Akron UFO Support Effort  
P.O. Box 360421  
Strongsville, OH 44136  
216-846-2321

Shannon Kluge  
102 Woodridge Circle  
Greenville, SC 29607  
803-676-9758

UFO Discussion Group  
of Memphis, Tennessee  
Call Cindy at 901-726-4826 or Eddie  
Middleton at 901-683-7178.

Andrea Bryant, C.H.T.  
Perspectives  
P.O. Box 333  
Three Rivers, MI 49093  
616-279-7917

Diane McDonald  
1741 Chapel St.  
Wyoming, MI 49509

# Bulletin Board

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Northeast Tennessee UFO Network  
& Abduction Support Group  
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Concord, CA 94527  
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### Writers' Guidelines:

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Please do not worry about not being a professional writer. Your story is more important than the writing style. We will edit the work to ensure that there is clarity, proper punctuation, etc., without changing your meaning.

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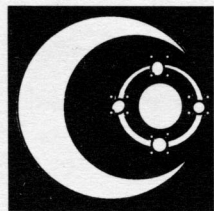
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