

# Scientific Correctness: Cosmic Kidnapping Results

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Subject: Alien Abductions

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Subject: alien abductions?

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1997-05-05 Scientific Correctness: Cosmic Kidnapping Results

Last month our ongoing Scientific Correctness Survey posed the question: Are citizens of earth being kidnapped by aliens from outer space? Here are the survey results, as summarized by investigator N. Bourbaki.

FOR AND AGAINST: 33% of the voters affirmed that citizens of the Earth ARE being kidnapped by aliens from outer space, while 37% denied the possibility. The remaining respondents were concerned with a number of peripheral issues. These included:

"the meaning of the word kidnapping";  
"the meaning of the word alien"; and  
"Lyle Lovett"

One respondent suggested that a better term than "kidnapping" would be "poaching." Another preferred the phrase "unsolicited biological experimentation aboard a mobile facility." The legal and economic ramifications of alien abduction also were of concern to many people (more on that another time, perhaps).

JUSTIFIED ALIENS: A number of voters felt the aliens are completely justified in their endeavors because the United States government has been incarcerating and experimenting on aliens for years. (No other governments were credited with comparable undertakings, no pun intended.) One voter placed the blame for all kidnappings on the shoulders of a particular Harvard faculty member, while a second blamed the Swedish secret service. Two home pages were mentioned, neither of which we checked out:

[www.mk.net/~mcf/lammer1.htm](http://www.mk.net/~mcf/lammer1.htm) and  
[www.mk.net/~mcf/handout.htm](http://www.mk.net/~mcf/handout.htm)

WHO'S GOING: A number of voters raised the question of WHO is being abducted. The significance of the "alarming frequency with which they are being sent back" was also raised. Several voters said that people were being kidnapped "not in adequate quantities." If you would like to suggest that some specific person be abducted, please send the name to <bourbaki@neu.edu>. We will try to arrange travel discounts provided that a Saturday night stay is included.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION: Our supplemental question asked: "Should we require that schoolchildren be taught to protect themselves against extraterrestrial abductors?" 28% of the respondents said yes and 35% said no. (Why a whopping 37% don't care is anyone's guess.) Of the 37% who denied that abductions occur, a full 40% still felt that children should be educated to handle such an event. Two different respondents (whom we assume do not know each other) compared this learning experience to their own experiences as schoolchildren when they were taught what to do in case of an atomic bomb explosion.

THE EDUCATION ANSWER: Of the 33% who voted that alien abduction does occur, only 30% felt that school children should be taught appropriate defensive tactics. This was explained by one reader who, realizing that "any such aliens possess superior scientific knowledge" and are "clearly performing experiments to advance scientific understanding", concludes that any attempt to educate the children "would tend to invalidate the experimental results and should be

discouraged." Alternate justifications for not educating our children were: "Once captured, there is a finite chance that the aliens might keep them"; "Let's bring back naked Darwinism"; and "it just might raise SAT scores." One correspondent simply felt our teachers are not up to the job.

THE ESSENTIAL THING: Finally, one correspondent specified what the children \*should\* be taught -- namely, to "recognize the difference between a Grey and a Ross Perot."

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