

Magazine

A Bad Trip Down Memory Lane

AUG. 10, 2003

The failure of Susan Clancy and her Harvard colleagues to understand the politics of her research agenda is evidence of extraordinary naïveté, arrogance or both (Bruce Grierson, July 27). And surely the rank deception involved in her feigned neutrality or reported displays of apparent support for the accounts of those "alien abductees," whom she sought out and seemingly befriended, raises serious ethical and methodological concerns. As she relocates her research agenda to Nicaragua, let us hope that this time she will make the effort necessary to understand the impact of her academic ambitions upon the lives of those she recruits for her experiments.

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Susan Clancy is lucky: had she lived a few centuries ago, the "true believers" might have had the power to put her to the stake.

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