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UFO UpDates Mailing List

The Budd Hopkins/John Mack Event - A Review

From: jvif@spacelab.net (John Velez)
Date: Sun, 9 Mar 1997 14:58:41 -0500
Fwd Date: Sun, 09 Mar 1997 19:59:01 -0500
Subject: The Budd Hopkins/John Mack Event - A Review

Hello All,

Well the long awaited 'Great Debate' on Friday night, came and went with a wheeze and a whimper! Although that wasn't what it was supposed to be.

It was good, don't get me wrong. Just not the planned debate between the two most well known proponents of the abduction phenom. Budd Hopkins and Dr. John Mack both gave compelling and informative opening statements. (In spite of being handicapped by a piss-poor sound system and crew.) And then, the moderator, one Christopher Lydon, proceeded to 'take the elevator - right to the basement!'

He immediately proclaimed his skepticism and informed the audience that he proposed to have Budd and John address the issues of proof and possibility. Although that might have been O-K at any other time, that's not what the well informed crowd of about 750 were there to hear. Several people expressed their disappointment to me privately afterwards.

Mr Lydon was supposed to facilitate and fuel a lively and hopefully enlightening discussion between Budd and John regarding their current findings and philosophies re: alien abduction. That, didn't happen. All that Mr Lydon succeeded in doing was uniting the two in their responses to his rather basic (and already asked and answered a thousand times) lame questions. Mr Lydon should have done his homework and at least familiarized himself with the published works of the two gentlemen that he was to moderate for. I'm a former "dropout" and at a minimum, even I would have taken the time to do that!

Mr Lydon, who hosts a local Boston radio show, cut Budd and Johns dialog off early so that he could loudly proclaim, (and I quote) "Let's go to the phones!" He shortened what could have been an informative discussion so that he could take an hour and a half of audience questions! Not only that, but he didn't tell the people to keep their questions concise. Folks just ambled up to the mikes and launched into dissertations of personal philosophy and opinion *without* fear of interruption from Mr Lydon.

All in all, Budd and John were great. They are both intelligent and extremely articulate advocates for a subject that generates much heated debate and emotion. It's just a shame that we lost an opportunity to finally put the "good alien, bad alien" discussion to bed. Budd and John are not only individually far beyond that, but they're much closer in their individual takes on all of this than most are led to believe by all of the peripheral hype surrounding them.

Budd and John _are_ two of the finest human beings
I have met. Men of character.

I'll see you guys "out there!"

John Velez

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