

for keeps, put himself to the test, and know who he is, a man must take on a mortgage." (Eric Berne.) To that extent, it's a useful book, at least to those at the skil instructor phase. A more comprehensive book on changing one's way of life, one that might be useful to those who are at the next phase, has yet to be written.

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## In Search of the Ultimate High: Spiritual experiences through psychoactives

by Nicholas Saunders, Anja Saunders and Michelle Pauli

(Random House UK Limited, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SA / +44-(0)20-7840 8400 / +44-(0)20-7233-8791 fax / Email: [enquiries@randomhouse.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@randomhouse.co.uk); 272 pps; 2000)

Before Nicholas Saunders died (in a car accident in February of 1998), he was working on a book about the spiritual uses of psychoactive drugs. This book has been completed and is now available. *In Search of the Ultimate High* contains a foreword by Alexander and Ann Shulglin and includes chapters on:

- Churches which use a psychoactive as their sacrament, (from the well-established ayahuasca churches in South America and the peyote-using Native American Church to the Temple of True Inner Light in New York and the ibogaine-z in the Amazon)
- Psychoactive explorers who seek a spiritual experience outside of the structure of a church or workshop
- Rave spirituality
- Guidelines that may help to facilitate and integrate a spiritual experience
- Practical information such as first aid, legal information, resources and contacts, and an annotated bibliography.

*In Search of the Ultimate High* has its own website at: <http://csp.org/nicholas/spiritualindex.html>

Comprehensively fills an important gap in entheogenic literature, combining ancient and modern history of visionary/revelatory use of sacramental plants and drugs with specific, practical information on entheogenic communion...both the culmination of and fitting tribute to the life and work of Nicholas Saunders, so tragically cut short" from Jonathan Ott, author of *Pharmacotheon*

"Nicholas Saunders, before his untimely death, had made superb contributions to the understanding and social acceptance of psychoactive substances, especially Ecstasy and the rave culture.

In the present work, completed by his wife Anja, he provides a historical overview of the role of psychoactives in religious and shamanic ritual contexts and an easy-to-understand, immensely practical guide to their sane and safe applications. I recommend it highly." from Ralph Metzner, PhD, author of *The Unfolding Self* and *The Well of Remembrance*

## Passport to the Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters

by John Mack  
(Crown Publishers; \$24; 1999; 306 pps.)

After seeing a review of this book in the latest issue of IONS magazine, I had to get a copy. Not only do I enjoy a good laugh (usually from the conspiriologist and comic Robert Anton Wilson who wrote the review), but since I put my interest in alien abductions and UFOs on hold for 5 years I thought it would be interesting to learn about the latest research.

John Mack, Harvard Medical School professor of psychiatry and writer of repute (he received a Pulitzer prize for his biography of T.E. Lawrence), is not necessarily doing this research to win friends and gain influence (already a team of his associates at Harvard has created a commission to study his research). Aliens are not a subject that a professional writer or academic would take lightly for their careers are often times at stake.

The subject has been covered more and more by respected journalists and academics in the past 5 years but the subject is fraught with complications that is still an enigma for many and grounds for ridicule for many more.

In 1994 John Mack dealt with the subject of Abductions in his fat 432 page work called *Abductions*. Five years later he returns to the subject to inform us of common themes from what abductees (or "experiencers" as they are called now) have experienced and learned, and to inform the public as to what might be going on.

Mack does not get into the physical dimensions of the phenomenon, nor does he try to prove anything. His purpose is to bring forth the messages and transformations in a sincere and serious manner. Often times the author will be moved by the various abduction experiences while they relive their stories. Is this not real then? No longer do we find the word "hypnosis" in the text; we see the words "relaxed communication" interjected as to what mode they are in to tell their stories.

And the stories are indeed unbelievable. Humans traveling through windows, being tunneled into different dimensions, seeing documentary videos showing the destruction of the Earth, participating in a project where aliens and humans are cross-breeding to create a hybrid species to survive the coming collapse....

Three new insights I have received from this book: 1) these people are going through human transformational journeys quite similar to shamanic journeys (and more research is needed in this field); 2) in indigenous cultures they have accepted alien encounters (as well as an understanding of spirit/matter cross overs) within their religio-culture whereas in the west, spirit and matter are diametrically opposed, so anything spiritual manifesting into matter is always suspect; and 3) that these purported aliens are no longer attempting to go through the government avenues and are now relying on transforming individual citizens to take a stand against the destruction of the planet (i.e., many of the experiencers have become very active environmentalists).

In a chapter focusing on a

medicine man in South Africa, Credo Mutwa's abduction experiences, he tells John Mack bluntly, "The entire Western civilization is based upon a blatant lie, the lie that we human beings are the cocks of the walk in the world, the lie that we human beings are the highest evolved forms in this world, and that we are alone and that beyond us there is nothing."

A provocative book, requiring an open mind to stretch us into becoming more familiar with the outrageous mysteries of reality and our peculiar time in it.

Bob Banner

## The Loss of Happiness in Market Democracies

by Robert E. Lane  
(Yale University Press; 2000; 465 pages;  
www.yale.edu/yup/)

Now comes a scholarly book out of Yale that finally should settle it — progress and money are not making people happier in "market democracies." So, duh, who doesn't understand this already? Well, perhaps husbands, wives, university professors, CEOs, governmental officials, land developers... who are still under the veil that more is better and that we have to keep movin' and progressin' in order for our psyches to scream out in utter happiness. However, this book (and any other book for that matter) is not going to convince them. Most people who are in the throes of the delusion do not have the time to read an academic tome full of charts, studies, and analyses. Who wants to wake up to an illusion that is creating more and more misery (while our corporate media bombards us every second of every day, chanting that we will be happy only if we buy their product)? Denial is fabulous — without it people would be out in the streets protesting like in Seattle and DC or in bed making love... by people who are no longer drugged by the madness, who have discernment and clarity in what truly matters.

However, with all that said, tomes like this are important. Lane's peers will review his work; he probably will give lectures to university audiences; there will be scruffles here and there; gentlemanly discussions about Happiness vs. Prozac, Progress vs. Poverty and perhaps even one or two technology universities (i.e., Cal Poly)

might even dare to invite him to intellectually criticize the momentum and consequences of this "new economy" in market democracies.

However, what needs to happen is for spokespeople of the Simplicity Movement to read the book (now that they have their time management skills finely tuned), pull out the gems and use it for ammunition against the continual cultural onslaught of corporate messages of "more is better", globalization, and those "happiness" therapists who refuse to look at the bigger picture, namely politics and economics... those unfortunate factors that play havoc with our happiness.

Bob Banner

## Hoxsey: How Healing Becomes a Crime

— a Video — by Kenny Ausubel and Catherine Salvesson  
(1987; available at Insomniac video store: 545-8866)

This video is explosive because it is so rare. Any documentary that deals with cancer and politics is usually doomed at the onset. But the directors make this exposé interesting, entertaining, and jaw-dropping. It's a video that exposes the cunning of the AMA (American Medical Association) against Harry Hoxsey, who was involved in a cancer remedy that allegedly cured thousands of people from cancer. Even though the AMA decried Hoxsey as the "worse quack of the century," Hoxsey had clinics in 17 states with the endorsements of senators, judges and even doctors. The AMA refused to investigate Hoxsey's claims by saying that to investigate implies complicity (even when Hoxsey was willing to pay for the investigation).

Hoxsey endured countless arrests. In a 2 year period, he bailed himself out more than 100 times. Not one patient ever came forward to say anything against him.

James Burke, an *Esquire* reporter, was sent to Dallas in 1937 to expose the "fraud." He thought he'd be there for only a couple days and ended up staying for 6 weeks because of the healing he witnessed. His story got canned by *Esquire* and 15 years later Burke became Hoxsey's publicity director.

An interesting story in this film is when the AMA decided to let

Hoxsey work on one of their own members who had contacted a disgusting looking cancer. The man became healed by Hoxsey's tonic. The AMA decided to purchase the tonic and a contract was about to be signed. When it became clear that Hoxsey would preserve his father's death-bed promise of not turning anyone away for treatment due to a lack of funds in the contract, the AMA backed down.

There is also the episode of Hoxsey suing the AMA along with Hearst for publishing a libelous article. In the court proceedings numerous testimonials of Hoxsey's patients came forward. The result was that Hoxsey won. It also came out during the proceedings that "Doctor" Morris Fishbein (who was at the head of the AMA battle against Hoxsey) was not even a medical doctor. He failed anatomy and never treated a patient. Also, Fishbein went on to actually agree that Hoxsey's treatment could cure external cancer.

The film gets even better when we see what is behind the rise of the AMA and the medical industrial economy. To make a healing toxin from "weeds in your backyard" is not going to make a very large profit. What will make money is: technological medicines that can be patented. The film examines radiation, surgery, and synthetic drugs. Investors such as Carnegie, Rockefeller and Morgan were jumping on the bandwagon of this new model of the medical industry. What is ironic is that John D. Rockefeller was seeing a homeopathic (read: "quack") while he was investing in this new medical model based on allopathy. The AMA grew politically to the point of being able to exclude homeopathy classes in colleges throughout the country. Only AMA members could practice medicine.

Near the end of the documentary we hear the following: "We spend \$50 billion a year on cancer treatment. There are more people making a living on conventional cancer treatment than there are people dying from the disease."

For interested researchers who need more than the video, a complementary book by Kenny Ausubel just came out this year called **When Healing Becomes a Crime** (462 pages; \$19.95; published by Inner Traditions; 2000). O

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