

BUFORA

UFO NEWSFILE

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The strange glow of St Elmo

Weatherwatch

Paul Simons

STRANGE things can happen just before a thunderstorm. Your hair can stand on end, the air can crackle, but perhaps strangest of all, things can start glowing with an eerie light.

At midday on December 21, 1976 a thunderstorm passed over Dover boys' grammar school. The prefects were playing their annual football match against the teachers. There was a flash of lightning and a terrifying clap of thunder. Play stopped because the hair of three of the players — two prefects and a teacher — was standing up.

Even more alarmingly, their heads were bathed in a glowing, almost religious, light. Yet none of them felt anything and they were left unhurt, although they reported hearing a popping sound like the repeated snapping of fingers. No damage was reported in the area.

This bizarre sight had all the hallmarks of a phenomenon called St Elmo's Fire — a discharge of static electricity before or during thunderstorms, usually from pointed objects standing up from the ground, and first recognised on the masts of sailing ships.

The Meteorological Magazine of 1897 reported another bizarre case of St Elmo's Fire:

"On January 4 the air was heavily laden with electricity.

The cottonwood trees in front of the Chicago and North-Western offices presented a very strange and novel appearance.

The trees were buried in snow almost to their tops, but at the end of each twig on every branch in sight was an electrical spark about as large as a common field pea."

The event almost passed off as Christmas tree decorations, but the report went on that if the twigs were held the spark was extinguished, but if the hand was taken away the spark reappeared.

Apparently there was no shock felt in handling the twigs. The light did not waver or tremble, but was quite steady. "The trees looked as if a colony of fireflies had settled upon them."

EFFORTS to set up a local UFO monitoring group following "sightings" in south-east Kent have started well.

John Dixon, 48, urged people who might want to start such a group to contact him after claiming he saw a strange object, which he says cannot have been a meteor or plane, over the Alkham Valley.

Now 12 people have telephoned him at his home in River saying they are interested.

Mr Dixon said: "A lot of people don't want to tell anyone what they think they've seen because it's like nothing they have experienced before and they feel they will get their legs pulled.

"But the group does seem to be getting off the ground and we've definitely got a lot of people who want to meet and share their experiences."

Folkestone & District

Guardian 04.08.94

Ryedale Star 16.09.94

Herald 23.06.94

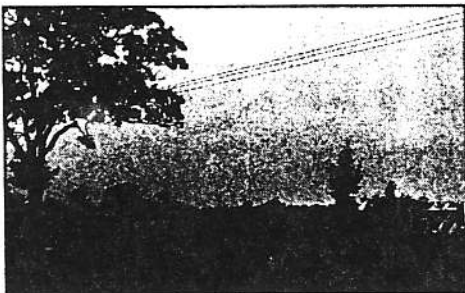
Respected doctor reports on abduction by aliens

CLOSE encounters with aliens and sightings of UFOs usually produce a down-to-earth response of "nonsense!" from most of us.

Even if a close friend or relative made such a confession we would probably recommend a trip to the doctor and an extremely long and stress-free holiday.

But when a respected professor of psychiatry from Harvard Medical School says different, it could be time we attempted to become a little more open-minded and at least listen to his opinions.

Dr John E Mack - who is also a Pulitzer Prize-winning author - is convinced that the men, women and children who claim they have been abducted by aliens are not making up their stories but are reporting authentic experiences.



ALIEN ADVENTURES: A common story is an encounter with small grey beings with huge dark eyes

In the past three years he has conducted thousands of hours of interviews with more than 80 people who report being taken on to UFOs by alien beings.

He has now written a book, *Abductions*, in which he details 13 case studies of alien encounters. He concludes that

the experiences of the people he has talked to are in no way attributable to mental illness and are not dreams or hallucinations.

And it's not only in America, where Dr Mack conducted his studies, that the phenomenon has occurred, he says. When he was in-

terviewed on ITV's *This Morning* programme, around 700 people rang in on the show's telephone lines to tell their own stories.

Dr Mack says: "I was amazed at the number of calls. To me it was affirming that this is as wide-spread a phenomenon as I suspected."

What he found here, as in the States, was that those with abduction stories were perfectly ordinary: "One of the things that drew me into this work was the fact that the people I was seeing were psychologically solid and by no stretch of the imagination was I able to explain what they were reporting on the basis of some kind of psychiatric condition."

And if anyone should

be able to diagnose such a condition it would be Dr Mack. His whole working life has been devoted to making clinical decisions on people's mental state.

While investigating abduction case histories - all from individuals with diverse backgrounds - Dr Mack has discovered that the tales of encounters are remarkably consistent.

A common story is an encounter with small grey beings with huge dark eyes who transport their immobilised subjects to spacecraft where they are probed in surgical tests that appear to relate to a sexual and reproductive enterprise.

Dr Mack adds: "My critics, of whom I have many, keep saying that I am overlooking more

conventional explanations, such as sleep paralysis. A lot of the time these people were in no way asleep. Or they say it is mass hysteria."

The type of reaction engendered by the Beatles was mass hysteria, he says.

"These people I have seen do not know each other. They come forward reluctantly. They don't want to believe their stories themselves, they are doubting. It is anything but mass hysteria."

Dr Mack says many "experiencers" or "abductees", as they are called, are reluctant to come forward."

Abductions: Human Encounters With Aliens by Dr John E Mack is published by Simon & Schuster, price £16.99.

UConn UFO expert cites the mystic in the majority of us

By **LEE KRENIS MORE**
Gannett News Service

As many studies have found, "experiencers" of UFO abductions and near-death visions are not crazy. Nor, it seems, are they fantasy-prone. Nor can they be pigeonholed by age or gender.

But they do seem to have a "distinctive psychological profile," wrote University of Connecticut psychologist Kenneth Ring in his 1992 study "The Omega Project."

Ring described an "encounter personality": sensitive, vulnerable, more likely to have been abused or traumatized early in life, and often able to dissociate (mentally "go someplace else") as a psychological defense.

They're also more sensitive physically. Many report that watches and electrical appliances stop in their presence. Many are abnormally sensitive to bright lights and approaching thunderstorms.

What could cause this? Ring opted for the view of Canadian psychologist and neu-

ropsychologist Michael Persinger: Most UFO phenomena are natural occurrences, "direct products of the stresses and strains of the Earth's crust."

This geological energy has electromagnetic properties that can generate, in the temporal lobe of the brain, hallucinations that seem real.

There is evidence, wrote Ring, that people who are encounter-prone have "greater than average temporal lobe sensitivity." Perhaps UFO and near-death experiences are similar because "there is a common neurological mechanism that underlies them both."

Thus far, skeptics might be nodding in approval. But Ring is no skeptic. These physical and mental changes, he wrote, may "permit a higher level of human nature to manifest."

The experiencers may be tapping into some higher intelligence, a "global mind." If so, all this activity portends an evolution of consciousness, the "shamanizing of modern humanity."

The Norwich Connecticut 05.06.94

WITH UFOs reported to have been seen over the area recently, are their things out there we just can't explain?

Roving reporter, Anne-Marie Edwards took to the streets of Ruthin to find out whether things that go bump in the night are on a visit from Pluto or maybe spirits from the other side.

According to Mr Frank Pascoe of Gellifor, an apparition of his dead ex-wife appeared before him recently.

He said: "If she sees this in the paper she might

Story by ANNE-MARIE EDWARDS Pictures by Andrew Davies

haunt me all the time. But I've heard it's quite common for people to see ghosts of their dead relatives."

"We stayed at a cottage of friends once and there were a lot of bangs and thuds."

Spooky

"It could have been ghosts, it could just have been the house talking. Who knows what's out there?"

Susan Small of Ruthin believed that anything

was possible.

Her most spooky experience she revealed was a dream about her husband leaving.

She continued: "It was very upsetting because it came true. About six weeks before he left me. I dreamt that he was running away from me. His hair was long from the back and when he turned around it was short."

"After he'd gone, that's how he had his hair cut."

Cerrigydrudion resident Ellen Ellis believes she may have seen a UFO.

She said: "We were on our way home and I saw this flashing light in the car mirror. We thought it was an ambulance at first, but we couldn't make anything out."

"We looked around to see if there had been an accident, but there was no sign of anybody. It could have been nothing, but I am sure it was something."

Sally Hoare, on a visit from the Wirral, scoffed at the idea of ghosts and UFOs.

She said: "It's all rubbish. If I saw an alien



Ellen Ellis thinks she may have seen a UFO.

spaceship. I would be convinced there were other life forms besides ourselves."

"A lot of things have been proven to be hoaxes, take crop circles for example.

Men on the TV have shown how they created them."



Sally Hoare from Wirral would run a mile if she saw a UFO.



Susan Small said one of her nightmares came true.

"But if a UFO dropped down beside me tomorrow, you wouldn't see me for dust."

Alarm over lights

THE coastguard received 40 telephone calls from people who thought they had seen distress flares, a comet and even UFOs.

The panic was caused by a meteor shower late Saturday night.

Carole Price, 43, from Red Lion Square, Hythe, was walking home from an evening out when she saw a light in the sky.

She said: "It was around 11pm and in the sky there

was a bright haze like an aeroplane's vapour trail.

"Then there was an orange streak which zig-zagged across then a large orange ball of fire. It was as large as the sun. I didn't know what it was, a comet or even a UFO. The whole thing must have lasted for up to ten minutes."

A spokesman for Dover coastguard station said the light was caused by a meteor shower from space.



Frank Pascoe with his present wife Pat.

Northants Echo 10.06.94

DENBYSHIRE FREE PRESS 15 JULY 1994 NORTH WALES

Pete's close encounter of a jelly kind

HE CALLS them the Medusae.

They look like jellyfish and they have been visiting him for nearly 30 years.

Now they have started talking to him.

If it sounds out of this world, that is because it is.

Peter Van Doorn is looking for a publisher for his book on research into UFOs. At least that is what everyone else calls them.

He believes all previous UFO spotters have been wrong about what



Rory McCarthy

they claim to have seen. But then Peter, 46, from Williams Road, Shoreham, does not just think these are dustbin lids.

He argues the disc-like shapes, which many have thought to be spaceships, are in fact live aliens, some from Earth, others visiting from Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

The disc is in fact the top of the jellyfish shape and has a series of tentacles hanging beneath it.

He has christened them Medusae, standing for Manifestations and Electro-magnetic Discharges of Unidentified Superterrestrial Abiogenetic Entities.

The unemployed marine cost estimator saw his first sign of the creatures in 1964.

He said: "I was walking back to Shoreham from Hove and I wasn't thinking about anything out of this world.

"I saw something flash through the sky, above my head. There was something about it that was different and I had a peculiar feeling of foreboding. It came back again, slowed down over my head then flashed away again."

Improbable? Possibly. But in September last year NASA was reported to be studying similar sightings of large jellyfish shapes in the sky.

Peter said: "I am a perfectly rational person who had never believed anything like this before.

"But I now think we are on the verge of the greatest breakthrough in scientific history."

Still, Peter's book, whether fact or fiction, should make interesting reading when he finds a publisher.



12791



Peter Van Doorn and, left, a jellyfish, what our alien visitors are supposed look like

UFO sightings

Sir, — I would take issue with Stuart Campbell's claim to have "solved" UFO sightings (Letters, 21 September). I agree that a proportion of these incidents can be attributed to misidentification of natural objects including, but not solely, planets and stars. It by no means can account for all UFO reports, however.

I find it difficult to accept, for example, his claim in his book that Bob Taylor's encounter (1979), when he was within a few feet of a strange, solid object and had physical contact with two other spherical ones, can be explained as having resulted from a mirage of Venus.

Ron Halliday

35 FOUNTAIN ROAD
BRIDGE OF ALLAN
24 SEPTEMBER

■ **THE GREY** — this is the most common alien, accounting for up to 50 per cent of cases and gets its name from its white-grey skin. Typically small (around four feet), Greys have spindly bodies, big egg-shaped heads and huge, insect-like eyes.

■ **THE NORDIC** — so-called because of their long blonde hair and blue eyes, the Nordics are tall and attractive creatures. They seem to be one of the friendliest variety of alien and often advise witnesses on ecological matters, like the abuse of nuclear energy.

'Aliens: The Real Story' by Jenny Randles, published by Robert Hale, £6.99.

...And nearer home

Our most famous Lothian alien spotter was Bob Taylor who says creatures from outer space made a landing in Livingston. The retired forestry worker claims to have seen a spacecraft in Dechmont Law in November 1979.

Mr Taylor, who later moved to Perthshire, discovered the grey-coloured aircraft nestling in a forest clearing. He says the airship was stationary and completely silent.

As he looked on, Mr Taylor saw two spikey objects drop from the craft. They rolled towards him and appeared to attach themselves to his trousers.

Then came a strange, choking smell, similar, he says, to brake linings burning. Mr Taylor collapsed and the next thing he remembers is waking up.

He was alone, his body was bruised, his clothes torn and his dog Lara was barking wildly.

Mysterious marks were found in the ground where Mr Taylor said the aircraft had been. A UFO expert later suggested he had witnessed ball lightning but police admitted they were "baffled".

Evening News 05.09.94

Most famous UFO shot down in flames by US 'spy balloon' tale

ONE of the most celebrated UFO stories was shot down yesterday when the US air force claimed that the object that crash-landed in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947 was a spy balloon launched to detect Soviet nuclear tests, writes *Martin Walker in Washington*.

But the 44,000 citizens of Roswell, who have built a lively tourist trade around the crash site on a local ranch, are unconvinced.

Jesse Marcel, whose father Will owned the ranch and showed the wreckage to his son, then aged 11, still insists he saw "this very strange material", thinner than aluminium but too strong to tear or burn.

The local undertaker still says he got an urgent call for

four child-sized coffins. And the testimony of a nurse who claims to have seen the autopsy of 4ft-tall aliens is on show at Roswell's two museums.

The air force report says the spy balloon, made of tinfoil and balsa wood, was part of Project Mogul, a series of balloons used to watch for a Soviet bomb.

The first Soviet test was in August 1949, 25 months after the Roswell UFO.

"It is considered the best UFO case, the most thoroughly investigated and authenticated," said Don Berliner of the Fund for UFO Research. He dubbed the air force report "pathetic". "We expected they'd blame Project Mogul. Their first cover story was that it was a weather balloon."

Watch this space

— it IS a UFO

say skywatchers

SWINDON'S skywatchers Ray and Eleanor Baughn are set to continue filming the skies at night for their mysterious "visitor" from outer space...even though the unidentified flying object may have been Planet Venus.

They already have 100 minutes on videotape of a UFO seen above their home in Spindle Tree Court.

Their report followed hot on The Alien Acknowledgement Campaign delivering a letter to the Ministry of Defence in London asking the Government to release secret details about UFOs.

The ACC claimed there are more than 3,500 documented reports of UFOs worldwide.

But although Ray's family and friends were all excited about the strange phenomenon, Quest International investigators are convinced there is a logical explanation.

Two UFO specialists who were in the area looking at corn circles took time to inspect Ray's videotape.

Director of investigations Tony Dodd, who said Quest are the

largest group probing UFO phenomena in Europe, said they wanted to look further into Ray's findings.

Now that reports have been finalised, he said: "There is no question in my mind that it was Venus when we studied the film.

"It was in the right place at the right time and apparently Venus was particularly bright that night.

"I will be speaking to Mr Baughn about our findings."

Mr Dodd added, however, that there are UFOs — "I have stood within 100 feet of one and we have information from all over the world about them."

Mrs Baughn said last week: "It's not really for me to comment, we have to accept his word.

"If he thinks it was Venus, that's his decision." she said.

"But we have seen three different types of UFOs and only one of them was on the video film.

"One of the others was multi-coloured and another was triangular shaped. They may be something else apart from Venus, you just don't know.

"We are not out filming every night, but we will keep looking."

Ray was convinced it was a

multi-coloured spaceship which had been hovering and spinning like a top over his back garden for more than two years.

It appears, he said, in spells of up to 90-minutes at a time, several nights a week.

The mushroom-shaped 'craft' sparkles and shines, and when Ray zooms in his binoculars he said he can see its pointed legs jutting out from both sides of its triangular shape before it shoots off at great speed.

"I'm convinced there is something out there," said Ray.

"They are trying to warn us not to go on killing ourselves like we are doing on this planet. Every time there is trouble in the world, this thing appears."

Swindon Advertiser 01.07.94

though it was about two miles away, probably around Meadowcroft and a couple of thousand feet in the air."

He recorded the phenomenon for two minutes before it came back into view a lot higher up and then shot away at an incredible speed. The couple passed the tape on to the London UFO Study Group in Barking, Essex. Roy Lake, founder and chairman said: "I've been studying UFOs for 42 years and this is the best evidence of one I've ever seen."

A VIDEO-TAPED recording of a pulsating bright light hovering high over Aylesbury has been described as the best UFO evidence for nearly half a century.

This video picture was taken by Philip and Louise Horne on their camcorder at 8.40pm on Sunday, April 10. Philip noticed a bulge of light from the back bedroom of his house in Havelock Street, in Aylesbury and his wife fetched the family's video recorder. "It was perfectly stationary in the air," he said. "It looked as

Bucks Herald 21.08.94

'UFO' spotted

UFO observers in Somerset are asking for witnesses to an object seen over Peasedown St John at 11.30 pm on Wednesday night last week.

BUFORA, the national UFO research organisation, says it has received reports of a "massive" object, around ten houses in width with two rows of red lights surmounted by

two rows of green lights, moving in a northwards direction at about 20 mph.

Hot air balloon organisations, the Ministry of Defence and Bristol Airport did not know what the object could be, said BUFORA investigator Sue Hembury-Kellow. She would like any other observers to call her on 0823 491068.

Somerset & Avon Advertiser 05.08.94

'I was kidnapped by space aliens'

PHOTOGRAPHIC evidence of what were claimed to be the first pictures of alien beings was being presented at a convention yesterday.

American paranormal researcher Jon Beckjord displayed pictures which he believes show aliens who regularly visit the Earth to temporarily kidnap inhabitants for examination.

The picture evidence matched drawings made worldwide over decades by people who claim to have been abducted by out-of-world creatures, he told a meeting of the fourth annual Crop Circle Conference at Glastonbury, Somerset.

His own pictures of a flat-headed grey creature were taken in the High Sierras of California in 1980 at a campsite 100 miles from Lake Tahoe. The creature appears to have two large dark eyes, a long nose, a triangular face and little or no chin or mouth.

In 14 years of investigation he has gathered pictures from other photographers which he claims mirror the "Grey".

They include a snap of a long-armed creature taken by an unnamed policeman on Ilkley Moor, Yorkshire, in 1985.

It appears to have three sausage-like fingers which are webbed and there is also a flat-topped triangular head. The policeman

By Allan Smith
Daily Post Correspondent

claimed to have been abducted while out walking and then returned to the same spot.

As he walked home, he turned to photograph the creature which was apparently following him.

Another picture shows an object in the centre of a triangle-shaped feature in a cornfield at Avebury, Wiltshire — in the heartland of the "corn circle" phenomena.

Mr Beckjord believes it shows the head of a "Grey" peeking out of the corn. And a similar head appears in a computer-enhanced photograph of a "flying saucer", shot over Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

Mr Beckjord runs a UFO museum in Los Angeles and investigates the unusual. He has tracked Big Foot in America and Canada, examined corn circles in England and investigated Loch Ness monster reports in Scotland. He claims that two girlfriends believe they were abducted by alien creatures in spacecraft.

He maintains: "Hundreds of people worldwide claim similar abductions.



□ ET at home... a 'captive's' drawing

Object shaped like peardrop



THRILLED: Anita sketched the UFO which she saw just above the trees

Tim Stout

Close encounter

A **THRILLED** Southend woman made a sketch of the UFO she spotted out her window.

And after her close encounter during a storm she hopes that lightning will strike twice because she trained a video camera on the sky.

UFO witness Anita Grant, 23, said: "It was definitely a machine. Was I frightened? No, I was excited more than anything.

"I'd never seen anything like it in my life."

Anita, who lives in Fortune Steps in Kursaal Way, Southend, had her sighting at 3.10am early on Saturday morning after going to bed after a spell of late-night TV.

Coincidentally, she had been watching *Dogs in Space* — no tale of canine cosmonauts, but a film about hippies.

When she saw it the UFO was 100 yards away, hovering above a large tree in nearby Arnold Avenue.

It was shaped like a teardrop, and was about the size of a small plane, with a black-grey hull, and it was glistening.

Astonished Anita watched the Thing for a minute and a half before it disappeared.

The Echo put Mr Roy Lake of the London UFO Studies group in touch with Anita.

He said: "There is no doubt that this was something we cannot explain as a natural phenomenon.

"I would be interested to hear from anyone else who saw this thing.

Anita has late night encounter with UFO

"I believe it was a physical object and probably some kind of flying machine, though not a conventional one. However, that does not necessarily mean it was an extra terrestrial spacecraft."

Mr Lake stressed that the subject of UFOs was no laughing matter. Even in Russia and Japan, they were now being taken seriously.

He said: "Miss Grant seems a genuine, down to earth young lady. She has nothing to gain by making such a story, and probably a lot to lose."

Mr Lake urged anyone who sees a UFO to call other witnesses while it is still in view, and then report it as soon as possible.

He can be reached on 081 594 4797 after 6pm.

Red admiral

I WAS interested to learn, from Monday's *Guardian*, of Stuart Campbell's theory that UFOs are nothing more than "astronomical mirages" caused by the distorting effect of the earth's atmosphere on light-waves from space. I hastened to telephone Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, a former chief of the defence staff, with this exciting news. He is a veteran UFO buff, who has hitherto refused to deny the existence of flying saucers until it is "publicly disproved".

So what does he make of Stuart Campbell's attempt at disproof? "I never see the *Guardian*," the old sea-dog growled, "and articles like that are why I'm glad I never see it... What he says is rubbish." Are you still a UFO believer yourself, then? "Yes I am."

So what's your theory? "Never mind what my theory is," his lordship harrumphed, before slamming the phone down.

Guardian 11.05.94



As it happens, I know what his theory is. Three years ago Hill-Norton contributed an admiring preface to *Alien Liaison*, a book which claimed that the US government had captured several "alien spacecraft and alien bodies" and was test-flying these UFOs at "a super-secret base in the Nevada desert", with the assistance of their extra-terrestrial pilots. The

book was, Hill-Norton wrote, "honest and reliable".

How reassuring to know that such loopiness need not prevent a man from taking supreme command of his nation's defence forces. If only Sir Peter Harding had fallen in love with a little green woman from Vulcan, rather than the ineffable Bienvenida Buck, he might still be in a job.

BOOK OF THE DAY/Michael Cunningham

Encounters of the invasive kind

SUPPOSE you read in a Sunday tabloid that former UN secretary general Perez de Cuellar has been abducted by UFO aliens...

No, let's start again. Next week, scientists discover a nearby planet which is completely identical to ours except in one tiny respect: it's half a millennium behind us, still stuck in the Middle Ages. Thanks to that little "time difference" (not even a tick of the great cosmic clock) we'd be regarded as Space Shuttle gods, with our miraculous fax machines and microwaves, videos and MTV.

Or they'd probably call us alchemists, angels and evil spirits, and burn us at the stake.

Now put ourselves in their shoes. What if our planet is in the universe's social and technological equivalent of the Dark Ages? What would we make of advanced species, with their strange technologies and abilities?

As philosopher Terence McKenna once put it, even if they never came to us, the idea of scanning for their extraterrestrial radio signals is about as culture-bound a presumption as searching the galaxy for a good Italian restaurant.

Yet thousands of our earthlings remain convinced that these alien angels have not just made preliminary contact, but have *abducted* them, subjected them to medical examinations aboard their strange craft, forcibly taken sperm samples or inserted embryos and implants. These aren't close encounters of the Spielberg kind, but traumatising, highly invasive procedures: this is intergalactic rape.

So, are these people victims, prophets or lunatics? According to

Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens by John E. Mack, Simon & Schuster 433pp, £16.99 in UK

John Mack — no quack himself but an eminent professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School — they have obviously experienced *something*. But what exactly?

His book about treating them is split between a long scene-setter and summary of the case histories — based on 76 patients — and the sessions themselves, using hypnosis, regression therapy and other techniques to explore this particular form of not-remembering.

He notes independent observations and occasional "secondary", physical evidence — odd nosebleeds, missing pregnancies, small lesions, the recovery of tiny objects ("implants") from abductees' bodies. But he focuses mainly on their vivid, harrowing, highly detailed accounts (which are never "clinical" in the hackneyed sense). He says he stumbled upon the area

with an open mind. But if these experiences "seem to lie outside the ontological framework of modern science" — and that's a Very Big If, right at the heart of his account — how can we define the "reality" in which the abductions occur? What is "real" or "true" any more? The word "dream" is also highly problematic — abductees refer to their experiences as "dreams" in which they are "sort of fully awake". Time and again, they describe their experiences as "a waking reality, but a different one", and talk about the aliens breaking through a screen or "veil", via "slits" in the barriers between us and other space-times.

At his least restrained, Mack wonders whether this Alien Nation stretches back to antiquity, to "fairy boats" and superhumans who travel freely between Heaven and Earth, or even elf-life denizens of undiscovered dimensions.

OK, his book does come from a

land of compulsive therapy, where *National Inquirer* monstrosities and satanic abuse are phantoms of the daytime *Oprahs*. Many potential readers will automatically dismiss this as yet another product of the society which has mass-produced Hollywood aliens from the 1950s onwards. Mack has nothing to say about those enemies within, the ants, blobs, robots and Cold War zombies — mostly poorly-disguised projections of the McCarthyite paranoia which scarred his nation's psyche.

Yet whatever the abduction phenomenon is — and despite all the excess cultural baggage we carry about flying saucers — he doesn't deny its intensely mythic qualities: it is a narrative about knowledge, memory, personal odyssey, and coping with utter powerlessness.

Unlike friendly visitors (ET) or undesirable Aliens (of the Ridley Scott variety), he sees the UFO occupants as both threatening and worldly-wise. In their genetic and consciousness-raising experiments they are warning us of, and preparing us for, the impending crisis in our biosphere.

This is a most peculiar book, mixing its speculations with scholarly references and therapeutic concerns. Above all, though, it stresses the healing process and ways of wrestling with this unusual form of alienation — the real problems of very real people. To paraphrase *Star Trek*, it may be life, Jim, but not as we know it.

Michael Cunningham is an Irish Times staff journalist

Platkus Books
In *The Complete Book of UFOs* (August, £17.99) two experts on UFOs, Peter Hough and Jenny Randles, chart the origin of the mystery, the empirical evidence and the international reaction. Peter Hough's *Supernatural Britain* (October, £14.99, paper £8.99) is an illustrated guide including both historical and contemporary cases. January sees *The Paranormal Source Book* (paper, £9.99) by Jenny Randles. Spiritual healer Malcolm Southwood often treats up to 70 people each week and *The Healing Experience* (September, paper, £9.99) explores his common-sense approach to healing. *Mindfulness Meditations for Everyday Life* (September, paper, £9.99) by Jon Kabat-Zinn maps out a Buddhist-inspired path to reclaiming the beauty of the present.

Irish Times 14.06.94

The Bookseller 12.08.94



ANTONIO Villas Boas, a 23-year-old Brazilian farmer, was ploughing the fields in his tractor one October night when a brightly-lit craft appeared in the sky and swooped down to land beside him. Terrified, he

jumped down from the tractor and started to run away, but was grabbed by three human-like beings wearing helmets who had emerged from the craft. Boas was forced into the spaceship, where the 'aliens' proceeded to take blood samples from him. Some time later a small, cat-like woman with blood red body hair entered the room and had sex with him.

After being given a guided tour of the craft, he was released and allowed to return to his tractor. It is a story that could have been dreamed up by Spielberg but, according to professional ufologist Jenny Randles, actual close encounters with extra-terrestrials are commoner than you think. In her new book 'Aliens: The Real Story' Randles — Director of Investigations for the British UFO Research Association — looks at cases of alleged alien contact since the turn of the century. In the book these other-worldly beings are credited with a wide range of behaviour, including abducting humans (so-called 'close encounters of the fourth kind'), conducting bizarre genetic experiments, curing cancer and stealing household pets. Several women in the USA even allege that they have had alien/human foetuses extracted from their womb after being kidnapped. Even scientists have reported seeing aliens. In 1947, geologist Professor Rapuzzi Johannis was looking for rocks in the Italian mountains when he suddenly saw a 30-foot wide, lens-shaped object on the ground in front of him. Two strange beings then approached him — both were three feet tall with extraordinarily large heads and green-tinged skin. Their mouths were slits that opened and shut like a fish's gills and their eyes were huge, round and plum-coloured. One of the figures touched a belt he was wearing and a flash of light shot from it and hit Johannis in the arm. The scientist was thrown to the ground and the pick he was carrying flew through the air on its own to crash on the ground six feet way. The beings then returned to the lens-shaped craft and shot away into the sky, creating a blast of air that sent Johannis rolling down the mountainside.

A spate of alleged alien encounters occurred in Hungary in the 1990s — all involving young professional people between 18 and 24. A female nurse, for example, claimed she had been taken inside a UFO where small, grey-skinned beings took body fluid and blood samples from her. Another woman said she had been driving home one day when she saw a big light coming towards her before she lost consciousness. When she recovered, the car was in the middle of a field and its engine and lights had failed. On her way to get help, the woman realised her

leg was covered in blood and went to hospital with accompanying symptoms of heat and dizziness. The examining doctor was amazed to see her body covered in burn-like wounds. Her skin also revealed unusual puncture marks and a strange rash. The police were called and found the door of her car had been welded shut. The woman then became pregnant, which was confirmed by her doctor.

She then began to 'spot' blood, a possible symptom of a spontaneous abortion. She was rapidly sent for an ultrasound and on this an image of an abnormally developed foetus allegedly appeared. The doctor told her that there was no baby after all and insisted on an operation to clean her out. Several similar 'phantom pregnancy' cases have been reported in the US.

According to Randles, the after effects of an extra-terrestrial encounter can be far-reaching. Anyone who has spent time with genuine witnesses to an incredible experience knows how the trauma they often have to live with for the rest of their lives is hardly ever conjured up by them to get into the newspaper, she says. "Five minutes in the spotlight is no compensation for what can be a lifetime in mental hell as they struggle to come to terms with what happened. I have seen marriages end, careers vanish and mental and physical breakdowns result because, once a witness lets the genie out of the bottle, it can never be forced back in again.

"People also have a phobia about being ridiculed, and the majority (about 90 per cent) of all alien contacts are never reported outside the files of UFO groups. Indeed, I am privy to a couple of cases where I am sworn not to share the 'truth' even with a person's husband or wife."

But para-psychologist Dr Christopher French is a self-confessed sceptic when it comes to claims of UFO sightings and alien abductions. "The universe is a very big place and it is quite conceivable that

the mutilation of animals, cows mostly, found dead in fields.

"Parts of their torsos were dissected and their flesh was removed, but there was no trace of blood. The cuts were exactly the same if they had been made by a laser.

"And there in a lot of cases there were UFO sightings around the time they were found."

So what was going on?
"That's the question, isn't it? We don't know," said Ms Olbison (one and only UFO sighting at Stanningley, Leeds, 1967).

And how about those crop circles? After all, this summer saw a "quantum leap" in the variety of crop circle designs, according to Steve Alexander, who spent most of his time photographing them.

"No one has ever found a half-finished crop circle. No-one's ever been caught in the act," he said.

Yorkshire Evening Post 26.09.94

intelligent life has developed elsewhere," he says. "But if you look at the number of reports of UFOs and the like [up to 600 a year in the UK alone], it defies belief that so-called aliens are so fascinated by us here on earth that they keep coming back to observe us.

"There is no doubt that some cases are quite deliberate hoaxes. Take the crop circle phenomenon, for example. I personally know people who have created crop circles in order to confound the UFO experts. Indeed, I suspect the whole crop circle phenomenon is one giant hoax."

AN ALIEN IDENTIKIT:

■ **THE APPARITION** — sightings involving phantom-like aliens are rare and usually occur on open roads. Eyewitnesses often report seeing the entity pass through solid objects, like walls or security fences, and sightings are frequently accompanied by ill effects on witnesses and animals.

■ **THE ROBOT** — about five per cent of eyewitness accounts involve robotic creatures. They seem to have the function of menials or servants, sent to retrieve object or data. They are described as smooth and shiny, but there is little evidence that they are metallic in construction.

■ **THE GOBLIN** — these creatures are described as having very prominent ears and green-tinged skin. Goblins often seem rather mischievous and sometimes aggressive. Some ufologists believe that goblins are not alien visitors at all, but a race that co-exists with us and who enjoy playing in the guise of aliens as part of their inherent naughtiness.

■ **THE DWARF** — these ugly-hair covered beings are similar to goblins in temperament, and some eyewitness accounts involve physical assaults. A rash dwarf sightings was reported in South America in the early 1950s, but since then they have become very rare.

UFO alert

DID anyone see an unidentified flying object last Saturday night? That's the question being asked by a Darton woman this week.

Mrs. Anne Standeven first noticed an illuminated object in the sky when looking west or north westwards through the window of her Meadow Lane home at around 10.20pm.

But it wasn't until she noticed that the yellowish light was still there some 20 minutes later that she picked up her binoculars and focused them on it.

"You couldn't see anything other than a light without binoculars," said Mrs. Standeven, a voluntary hospital worker.

"With them, however, it looked like a dome on its side — not a solid shape but more like a lacy metal construction with a solid and brighter crown-shaped structure at its widest point.

"It was too low and still to have been a plane or helicopter."

Mrs. Standeven says the UFO remained still for several more minutes before moving away slowly. She used that time to alert neighbours, Melvin and Carol Brookes, who, she says, were also unable to explain what they saw.

"I've never seen anything unusual in the sky before," added Mrs. Standeven. "But I don't think I'll ever again mock anyone who says they have seen a UFO and I would certainly like to know if anyone else saw anything similar."

Evening News 05.09.94

Barnsley Chronicle 10.06.94

An anti-rational boom is sweeping America and, suddenly, I do not feel I missed out on the 1960s. Recently, four of the 10 best-selling books were on themes of near-death experiences, spirituality, and the immortality of love and consciousness.

Psychics and palmists' salons are proliferating and weighty magazine articles are questioning memory, some even denying the Holocaust. Men and women are seeking happiness through wonder drugs such as Prozac and are forming electronic communities on Internet with people they have never seen.

It was just a matter of time before someone added unidentified flying objects to this potent mix. Recently, book store displays were joined by a weighty tome about little grey aliens with blank eyes abducting large numbers of Americans and forcing them to have sex inside spaceships, followed by lectures on ecology.

It would be easy to dismiss *Abduction* (published in the UK and US by Scribners) as crazy except for one detail. Dr John Mack, its 64-year-old author, is an eminent Harvard professor and psychiatrist and winner of the Pulitzer prize for his previous book, a biography of T.E. Lawrence. He used clinical methods to interview 90 people who claim to have been abducted (13 appear in the book). And he believes them.

Or so he says. On a sunny spring morning in Cambridge, Massachusetts, I met Mack inside a wooden box of a house with a yard full of tangled weeds. Tired from appearances on such talk shows as Oprah Winfrey and Larry King, he asked about the FT's circulation before settling on a pink velvet chaise longue to tell how he moved from scepticism to believing in large-scale cosmic rape.

According to the publisher's hype, one in 50 Americans has experienced an alien encounter. Mack was introduced to the phenomenon by Budd Hopkins, a New York-based artist

and father of the UFO abduction movement, whom he met in January 1990. Hopkins told him of more than 200 people across the US who had, apparently, been kidnapped by aliens.

Mack recalls: "My first reaction was that there must be something wrong with him and that he was dealing with some contemporary form of mental illness. But I met the people and they were of sound mind, telling their stories reluctantly, scared of being ridiculed.

"Their stories were so similar, and told with such intensity and detail, that they could not be explained psychiatrically. It could only be real experience. That shook me up. If it's real, what is it?" He began seeing abductees in spring 1990 and says that only a handful of the 90 he has

years earlier, Dave, who as a child had his pants removed behind a bush by aliens; Jenny, who gave birth to a human alien hybrid; and Peter, who had an alien wife in a "parallel universe".

These are aliens with a purpose - to save us from ourselves. After being raped or examined, abductees are lectured on how mankind is destroying the earth. Images, given either telepathically or through giant screens, show vast areas of polluted water or parts of the planet disintegrating.

If the true motive of the little grey men is to turn us green, why are they not appearing to world leaders or those who could do something to ward off this impending ecological catastrophe?

Mack claims they are. "Pres-

almost entirely a US phenomenon. Mack says this is simply because the country has a large number of trained psychotherapists to help people "remember". But there is much controversy at present over aggressive, memory-enhancing techniques used by therapists to "recall" events so traumatic that, apparently, they had been repressed.

A California court recently awarded \$500,000 (£329,000) to a father who accused therapists of conning his bulimia-afflicted adult daughter into "remembering" childhood incidents of incest that he said had never occurred. As a result of her charges, the man lost his job and his wife.

Mack gives little detail on his methodology except to say that it involves hypnosis and breathing techniques. He writes that "memory of an abduction may be outside of consciousness until triggered" and sweeps away suggestions that his subjects were people already familiar with UFO literature.

"These are real powerful emotions from the core of their being," he says. "We can't invent memories like that. Furthermore, there are physical findings - cuts, scoop marks, lacerated and triangular lesions, implants and inexplicable nose-bleeds. Accounts of abductions often coincide with other reports of UFOs in the vicinity." He adds: "Maybe the phenomenon is mysterious and has no place in our world view. But it's not false.

"The problem is with western culture, which is just not ready to accept the idea of life on other planets. Other cultures, like native American and Buddhist, don't have problems with this. But we have become so arrogant that we don't want to think we are not in control. No other people in the history of mankind has been so denying of the existence of other intelligence."

That said, he rubs his blue eyes and says: "I think you've got enough there," before moving wearily on to the next interview. Even aliens, it seems, need publicity.

Christina Lamb meets an eminent Harvard professor who believes that large-scale cosmic rape has been taking place on earth

interviewed have some form of mental illness or effects of a trauma.

In his book, he details a handy do-it-yourself guide on how to recognise when you are experiencing an alien abduction and not simply the effects of overwork or excess alcohol. Abductions usually begin at home in bed or while driving at night. The first sign is a flood of blue or white light, an odd hum or sighting of a being or craft. A beam of light then floats you through the wall into a spaceship.

In a large room, lined with flashing computer consoles, small grey beings with large heads and long arms undress the abductee and remove hair, skin and sperm samples. Female abductees are often impregnated and the foetus later removed.

Mack's book quotes Ed, who remembers a silver-blond alien woman taking a sperm sample from him inside a "pod" while at high school 30

tigious people are worried about their reputations so they don't want their identities revealed. We have good evidence that one world leader, at least, has been taken. We've talked to him and he doesn't deny it."

He adds: "I have patients from all walks of society. A prison guard and female gas station attendant, at one end of the spectrum, to a prominent business executive, high-level diplomat and someone running for Congress at the other."

The first known abduction case was in 1957 in Brazil, a country with a fine line between reality and fiction. In the US, the first documented case occurred in 1966. Betty and Barney Hill, a retired couple who had got lost one night in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, underwent hypnosis and "remembered" being kidnapped by aliens. Their experience led to books, films and TV dramas.

Abduction appears to be

Financial Times 23.07.94

UFO film is to be shown on television

FILM footage of a UFO captured by a county man will be featured in an ITV programme tomorrow. The new programme, *Schofield's Quest*, at 7pm, will include the video recording by Joe Callan, which was taken from garden of his home in Fyfe Road, Coiby. The show is hosted by Philip Schofield and will include other bizarre mysteries, such as crop circles, ghosts and psychics. Mr Callan, 40, used his camcorder to film a flying-saucer shaped object, which he spotted hovering over his house just before 7.45pm on Saturday, May 7. The ET featured his story on June 13, and two readers contacted Mr Callan to say they had also seen the UFO, in Finedon and Burton Latimer.

SERIOUSLY - HAVE YOU SEEN A UFO?

I'm researching a serious book on sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) and wondered if any TVTimes readers or TV celebrities have had what they believe to be a sighting. Anyone with information can contact me at the address below. *Philip Mantle, Director of Investigations, British UFO Research Association, 1 Woodhall Drive, Healey Lane, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7S*

TV Times 11.10.94

Something fishy in the night sky

A COUPLE could not believe their eyes when they stepped out into their back garden to see a jellyfish-like UFO.

Mrs Irene Smith, a machinist with Prestfield Fashions, in Brunel Drive, Newark, was ready to settle down for an evening in front of the television.

Then, her husband, retired miner Mr Leslie Smith, shouted her from their back garden, where he was having a cup of tea.

Mrs Smith, of Nicholas Place, Tuxford, said: "It was unbelievable. It was a round circle with green and yellow lights round it. The inside was like a jellyfish.

Photograph

"There was a red and yellow light in the middle and when it became vivid it seemed to set all the outside lights off."

The couple watched the UFO for two hours through powerful Navy

binoculars, which belonged to Mrs Smith's father. Neighbours came out to join them, and one tried to take a photograph, but the mysterious object was too far away.

Mrs Smith said: "Without the binoculars it looked like the North Star. I had to lean against the wall to steady myself to watch it more clearly."

The UFO spent the time floating, almost still in the sky, which was very clear.

fellow-staff about her experience the next day — and found varying reactions.

She said: "Some think it is a bit weird, some believe me and some don't — but everybody is interested. There's got to be more in the universe than just us."

However, one work-mate recalled a story about a man who spotted a UFO, reported it, and then disappeared.

Newark Advertiser 02.09.94

Weird

Phonecalls to the RAF, the police and the Meteorological Office all failed to explain the sighting. The night was warm, which is often the case when suspicious sightings are made, according to investigators from the Mansfield UFO group.

Eventually, the UFO-spotters went to bed but the bright light was still in the sky.

Mrs Smith told

Open to UFOs

THE government remains open-minded on "strange things" which appear in the sky, Defence Minister Lord Cranborne admitted in a letter made public yesterday. He assured Tory MP Sir Teddy Taylor: "We are not aware of any evidence that would support existence of extra-terrestrial life."

Scotland on Sunday 03.07.9-

Mystery of UFO seen at Williton

A WILLITON resident reported a UFO sighting to the police on Thursday — a 'strange light in the sky' slowly descending into woods on Watchet Hill.

At about 11 pm Caroline Witcher, of Whitecroft, opened her front door to investigate a noise she thought was her cat screaming, and saw a bright white light in the sky over the hill. She watched it for about 15 minutes as it pulsed and slowly changed colour, white to pink, before landing.

Taunton police initially told her the light was a helicopter, but after checking discovered that there were none in the area and sent two Williton-based officers to her house. The officers checked the woods but could find nothing to explain what she had seen.

Mrs Witcher said: "You see things all the time if you look, but most of them can be explained. You can tell an aeroplane or a helicopter from the way they move, but this was quite stationary — it just slowly landed without making any noise at all."

Williton police Sgt John Lucas said: "I am a sceptic — until I can see it, feel it, touch it and kick it I just don't believe it. There was no evidence that anything had landed at all."

Somerset County Gazette 20.05.94

Mystery object seen in night sky

A MYSTERIOUS metallic object hovering in the night sky set alarm bells ringing for an award-winning Northumberland gardener.

The copper-coloured craft was seen by Peter Nelson, of Bellingham, as it moved at speed at the back of his home.

The former Swan Hunter shipyard worker can't find a logical explanation for the object, which emitted only a pulse at it hovered within his view for 15 minutes after triggering infra-red alarms at his home.

Mr Nelson, 49, who is registered disabled after a fall at the Tyneside shipyard, said: "I have a passive alarm system and the way it is set up the back and front alarms go



■ Peter Nelson.

off separately.

"It is an infra-red alarm with movement sensors and I couldn't understand how they could both have gone off together, it is totally impossible.

"I went into the garden just before midnight and couldn't see anything at first

but as I came back in I could see this bright light in the sky next to the full moon.

"It looked like a copper dome with a light underneath. It hovered around over the Tyne Valley.

It was only about 100ft above the ground and about the size of an airplane in diameter.

"There was no noise coming from it. We get aircraft from Otterburn over here all the time but that was no aircraft.

"I watched it move around the golf course area before it shot off at amazing speed in a bright light."

Mr Nelson said of the August 21 incident: "I was totally sceptical of UFOs before this."

The Journal 01.09.94

Is there REALLY anything up there ..?

AN open mind video presentation for those curious to know more about unidentified flying objects is being held by UFO Skywatch UK at the Bacchus, Sutton, tonight Friday

Local "ufologist" Mr Peter Gregory, of

Somersby Avenue, Mablethorpe, said an entertaining and factual video presentation would reveal the strange but true story of the UFO phenomenon in the Lincolnshire area.

There will also be a

chance to meet and talk with the local people who have had sightings, close encounters and abduction experiences.

A video of English and American sightings and the classic UFO mystery, the Roswell Incident, will

also be shown and numerous news reports and photos, including the two Mablethorpe UFO pictures, will be on display.

There will be a small admission charge and refreshments will be available.

