
STRANGE EVIDENCE

BY BILL CHALKER

This is a complex and difficult story to tell. We have taken a hair sample that was allegedly from an alien abduction episode and subjected it to DNA polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis—a technique that has not been used before in UFO investigation. Without this evidence, the case would be like any other alien abduction account: a bizarre story without any evidence to support its reality. The evidence we have uncovered suggests connections that may require us to consider new hypotheses on the biological nature of at least some of the beings implicated in alien abduction experiences. Unlike many investigators and researchers in this area, I will not rush to judgment on what all this means. This is the first study of its kind. If we had 100 more like it, we would certainly be a more confident in getting an answer. Some of the professional scientists involved in this work would like to do much more, but they are hampered by a lack of funding and time. To date, all funding has been from the pockets of the team involved. We would all be happier if increased funding allowed us to undertake such work in a more open and supported way. This study provides a glimpse of what can be done to bring science to bear on physical evidence in abduction cases. If you are able to assist with funding please contact me, c/o P.O. Box W42, West Pennant Hills, NSW 2125, Australia.

BACKGROUND AND PERSPECTIVE

As a scientist, I am aware of the fundamental position that extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. However, such evidence also often requires extraordinary investigation and research to obtain it.

J. Allen Hynek put his finger on the real problem in a 1981 issue of *Frontiers of Science*. Sadly, not much has changed. He wrote, “we come face to face with the charge that after 30 years of dealing with UFO reports we still have no really convincing ‘hard data’ . . . I grow livid when such charges of ‘no data’ are made. After years of frustration without the funds to pay for adequate laboratory and other

professional work, I bristle at the lack of understanding on the part of the scientific skeptics, who wouldn’t get to first base without well-funded research projects with staff, travel and laboratory facilities. . . . All we have are abortive, often amateurish attempts at data gathering, data analysis, and feeble attempts at laboratory studies (on a charity basis, of course), all of which dwindle into inconclusion and frustration. . . . It is my contention that ‘hard’ data may well have been present in many UFO cases but their discovery and definitive establishment has repeatedly gone by default for lack of professional (funded) treatment. It has always been a case of ‘too little and too late,’ necessitated by the use of volunteers bolstered only by their unselfish devotion to the pursuit of an overwhelming mystery.”

To date, some compelling evidence has been discovered for the physical reality of mainstream UFO events:

- physical traces from UFO landing cases—Rosedale, Australia (1980), Trans-en-Provence, France (1981), and Tully, Australia (1966);
- electromagnetic effects in close-encounter incidents, particularly car-stalling cases—Levelland, Texas (1957), and Norah Head, Australia (1973);
- radar-visual encounters—the *Sea Fury* Australian Navy pilot encounter (1954);
- physical effects on witnesses—the alleged fatalities in Cooktown, Australia (1959), the Texas Cash-Landrum encounter (1980), and the “chupa” encounters in Brazil, where fatalities have been reported; and
- to a lesser extent, photographic evidence—the Australian Benboyd UFO movie (1976).

Similar evidence to support the reality of abduction events has been lacking or not compelling. And yet such events have come to dominate the entire UFO scene. Indeed, we have the extraordinary problem that the abduction phenomenon is now seen as the core of ufology. The UFO phenomenon itself has been abducted by the alien abduction phenomenon. Until we have gained a much greater certainty about abduction data, it should not be central to our understanding of the UFO mystery. We are much more certain about the physical dimensions of the mainstream UFO phenomenon. We shouldn’t abandon the firm foundations developed over decades for the extraordinary uncertainties and fantastic claims that dominate the field today.

Bill Chalker, an IUR contributing editor, is one of Australia’s leading researchers. His book The Oz Files was published in 1996 by Duffy and Snellgrove.

Most of the Australian abduction cases I have researched since the 1970s have perhaps told me more about the human condition than they have about UFOs. Some may wish to argue the point, but the majority of these cases have been conspicuously devoid of compelling physical evidence.

The 1993 Narre Warren incident is one of the few compelling exceptions. Here we are dealing with an event that appears to involve physical evidence and three groups of apparently independent witnesses who may confirm a dis-

quieting reality. A woman, Kelly Cahill, contacted me on October 4, 1993, seeking assistance in understanding a bizarre experience she had near the Melbourne suburban housing estate of Narre Warren North, in the foothills of the Dandenongs, Victoria, between Belgrave and Fountain Gate, during the early hours of August 8, 1993.

This incident has been now extensively documented. My own account of the complex episode has appeared in "An Extraordinary Encounter in the Dandenong Foothills" (*IUR*, Sept./Oct. 1994), and also in my book *The Oz Files* (1996), pp. 9–16. Keith Basterfield described the case in his *UFOs: A Report on Australian Encounters* (1997), pp. 123–128, and Kelly Cahill has written about the incident herself in her book *Encounter* (1996).

The incident appears to involve independent confirmation of a CE3 and missing time in that at least two and possibly three groups of people unknown to each other witnessed the same UFO and entities, and experienced missing time. Perhaps for the first time, independent witnesses have offered strikingly similar information, thus making a convincing case for the reality of the strange events described. This reality is further strengthened by a range of apparently related physical traces, including ground traces, a low-level magnetic anomaly apparently consistent with the location of the UFO encounter, and effects on some of the witnesses.

I referred Kelly Cahill to John Auchettl and his group Phenomena Research Australia (PRA). They had two different laboratories confirm several unusual anomalies and magnetic problems at the apparent site of the UFO landing. Some interesting changes in soil chemistry were detected—an above-average sulphur content, the presence of pyrene (which occurs in coal tar and is also obtained by the



Peter Khoury

destructive hydrogenation of hard coal), and tannic acid—in a crescent-shaped indentation. There was a triangular formation of dead grass on the ground, spaced out in the site.

These physical dimensions represent compelling evidence for a reality underlying abduction events. The case is a striking example of the importance of focusing on the physical evidence for extraordinary UFO events. Such a strategy will provide for insight into the nature and purpose of UFO activity.

However, cases like Narre Warren are rare. Most abduction events have little or no direct, unambiguous evidence. Implants, missing fetuses, scars, and other abduction-related anomalies still have not been sufficiently substantiated.

Over the years, I have been fortunate to have been able to work with an informal network of scientists who all view the UFO phenomenon as worthy of serious attention. (Many of my "invisible college" colleagues prefer to contribute anonymously because the UFO problem is seen as a forbidden science. The frustrating thing is not that many scientists are skeptical about UFOs, but that they ignore what is often powerful evidence. However, the impact of the "court of science" and the "politics of science" is powerful, so ufology has not yet won the support of mainstream science.)

One approach we have been investigating is biological, involving the use of powerful DNA techniques to examine physical evidence from abduction episodes. Indeed, if these bizarre events occur at some physical level (at least as we understand it), then potential physical DNA evidence should be available. We have been studying some specimens, in particular a controversial hair sample. As the following report will show, we have undertaken a mitochondrial DNA

sequence analysis of a hair follicle from an apparent alien abduction case. This method has allowed us to provide a measure of reality to an experience that would otherwise be deemed just too bizarre. Without this level of scientific validation, the incident would be no less unbelievable than most other abduction episodes. But now the case has the benefit of scientific evidence that lends it credibility and hints at unusual and hitherto unsuspected connections.

ALIENS AND HAIR?

Most aliens in abduction episodes, particularly the so-called “grays,” are described as hairless, but in a significant number of cases hair is mentioned. Tall, Nordic-like beings have been reported, as in the Travis Walton case of 1975. Separate from his initial encounter with small, fetuslike aliens, Walton reported seeing three tall humanoids, two men and a woman, each similar in appearance and with the same coarse, brownish-blond hair. The woman’s hair was longer, past her shoulders. There are many other cases like this. The apparently bald grays have only dominated abduction reports in the last two decades, especially since Whitley Strieber’s *Communion* (1987). Budd Hopkins in *Intruders* (1987) described “hybrid children” with thin, wispy hair. David Jacobs in *The Threat* (1998) records extensive abductee interactions with human-looking hybrids.

The concept of hybrids in abduction accounts is difficult to reconcile with our current understanding of the limitations of interspecies breeding. Indeed, given the possibility that we may be dealing with a vastly technologically superior species that is very likely biologically different from us, alien-human hybrids seem both scientifically improbable and logically implausible. We might reason that if aliens have visited us through advanced space travel or some space-time wormhole, the barriers to combining different biochemical building blocks might have also been solved. But, even then, why create such hybrids? Maybe David Jacobs’s scenario should be turned on its head: Perhaps alien-human hybrids are a cover for a much simpler agenda—the preservation of our stock, not theirs. But this is wild, unsubstantiated speculation. Michael Swords has presented some excellent reviews of this problem in “Extraterrestrial Hybridization Unlikely,” *MUFON UFO Journal*, November 1988, and “Modern Biology and the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis” in the *MUFON 1991 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*. An entertaining discussion of the problems can also be found in Jeanne Cavelos’s book *The Science of the X-Files* (see the chapter on “Grays, Hybrids, and UFOs”).

PETER KHOURY

I now turn to Peter Khoury, the individual whose abduction experience was the focus of the DNA-sequence PCR study. In order to give an accurate and complete account of the affair, I need to paint a picture of the abduction milieu that

has focused on him.

Many people are searching for answers for a profound mystery—an abduction experience—that has intruded into their lives. Some will be well-served by ethical and professional UFO researchers. Others may encounter extreme elements within the UFO community or the skeptical contingent. Fortunately, if difficulties occur there are alternatives. Support groups, for example, have sprung up in many Australian states; if properly run, they serve an important function.

One of the most notable examples of the support group concept in Australia has been the UFO Experience Support Association (UFOESA) based in Sydney. It emerged out of frustrations with the formal UFO-group structure. It describes itself as “a nonprofit, voluntary organization dedicated to helping witnesses and experiencers of UFO events cope with and understand their encounters.”

UFOESA’s coordinator, Peter Khoury, was born in Lebanon in 1964 and migrated to Australia in 1973 where he met his future wife Vivian at school in 1981. They married in 1990 and have two children, Stephen (born in 1995) and Georgia (1998). Peter works in the building industry, and has had his own business in cement rendering.

Peter’s introduction to UFOs was modest to begin with. In February 1988 he and Vivian had seen a strange light making extraordinary movements in conjunction with a beam of light. Vivian had also gotten him to read Shirley MacLaine’s *Out on a Limb* (1986). These were hardly momentous entrées, but all that changed with a shattering and life-changing experience in July 1988.

This is how Peter described it:

On the 12th July 1988, I had an experience which changed my life. While . . . lying on my bed, I felt something grab my ankles. As I felt this, a strange numbness, tingling and churning sensation crawled up through my body and right up to my head. I was paralyzed, I could not move any part of my body but for the exception of my eyes which I could move, open, or close. My brain was functioning but I could not do anything physically. I tried to call out to family members but I could not force the words out. At this stage I started to panic, thinking I would not walk again. I thought I was truly paralyzed.

All of a sudden I looked to my right side and I could see three or four figures wearing dark robes with hoods on their heads. Their faces were very wrinkled and shiny dark black in color. They were only about three to four feet in height. It was then that communication was made telepathically. There was no sound made, yet I could hear the message in my mind. I was told not to worry and I would not be harmed and to relax. As I moved my eyes and looked to the left side I noticed two beings who looked so different from the others. These two were thin, tall with big black eyes and a narrow chin. They were gold-yellow in color. The one closest

to my head communicated with me telepathically, telling me not to worry, it would be like the last time. He looked at me with those big black eyes and I could feel the emotion through them. It was the eyes that expressed these feelings. You could see the smile in the eyes.

It was at this stage that I noticed a long needle-like, flexible crystal tube. The being then pointed the needle to the top left side of my head and inserted it. It was then that I blanked out. The next thing I remember I was conscious. I jumped out of bed like a flash, I walked into the TV room where my dad and brother were. I noticed they were asleep. I woke my brother up—he looked dazed and lost. As he put it, he felt switched off. I asked him how long it had been since I went to my room. He replied about 10 minutes, which was how long I thought it had been. When I left the TV room a film was just starting, yet as I spoke to my brother we realized that the TV station was closed and at least one to two hours had passed by.

The next day I spoke to my [fiancée] Vivian. I explained to her what had happened through the night. As I touched the spot where the needle was inserted, I discovered some dried blood under my finger nail. Vivian took a closer look and noticed a puncture hole and blood. I went to my family doctor and asked for a check up. The doctor spotted the puncture mark instantly and commented that I must have hit my head on a nail at work. When I tried to explain what had happened I was laughed at. I had nowhere to go for help, no one to discuss the incident with. It was frustrating to experience something so bizarre, so strange, yet so real. I ask you all to think about the situation abductees are in. What if you became a victim of the same circumstances? Wouldn't you want someone to listen to you and feel confident in the fact that the people you are reporting your experience to understand and support you? I ask you once again to be open-minded to the fact that there are many individuals experiencing this phenomenon throughout the world.

It takes a lot of courage simply to “come out” and tell a story like this. It takes strength of character to go the extra step by trying to help others in similar circumstances. Peter and other people like him are to be encouraged to follow their convictions. Researchers have no exclusive mandate on the right approach, but can offer advice, perspective, and (perhaps where appropriate) a critical comment to keep experiencers from getting caught beyond their depth in the less desirable aspects of fringe UFO culture.

Immediately after this July 1988 experience Peter had nothing to focus his anxiety and confusion about the episode. He also had physical scars on his body that were apparently connected to the experience, including a biopsy-



The two female aliens.

like puncture mark on his shin. He was not aware of abduction cases and struggled for understanding. His own Lebanese background and Vivian's Greek ancestry provided no comfort. Family members even suggested he had encountered St. Charbel, a 19th-century Lebanese Catholic monk, apparently because of the presence of robes. This explanation offered no comfort for Peter.

Months later, while driving, Vivian and Peter were shocked to see a petrol station billboard with the now familiar Strieber gray-alien face. Peter saw that it was very similar to the creatures he had seen. The poster was promoting the paperback version of *Communion*, so they acquired the book. Vivian read it first, remarking to Peter that he was not going to believe what he would read. Peter found it was like a checklist for his own bizarre encounter. He went through it and at each significant detail was saying “yes, yes, yes, no, no, yes” to the various aspects. There was much in common and just as much not in common. However, as far as Peter was concerned he had some sort of context to anchor his own strange experience. It was a start.

Getting further assistance proved difficult. Professional help was not forthcoming. While the cost of hypnotherapy was daunting, as soon as he mentioned why he wanted it Peter found that no one would help him. Eventually he heard about a UFO group that was about to have its first meeting. He went along and entered the uncertain world of ufology, complete with investigation, research, speculation and (alas) politicking. Soon he found himself being the group's “abduction coordinator.” He stayed with them for about a year, until petty politics took its toll. He found that the time spent there did not help him understand his own experience. For people who professed to be researching the subject, he felt he knew a lot more about it and was more sensitive to the complex needs of people who had gone through such episodes.

As a result, on April 14, 1993, he formed the UFO

Experience Support Association. While this allowed him to assist others with similar experiences, Peter found that things had not ended for himself.

In July 1992 he had the bizarre experience that would become the focus of this study. Because of the discovery of the hair and the sexual nature of the experience, Peter was not at all confident talking about it. He found the courage to talk to the UFO group he had originally joined but they didn't seem all that interested. Even within his own support group, while it was perhaps more thoughtfully considered, ultimately nothing was done about it.

Although I started to talk to Peter about his original 1988 encounter in 1993, it was three years later that he told me about his 1992 episode and showed me the hair sample for the first time. My focus at that time was on more conventional investigations, but I kept in mind the fact that a hair sample had been recovered from what may have been an alien-abduction sexual assault case. What to do about it?

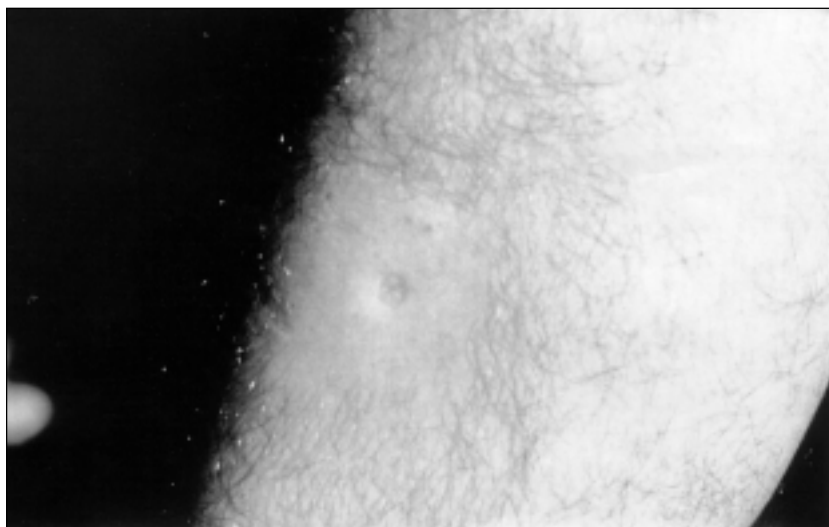
Initially there was little I could do. However, by early 1998 my circle of "invisible college" colleagues had expanded to include some biochemists. Our discussions then led to the fact that such techniques as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification and sequencing of mitochondrial DNA on the hair sample might be an opportunity to do some real science in an area that has been dominated by wild claims and theories. Though the prospects for a breakthrough would be very small, a biochemical approach to abductions could prove enlightening. I think this study has demonstrated that, but it also has the added bonus of identifying some intriguing anomalies.

After becoming aware of the 1992 episode, I discussed it informally with Peter on a number of occasions. When it became clear that the biochemical analysis was producing some interesting results, I sat down with him and conducted an extended interview on February 8, 1999. Nothing that emerged from that interview contradicted or exaggerated the recollections he had described to me intermittently since 1996.

I have found Peter to be a friendly and reliable person. He has at times become passionate and volatile about his cause and does not suffer anyone who doubts the integrity of those who genuinely feel they have experienced an abduction. He keeps an open mind on the nature of these experiences, but he calls for serious and ethical research and support of abductees. Over the course of the past six years Peter and I have become friends.

Given the nature of Peter's 1992 experience, it is best if we learn of it from his own words, from my recent interview.

BC: Peter, we have talked a few times in the past about



Biopsy-like mark on Peter Khoury's shin.

this experience from June or July of 1992. [The actual date was July 23, 1992, as confirmed by his diary.] Can you tell me, in your own words, what happened then?

PK: Well, basically it was at a time I had had head injuries and I was on a lot of medication, and I was pretty sick.

BC: What were the head injuries about?

PK: I got attacked at a job site by three guys. I was hit with shovels on the head; trowels were thrown at me. So I had pretty bad injuries. I suffered a lot of pain. I was on a lot of medication. Because of that I would vomit constantly, particularly in the morning. I know there was one time I vomited about 10 times, and that was just while driving Vivian from home to the station, which is about three minutes away by car. I had to pull up about 10 times. I would just get sick.

But I remember one morning, I had driven Vivian to the station. I did pull up a few times and get sick. I drove back home and got back into bed, at about 7 [in the morning], about 7:05. She left about 7:00. It took a couple of minutes . . . and I was asleep. All of a sudden, it was about 7:30, I just sat bolt upright in bed for some reason. I was totally asleep and all of a sudden I sat straight up.

I noticed that there were two females on the bed. At the time I was still sort of waking up. In that state of trying to wake up, put my senses together, I noticed there were two females on the bed.

The way I was looking at it, was like I was looking through the back of my head, like through my eyes, sitting back behind me, watching myself, like I could see myself in front. Like I could see the back view of me. It was as if I was looking through my own eyes, from me being in front. It is really hard to explain, but I was virtually looking, standing back, looking through my image in front of me. I was watching this and I could see myself as well as the other two women.

BC: How were these two women seated on the bed?

PK: Well the one was opposite me, directly opposite me. It was on a double bed, so there was a lot of room. The one opposite me was a blonde-looking woman and she was sitting with her legs tucked under her back side. She was virtually sitting on her calves. . . . You could imagine her kneeling down with her legs folded, sitting down. The one on the other side was kneeling halfway, she wasn't actually sitting down on her calves. She was sitting upright a bit.

As far as the description of these women, one of them was blonde and the other was dark-haired and oriental-looking.

I'll describe the blonde one first. She was . . . in her mid-thirties; she had good skin; the hair was pretty weird, for the morning, anyway. You don't see a woman get up with makeup and her hair all done up. This one, her hair was done up like the wind was hitting it, like it was blown back. It was different. I had never seen a hair style like that; it was curled something like Farrah Fawcett, but to an extreme . . . It just looked really exotic in a way . . . It was blonde. Her facial features . . . she had protruding cheeks, very high cheeks. The nose was long; I wouldn't say too long, such as a big nose; but long as in stretched, with the face, because it was a long face; a longer face than I was accustomed to in females I know. Her eyes were two to three times bigger than our eyes. I looked at the eyes and I knew I wasn't looking at a human female. . . . Not forgetting that I had previous experiences . . . I connected it straight away, to something of that kind. She looked humanoid, and human in features. Her mouth, her lips were normal in size. . . .

BC: What about the shape of the face?

PK: The shape of the face was longer than usual. It was as if it was somehow stretched . . . just longer, longer than ours, pointier than ours. . . . The head just didn't look right. It was longer and narrower than a human being for example. Her body . . . she had normal female breasts. She was naked . . . I didn't notice anything different about her body. . . . She had average-sized breasts, well proportioned. The only thing that looked different to me was the face, in that it was longer than ours, the eyes were two to three times bigger than ours. . . . The chin was pointier . . . like a witch's long chin in movies. . . . The hair covered the ears . . . Her hair came down to about halfway down her back, and like really high up, it was sitting up. The hair looked really exotic . . . it looked wispy in a way; although it looked nicely done, it looked to me like it was frail in a way . . . it was flimsy . . . it wasn't very strong hair.

She basically reached out and grabbed onto me and grabbed me with both of her hands, from the back of my head.

The dark-haired woman looked Asian. . . . The blonde one was directly opposite me and when I sat upright she was probably two feet away from me. The other one was to the right and sitting on the side of the bed . . . facing us from the side. When I looked at her I got the impression that she was watching the blonde one and learning how to interact. She was just there with this concentrated-like look . . . She was

looking at both of us . . . at what she was doing and at the reactions, my reactions basically to the blonde woman.

BC: What about the musculature? Were they thin-boned or were they muscular?

PK: Well I got the impression from the blonde one that she was very tall because from the waist up she was taller than me. When she sat up . . . when she cradled me and brought me to her breast I would say she had . . . a head and a half higher than me. [Peter is 182 cm tall, 71.7 inches or approximately six feet.] . . . I would say she was a lot taller than me, that's for sure. The Asian one, she would be average height, 5 feet 8 or so. Her features also weren't completely human—the cheekbones reminded me of an Asian woman, but too extreme, it was as if she had been punched in the cheeks by Mike Tyson or something. . . . The cheeks were too puffy; the eyes were too big once again, about the same size as the other one; her eyes were dark, almost black; I don't remember seeing white in the eyes. . . . The blonde had light-colored eyes, maybe bluish. . . . She had normal, human-looking eyes except for the size. But the other one, it was like looking at a TV screen, that tone of dark.

BC: What about skin tone?

PK: One was light (the blonde). She was like a normal westerner, the tone of the skin was very light. The other one had darker skin, darker than an Asian woman, maybe like . . . from India, that darker tone of color. She had straight black hair down to her shoulders, super straight. . . . I didn't see her hair move, when she would look at us . . . it was sitting there stiff. . . . It looked like a vase, like a head set. . . . It looked like it didn't fit there. . . . Her skin tone was very dark. . . . Looking at the blonde one and looking at her, and looking at these little differences . . . you knew you weren't looking at a human female. . . . The Asian woman's face . . . looked more human than the other one . . . except for the eyes and cheekbones . . . they just sat up too high. They just looked like a deformed human. . . . The blonde very definitely . . . I have never seen a human looking like that.

The blonde one was showing the dark-haired one how it's supposed to be done or how to interact or . . . whether it was a sexual interaction. . . . I don't know what sort of interaction we had.

I had come back from dropping my wife off at the station. I got back into bed at about 7:05 a.m. I was clothed. I'd had a shower the night before. Went to bed. Fell asleep. Got up in the morning, drove my wife to the station, came back home, went straight back to bed. I felt really ill, so I went straight back to bed. At about 7:30 I sat up bolt upright in bed. I don't know why. There was no reason for it . . . my eyes open and there were those two women there. . . . I was just like . . . What is going on? What's happening here? Although I had been involved in the UFO field and I had come across a lot of cases . . . I don't think I had come across a case where an abduction experience had occurred during the day or morning hours—seven o'clock in the morning. It's always been night-time or early hours such as three—

never during the daylight.

I knew I was looking at something that didn't belong in my room or in my house, but there they were. If I didn't have what I have as proof for me I would say that I was on enough drugs, pain killers, etc., to hallucinate maybe.

BC: What sort of things were you on?

PK: Panadeine Forte [a pain medication].

BC: Not generally known for their hallucinogenic properties.

PK: I was put on Prozac, but I only took one tablet. I read up on it and I didn't like what I read.

BC: Were you suffering from fevers?

PK: No just a lot of headaches, pain, severe migraines, a lot of vomiting, a lot of dizziness. But no I wasn't hallucinating. I got injured in March and I had been on medication all along up until the experience and even after. Around that time I felt I was being given too many different medications, so I approached the doctors and narrowed it down and just basically started taking Panadeine Forte and Voltarin . . . for six to seven months after that. When I had extreme headaches I would take up to three Panadeine Forte and that's really it.

BC: Getting back to the two women on the bed, you said the dark-haired one was looking as if she was being shown what to do, what was the right thing to do. What happened then?

PK: Well, I looked at the blonde one. When I noticed there were two there I was like trying to analyze how they got there first. Like, someone's broken into the house. It was just such a shock to me to wake up to see that.

BC: Had the front door been locked?

PK: Oh yes, the front door would have been locked.

It would be very hard for me to find two women who looked like these ones, especially the blonde one. You get Asians, and they would say the same about us, but they all seem to look alike. If I had a lineup of 10 Asian women and she was in the line up I would say, yes, I would pick her out, because she had distinctive features about her. . . . The eyes and the cheeks.

The expression on her face was blank. It was if she was there. . . you know when you look at someone and you see a sparkle in their eye, you know they're alive. . . I didn't see that in both their eyes. It was just like looking at someone with a glass eye . . . there was something missing. . . . The Asian one in particular—her stare was just straight at us, just watching, analyzing what's going on. The other one, her actions as far as I was concerned were clinical . . . no emotion whatsoever.

She just basically reached out and grabbed me from the back of the head with both her hands. She cupped the back of my head and forced me towards her breast, towards her left breast. I resisted and she forced me again, I resisted and a third time that she forced me, pulled me towards her. She was pretty strong . . . when I'd resist she would pull me straight back with ease . . . She pulled me over and my mouth was basically on her nipple and I bit.

BC: Why did you do that?

PK: I don't know. I've asked myself many times. I know how much it would hurt a woman if you did bite her nipple. I did that, and I took a chuck, a little bit off, because I swallowed it and it was stuck in my throat for three days.

I don't know why I did it. I don't know whether it was like a defense thing for me to get away from her. I know there might be a lot of people who will say this is a sexual fantasy or whatever. I've been around. I've been with two women. It wasn't a cosmic experience for me, it was normal. I haven't done it again. I didn't think it was that great. It's just normal, nothing to write home about. . . . I think that my biting her nipple was the only way I could say that I didn't want to do this.

When I did bite her nipple I've pushed back and the expression on her face was like "this isn't the way." In a way it was shock or confusion. Like this isn't the way it's supposed to be. She looked at the Asian one, I remember, her looking over. They looked straight at each other's face and looked at me like this isn't they way it's suppose to happen. You've done this wrong. I'm swallowing and there is this thing stuck in my throat and I started coughing, and as soon as I started having this coughing fit that's when everything, they weren't there anymore. I got out of bed.

BC: How do you mean?

PK: They just vanished. One second they were there. The thing is that when I bit her nipple . . . she didn't scream, she didn't cry, she didn't react at all in pain. No way at all was there any pain associated with what I did. That really like put a big question mark on what was going on with me. Like, what the hell was going on? There was no blood, there was nothing, no trace whatsoever. It was if I took a bite out of a plastic dummy or mannequin that was made of rubber or something. When I bit the nipple it felt to me as if I had bitten a little bit of elastic band for example, rubbery substance. As soon as I did that I saw the expressions and I started to cough, got this coughing fit and I might have taken my eyes of them for a split second I think, then I've looked up and they weren't there any more. I got out of bed coughing. All this time really bad coughing. I had something stuck in the back of my throat that I was trying to cough out. I remember getting a glass of water, having a drink, didn't do anything, walked straight to the bathroom to use the toilet.

BC: Before you got to that point and you had the glass of water, were you aware between the time of coughing and being aware that they weren't there was there any sense of continuity of time?

PK: Oh yes, I don't believe I blacked out. I don't think so.

BC: What about this sense you described earlier of having viewed most of this through the sense of being behind yourself and seeing through you?

PK: Well that's what I mean. Soon as I had this coughing fit I've looked up and they were gone and I was looking through my own eyes. There was nothing there. It

was just me on the bed. But the whole time when this was happening I had the feeling as if I was . . . looking through the back of my own head and through my own eyes . . . as a second person looking through. It was really weird. It was like looking through binoculars, but through the back of my own head. I was watching myself going through having this experience . . . I don't know how to understand it myself, it's pretty weird. . . . It gets . . . you know, being involved in the field you would think you would have some answers. It's ridiculous.

BC: Why did you go and drink some water?

PK: Well, to wash this thing down. . . . There was definitely something stuck in my throat. I had a coughing fit that went for hours, for three days. I tried bread. My mum called a couple of times during the day and heard me coughing over the phone. Just eat some bread and wash it down. Not that I told her what it was. I spoke to Vivian on the phone.

BC: When did you speak to her?

PK: It would have been half an hour after it happened.

BC: What did you say to her?

PK: She would have just got into work. Probably about 8:30 I spoke to her. I just said to her, she heard me coughing, and I said I've got this thing stuck in my throat. I've been trying to wash it down. It won't go. It's annoying. I said to her, "When you come home I just want to talk to you about something," and left it at that.

I waited until she came home. While I was home on my own I was coughing. I was trying to drink. But after the first glass of water I went into the bathroom to use the toilet.

BC: Why was that? Did you feel . . .

PK: I had to go to the toilet.

BC: Would that have been normal at that time?

PK: Not really . . . It didn't seem odd to me. . . . I had a strong urge to go to the toilet. I had a glass of water and that even made it more so that I needed to go. I went to the toilet. As I said before I had a shower the night before. Then I went straight to bed. Vivian and I just fell asleep. Nothing happened. Basically I was in that much pain when I tried to use the toilet I thought my penis was virtually slashed. It felt like it was cut up and it was just burning. It was just too painful. I pulled the foreskin back, and wrapped around the head and part of my penis was this hair that was wrapped right around it, really tightly wrapped, and there was another little hair that was also intertwined. . . . All I did . . . It really, really hurt. Like it was so painful. It was like a nylon string, and it was going to cut me off. . . . I untangled it. It was really painful to untangle to . . . not that it cut me, though. But it felt really, really painful to take it off. When I eventually took it off I came into my office and grabbed a plastic sachet bag, put it in it, sealed it. The reason I did that was because I knew that there was no way, no way at all, that a hair that size and wrapped around the way it should have been there, and thinking of these women, the thing in my throat, the hair, something bizarre had just happened and I'm glad now I actually kept the sample, because as you

know I've kept it for quite a few years.

BC: Given the set of circumstances that you actually recollect how do you connect this with the women, because you have described the sense that there was no sort of break in continuity, they were there . . . then you've looked up and they were gone, then there was this sense of this hair there.

PK: I don't know if something happened before and when I drove Vivian to the station it continued. I don't know if it happened as soon as I went to sleep.

BC: Well, lets get back to your sense of awareness of lying on the bed, and then suddenly upright. I think you mentioned to me before there was this sense of either something going onto the bed like a cat jumping on the bed.

PK: Yes. Maybe, that's what woke me up. It was a feeling of something. Yes, you're right. There was something, more so like if something light stepped. . . . [It is] a normal, conventional bed, base ensemble, with a mattress and bed head . . . a very firm bed. If someone sat on the bed, you would notice they sat on the bed . . . and maybe that's what made me sit bolt upright—the movement, feeling something on the bed, but for two women to be on the bed it was too light, the movement was too light. . . .

BC: Can you just describe what sort of clothing you were in at the time?

PK: Track suit pants and a sloppy joe [sweatshirt] . . . and just normal jocks . . . my underwear was on. . .

BC: When you had this awareness, this encounter with two ladies after it ended and you were coughing, were you aware of your clothing being messed about or was it just as if you were dressed the same way as you went to bed?

PK: No, I was dressed the same way I went to bed, the only thing is the coughing didn't stop. . . .

I recall when Vivian came home, I said to her something happened, I'm not ready to talk about it yet, but when I mention to you about the coughing fits I'm having now if I tell you in a week, a month, whenever I tell you, connect the two. When I say to you remember when I had that coughing fit . . . relate what I'm talking about. Yes, she said, no problem. And, it took me two weeks.

BC: Why?

PK: I don't know. In a way I felt guilty, then I felt I had no control over what happened. And then at the same time I thought how was Vivian going to deal with this. I mean . . . we were married, we didn't have kids at the time. . . . Like, how am I going to explain it to her. How is she going to feel, how is she going to deal with it. Is she going to feel threatened? . . . She surprised me actually. Two weeks down the track [on August 14] I said to her, "Look, remember when I had the coughing fit?" She said, "Yes." I said, like, this is what happened and there were these females on the bed, the hair, etc., the coughing. I said, what do you think about it. She said, "It's not like something you can control, it's not like you're inviting a woman over while I'm not here. What can we do about it?" I was shocked. . . . She accepted it better than I did.

BC: What did you do about it at the time?

PK: Virtually nothing. I was more concerned about this thing stuck in my throat for three days. . . . It was so annoying. . . . Somehow I wished I could have spat it out. . . . On the third day I stopped coughing and it was gone. I knew that something happened that wasn't ordinary.

The hair was about 10–12 centimeters in length, the other about 6–8 centimeters. . . . It was very frail looking, whitish in color, rather than black or blonde. . . . It reminded me of a very thin fishing line. . . . It wasn't thick. I took a sample of my wife's hair to look at and a sample of my hair. I had the sample in the bag, and . . . it was a major difference. [When I first unravelled the hair] I noticed it was blondish, whitish hair, it didn't even look like my wife's hair. . . . I connected it straightaway to the blonde woman. There is no doubt that that hair came from her. How it got there I don't know. I've got no idea. . . . Vivian's hair was thicker and way darker in color. We even tried to find the lightest hair, even white hair on her. . . . It wasn't anything to match hers.

How did it get there? . . . Because I had no memory of anything happening. But having a woman on your bed who is naked . . . who pulls you over to her breast, trying to instigate something . . . maybe I was a fool to bite the breast. . . . You handle situations on the spur of the moment. Maybe I should have done it differently. But that was my way of dealing with it, to put a stop to it there and then. . . . It was so clinical. . . . They had no feelings, no emotion. . . .

BC: Had you gone to bed under the sheets?

PK: Yes.

BC: Were you aware whether you were under the sheets when you . . .

PK: When I sat bolt upright, actually, no I wasn't. I was on the bed, on top of the bed. . . . My legs were exposed. I could see myself. . . .

BC: Where were the sheets at that time?

PK: Under me. . . . That's interesting actually. I never thought of that. . . .

[With regard to the placement of the hair on Peter's uncircumcised penis:] The only way it could have got there was if somebody had actually pulled the foreskin back, wrapped it on there and left it that way . . . and I can see anybody doing that when I'm asleep. . . . I wish I had a recollection of how it got there. . . . It wasn't knotted, just twisted. . . . It was wrapped around it in a coil. That's why it was so painful. It wasn't on just one area, wrapped around. It was hurting in a few places, not just one spot. . . . [The hair, when taken off] didn't curl up. It was so flimsy. It had a spring to it, but not curled. It wasn't straight . . . like a piece of string.

CONTEXT

There was no pain in or around the penis until he went to the toilet. Peter estimated the duration of the experience as about five minutes, perhaps a little longer. There was no verbal communication throughout the experience. There seemed to be no telepathic communication either, but he

knew that the women were communicating between themselves, particularly conveying a sense that the interaction that had gone on between Peter and the blonde "was wrong, don't learn this."

There was no sound during the incident. The curtain of the bedroom had been drawn, so the room was on the dark side, but with sufficient illumination to clearly make out objects in the room. Peter doesn't remember if there was any reflection from the wardrobe mirror. His attention was focused on the two women, particularly the blonde, who was very close to him. She had a strength that belied her appearance. In fact Peter felt she was stronger than him. Peter is well-built and with his work in the building trade would not in any sense be viewed a weakling. He did not notice any underarm hair, nor did he have the opportunity to see if there was pubic hair. The blonde woman's nipples were quite prominent and the "Asian" woman's were quite small. There was no sense of any sexual excitement during this episode. Peter feels in hindsight he handled the situation inappropriately, but he in part attributes his reaction to the shock of the episode. Up till the 1992 episode Peter was unaware of any similar encounter in the UFO literature.

The earliest and still one of the more controversial abduction episodes is that of Antonio Villas-Boas in Brazil in 1957. He claimed he was abducted by three small men and taken on board a UFO, where he was forcibly undressed. A clear, thick liquid was spread over his skin. A blood sample was taken. He became ill and even vomited. The most unbelievable aspect of Villas-Boas's story followed. He claimed that a naked woman then entered the room. She had white skin and an unusual-shaped face which seemed to come to a pronounced point at her chin. He stated, "Her hair was fair, almost white (like hair bleached with peroxide), smooth, not very abundant. . . . She has big blue eyes, rather longer than round, for they slanted outwards. . . . The contour of her face was different . . . she had very high prominent cheekbones. . . . Her face narrowed to a peak. . . . [Her body] was slim, and her breasts stood up high and well-separated. . . . She was much shorter than I am. . . . Her skin was white. . . . Her hair in the armpits and in another place [pubic area] was very red, almost the color of blood. . . ." Sexual intercourse followed in a manner that Villas-Boas attributed to the effects of the liquid that had been applied on him. There seem to be some similarities with Peter's blonde interloper, but differences are also apparent—a close cousin perhaps?

Jenny Randles describes in her books *Abduction* (1988) and *Men in Black* (1997) a 1976 case from Bolton, Lancashire. A young woman was the subject of an apparent abduction. Under hypnotic regression the witness described a tall blonde female entity who looked human. This blonde was over six feet tall with hair "so blonde it was almost white." There are a surprising number of similar sorts of tall blonde female entities in the abduction literature.

Like many other abductees Peter Houry has had a number of experiences. In November 1996, while lying in

bed with Vivian beside him asleep, he felt an energy in the room. He opened his eyes and saw what seemed to be a bunch of hooded small figures (similar to his 1988 experience) seemingly come through the mirror. As they came closer Peter felt paralysis and felt he was floated horizontally feet first towards the mirror. As he looked at the mirror, he realized there were only three figures, with their reflections giving a sense of more. As he touched the surface of the mirror with his feet, it felt like he was going into water, like a change of density, not something solid. He felt a sense of electrical static buzzing right through his body, and watched as the reflection of his head approached his face. As soon as they touched, he blacked out. He did not remember anything else other than waking up in bed again.

There were other episodes in about 1994 or early 1995 involving a light burst or sound of an explosion, this being witnessed in part by Vivian. On another occasion he felt pins and needles paralysis developing. He tried to wake Vivian. He was eventually after great difficulty able to touch her. She woke up and simultaneously it was "like somebody ripped the sheets off him." Peter likened it to having something sucked out of him. The feeling had been covering, engulfing him and as soon as he touched Vivian the feeling was gone. Between 1996 to 1999 he is unaware of any experiences.

During John Mack's visit to Australia in 1996, Peter was regressed by him to try to clarify the 1988 experience beyond the moment of blankness after the needle was inserted in his head. Under Mack's regression Peter described being taken into a room that was lit up. The walls were white as if the surface was the light. He was on a table with one entity above him and it was speaking to him but with a sound like birds chirping. It was one creature—a shadowy tall figure, but the sound seemed like 50 of them. Peter was thinking at the time, how am I going to remember what you are telling me. It just faded and everything went dark again. That was all that came out in the session. Peter has had a couple of regression sessions undertaken by specialists, John Mack included. He is not really satisfied with any of the hypnotic recollections and feels more comfortable with the consciously recalled details.

THE DNA ANALYSIS

The analysis by the Anomaly Physical Evidence Group (APEG) was performed on mitochondrial DNA. As explained in *The Gene Letter*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (www.geneletter.org/0996/adameve.htm), "Mitochondria are small energy-engines that live outside the nucleus of the cell and have their own DNA, which is distinct from chromosomal DNA. . . . Although both sexes have them, mitochondria are transmitted only by women." (For those who want to read more about PCR, I suggest *Making PCR: A Story of Biotechnology*, by Paul Rabinow (1996), or Kary Mullis's article, "The Unusual Origin of the Polymerase Chain Reaction," in *Scientific American*, April 1990.)

The mitochondrial DNA sequence analysis utilizing PCR has found some intriguing results. It is important for the integrity of the research that the full report be printed below, but some of the key results are listed here.

. . . mitochondrial DNA analysis of the hair shaft from a reportedly tall, blonde alien female shows that she is biologically close to normal human genetics, but of an unusual racial type. . . . One might predict further that her DNA should match closely that of racial types in Finland, Iceland, or Scandinavia, given the long, thin blonde hair as direct evidence, plus her tall stature and fair skin from eyewitness testimony, but . . . that seems not to be the case.

. . . The blonde hair provides for a strange and unusual DNA sequence, showing five consistent substitutions from a human consensus (present in all cloned sequences), which could not easily have come from anyone else in the Sydney area except by the rarest of chances; is not apparently due to any sort of laboratory contamination; and is found only in a few other people throughout the whole world.

What implications might these comparisons have for possible authenticity of the alien hair sample as collected by the young man in Sydney in 1992? While it would not be impossible for him to have had sexual contact with some fair-skinned, nearly albino female from the Sydney area, such an explanation is ruled out by the DNA evidence, which fits only a Chinese Mongoloid as a donor of the hair. Furthermore, while it might be possible to find a few Chinese in Sydney with the same DNA as seen in just 4% of Taiwanese women, it would not be plausible to find a Chinese woman here with thin, almost clear hair, having the same rare DNA. Finally, that thin blonde hair could not plausibly represent a chemically-bleached Chinese (including the root), because then it's DNA could not easily have been extracted.

The most probable donor of the hair must therefore be as the young man claims: a tall blonde female who does not need much color in her hair or skin as a form of protection against the sun, perhaps because she does not require it. Could this young man really have provided, by chance, a hair sample which contains DNA from one of the rarest human lineages known . . . that lies further from the mainstream than any other except for African Pygmies and aboriginals?

While we have made some advances in understanding abduction cases, I think we are still far from knowing exactly what is involved. Other UFO researchers are not so hesitant. They feel they already have answers and that we are dealing with apparent extraterrestrials.

Many researchers argue that the richness of the human mind and dynamic interplay with researchers is spawning these accounts, not aliens. The UFO abduction mystery is

not simply the product of one investigator or an artifact of regressive hypnosis. Many cases involve witnesses with conscious recall of their abduction experiences—as with Peter Khoury—and some include odd physical evidence, but none perhaps as well-documented as this report.

I am an advocate of careful, serious, and thorough inquiry into such experiences. Until such investigations and

support become the norm rather than the exception, abduction experiences will continue to be a marginalized fringe controversy. Peter Khoury, Kelly Cahill, and others like them deserve better than the polarized extremes we have now of uncritical belief and ignorant skepticism. Science can be a powerful tool in trying to determine what is happening in the bizarre phenomenon of alien abductions.

MITOCHONDRIAL DNA SEQUENCE ANALYSIS OF A SHED HAIR FROM AN ALIEN ABDUCTION CASE

Performed by the Anomaly Physical Evidence Group (APEG), in April 1999

A great controversy currently exists as to whether the many reported alien abduction cases worldwide might be physically real or else purely psychological phenomena. Thus, those people who believe in the UFO alien scenario tend to accept the investigations of authors such as Budd Hopkins or John Mack, who have provided circumstantial evidence for the abduction of humans in terms of: (a) landing-site traces, (b) prominent “biopsy” scars, (c) alleged “implants” (or artifacts ostensibly removed from abducted people), and (d) testimonies from hundreds of supposedly abducted individuals, whether by conscious recall or under hypnosis. However, those people who do not believe in the UFO alien scenario (and this would include the majority of professional scientists) tend not to accept the current evidence for alien abductions, seeing it as too weak and circumstantial to justify such a major shift in their way of perceiving the world.

Indeed, these supposed abductions leave surprisingly little evidence that could be tested in a scientific laboratory, according to standard procedures; hence, if real they might be intentionally covert in nature.

The detailed analysis of any reliable evidence from an alien abduction case might therefore be of great scientific value, in order to assess the reality of this phenomenon, as well as to identify the biological nature of such visitors.

A DETAILED CASE STUDY

One such piece of physical evidence was obtained recently from an alien abduction case in Sydney, Australia, in 1992, when supposedly two near-human females appeared suddenly to a young man in daylight in his bedroom. This same individual had previously in 1988 experienced an event in which several aliens had entered his house and had ostensibly obtained “biopsy” material, while his family in the next room was put to sleep. He reported the experience to a number of people, including local investigator and researcher Bill Chalker (3). After that event, a fresh “punch-biopsy” scar was noted on the shin of the young man’s lower leg, and a photographic record of the scar was made.

In the event in 1992, the young man reported that two near-human females suddenly appeared on his bed, while no one else was in the house, and attempted to engage him in an apparent sexual embrace. One girl was described as tall (six feet), of fair appearance with light blonde hair; while the other girl was of medium height (about five feet six inches), of Asian appearance with dark hair. Both supposedly showed near-human female bodies, but displayed unusual racial characteristics in their faces, which in the case of the blonde female was long and narrow, and also in their eyes which were exceptionally large.

Due to the shock of such contact the young man struggled with the tall female, and after what seemed a few moments while the young man was distracted with a coughing fit, he found that he was alone. Still it seems that the tall blonde female left clear evidence of her presence, in the form of blonde head hair of length 15 cm, which was wrapped tightly about the young man’s foreskin.

This hair was immediately retrieved by the young man, stored in the dark in a sealed plastic bag, and not touched by anyone else prior to its scientific investigation for DNA evidence in 1998. The young man did show the sample in its sealed bag to a few people between 1993 and 1998, but he is certain that no one, other than himself, handled the hair directly. In any event, no evidence of contaminated DNA from outside of the hair was found.

FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

In early 1998, Bill Chalker provided this hair sample to the Anomaly Physical Evidence Group, whose members as professional scientists choose to remain anonymous at this time. A standard forensic investigation was then carried out on the hair shaft, using well established protocols (see M. R. Wilson, et al., “Extraction, PCR Amplification and Sequencing of Mitochondrial DNA from Human Hair Shafts,” *Biotechniques* 18 (1995): 662–669), and also on control hair samples from the young man and his wife (married in 1990). The goal of such analysis is to establish a precise DNA base sequence of Mitochondrial Hypervariable Re-

gion I, spanning nucleotides 16,000 to 16,400 of the circular mitochondrial DNA. Such DNA is present in hundreds of copies within each human cell, and thereby acts as an easily-amplified genetic marker for the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), even in moderately degraded samples. (See the Web-based Mitomap for more information: infinity.gen.emory.edu/mitomap.html for "Mitomap: A Human Mitochondrial Genome Database," Center for Molecular Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, 1999.) Any sequence variation within that hypervariable region 16,000 to 16,400 then provides a "microscopic genetic fingerprint" of the individual involved, which is used commonly as forensic evidence in many criminal investigations.

In order to extract fragments of mitochondrial DNA from the hair of the tall, blonde female, a two-cm piece of hair shaft (located just above the root) was excised and transferred to a sterile Eppendorf tube. Similar pieces were excised also from both control hair samples, as obtained from the young man and his wife, in the presence of Bill Chalker. These three hairs could be easily distinguished by their appearance under a microscope, since the hair from the tall blonde female was extremely thin and almost clear

(very little melanin), whereas the hair from the young man was of normal thickness and black; hair from his wife was of normal thickness and brown. In fact, that blonde hair was almost invisible to the naked eye on a glass surface, due to its unusual optical clarity, and hence it could only be handled under reflected light. Further investigation of this thin, almost-clear hair by high resolution darkfield microscopy showed it to lie at the lower end of normal human hair thickness, and also to show a pronounced "mosaic" structure, perhaps due to the near-absence of melanin.

PROCEDURE

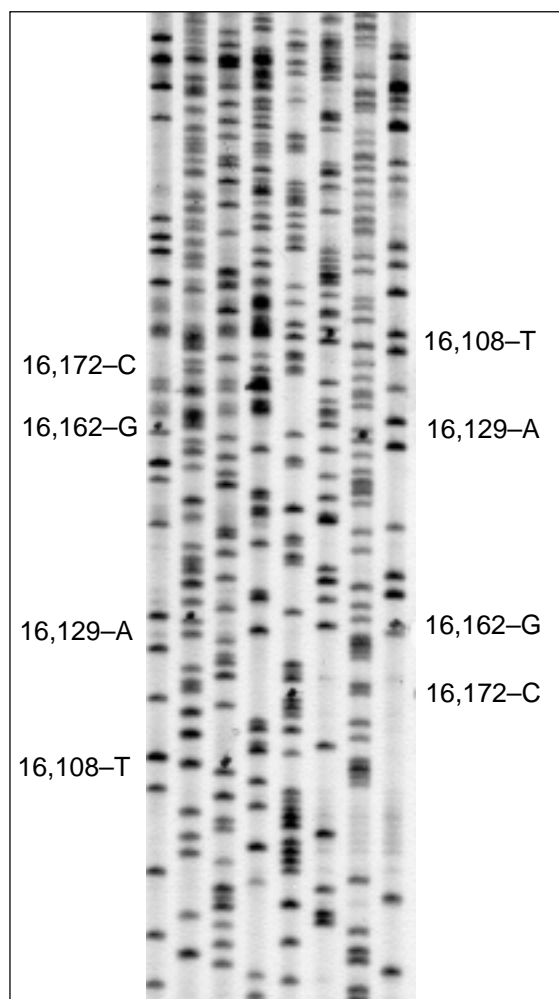
The three hair samples to be tested: (a) tall blonde, (b) the young man, and (c) his wife, were washed twice with PCR-quality water, twice with 70% ethanol, then once with extraction buffer (7 M guanidinium hydrochloride, 100 mM Tris, pH 7.0, 1% Triton X100 and 5 mM EDTA) for one hour at 20° C. to remove any contaminating DNA from the outside of the shaft. Next, each washed hair was extracted in the same guanidinium-Triton buffer plus 10 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) for two days at 50° C. Finally, each hair sample was fragmented using a sterile disposable pestle for 1.5 ml Eppendorf tubes, then subjected to several cycles of boiling and freezing on dry ice, in order to release the DNA from its protein matrix.

Each fully-treated hair solution was then extracted twice using phenol/chloroform/isoamyl alcohol (25/24/1) to remove organic impurities, especially melanin. The purified DNA was then supplemented with 2 micrograms of UV-sterilised glycogen as a carrier, and precipitated with ethanol. Each DNA pellet was next resuspended in 10 mM Tris, 0.1 mM EDTA and used in small aliquots for PCR amplification.

No washes of any hair, prior to extraction with guanidinium-Triton and DTT, produced any detectable mitochondrial DNA in subsequent PCR steps. Other attempts to extract DNA from pieces of that hair far from the root were unsuccessful.

In order to amplify Mitochondrial Hypervariable Region I from a broad mixture of DNA fragments, two oligonucleotide DNA primers were synthesized first over mitochondrial locations 15,993–16,022 (upper strand) or 16,401–16,430 (lower strand), because the nucleotides in those locations are highly conserved among all primates, including chimpanzee, gorilla, orangutan and man. Next, two more primers were synthesized within the hypervariable region itself, so that one might amplify the whole DNA of 16,023–16,400 in two overlapping fragments (mitochondrial DNA from a hair shaft is often degraded, so that chains longer than 300 bases become difficult to find). Those two internal DNA primers extend over locations 16,190–16,209 (upper strand) or 16,271–16,294 (lower strand) within the hypervariable region itself.

Thus, when primers 15,993–16,022 (upper) and 16,271–16,294 (lower) are used as a pair in PCR, they will



Mitochondrial DNA sequence from the blonde woman's hair strand.

yield a mitochondrial DNA fragment spanning the left-hand side of the hypervariable region, as a product of size 302 base pairs. Similarly, when primers 16,190–16,209 (upper) and 16,401–16,430 (lower) are used as a pair, they will yield a 241 bp product spanning the right-hand side of the hypervariable region (see Mitomap for details).

Each PCR reaction was carried out under standard conditions using 1.5 mM magnesium chloride, and for 30 to 36 cycles of denaturing at 95° C., extending at 72° C., and annealing at 57° C. All reactions were checked by agarose gel electrophoresis after just 30 cycles, to see whether the amplification had proceeded efficiently, and then run for another six cycles if only small amounts of product were observed. The background contamination of control samples not containing any hair (by other DNA in the laboratory) was never more than 10% of the product.

Once PCR products from both the left- and right-hand sides of the hypervariable region were obtained, in quantities of at least 100 nanograms, each DNA band was purified by excision from an ethidium bromide-stained agarose gel, following several hours of electrophoresis. Next, each excised band was treated with high salt and silica beads, to extract the DNA. Finally, each amplified DNA fragment of size 302 or 241 base pairs was trimmed with Pfu polymerase to create blunt ends for cloning, then treated with polynucleotide kinase to add 5'-phosphates.

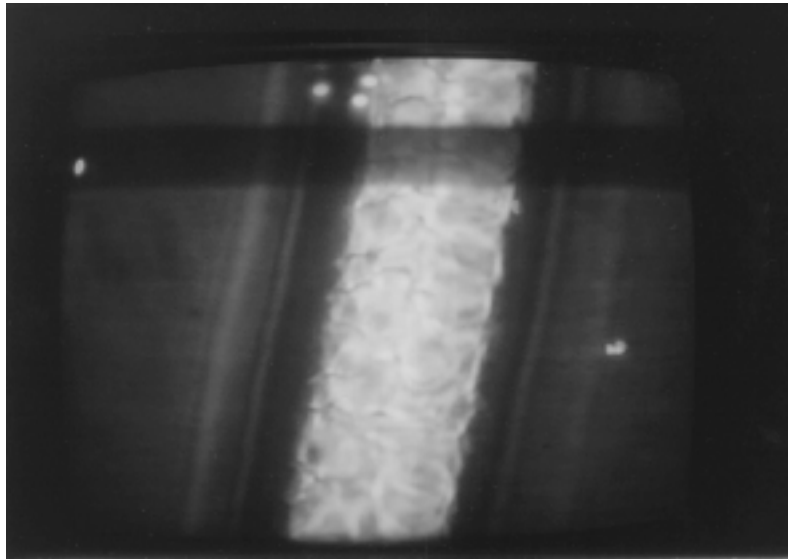
RESULTS

Four PCR products were obtained in total: two from the hair of the tall blonde female (both left and right), two from Peter Khoury (both left and right), but none from his wife, whose hair may have been chemically treated so as to make recovery of DNA difficult (and who never came into direct contact with the alien hair).

These four amplified DNA fragments were then cloned into a commonly-used plasmid vector. Four full libraries of cloned sequences were obtained, by transformation of the four ligation reactions into *E. coli*, followed by multiple preparations of plasmid DNA on a small scale.

Roughly 6–12 clones were obtained from each amplified DNA fragment as a fairly substantial library by which to assess whether the amplified DNA might be pure and authentic, or else contain impurities due to contaminating DNA. Screening of these libraries using the dideoxy method for just one nucleotide showed that all four libraries contained pure and homogenous DNA, without any sequence impurities to a 90% level. Some clones were of reduced length, but these turned out to be end-deletions as produced in the PCR step or subsequent manipulation.

Full sequence analysis of all four bases G, A, T and C



Magnified hair sample showing optical transparency and pronounced mosaic structure of anomalous hair. The circles of lights are reflections. Photo taken from video. B. Chalker/APEG.

using the dideoxy method (Sequenase Version 2.0) showed that all clones from the young man's hair matched closely the human consensus from Mitomap, which is European in nature. Thus, clones from his hair did not show any systematic deviation from the consensus in any of 380 locations spanning the whole hypervariable region 16,023–16,400, apart from a few common C-to-T or A-to-G heteroplasmies at 16,189, 16,270, 16,312 or 16,362.

By way of contrast, all clones as amplified from the hair of the tall blonde female show five consistent substitutions from the human consensus. That consensus among human geneticists is based on the typical white European DNA sequence. These are all C/T or A/G transitions, and are located at 16,108 (C to T), 16,129 (G to A), 16,162 (A to G), 16,172 (T to C), and 16,304 (T to C). Three of those transitions at 16,129, 16,172, and 16,304 seem fairly common among human racial types, whereas the two at 16,108 and 16,162 seem quite rare.

Thus, mitochondrial DNA analysis of the hair shaft from a reportedly tall, blonde alien female shows that she is biologically close to normal human genetics, but of an unusual racial type. (Geneticists consider that there are two major racial types, based on DNA analysis: Africans and white-Asians.) By comparison, Neanderthal man differs from modern humans at 27 locations in the same DNA, while the chimpanzee differs from humans at 55 (see M. Krings, et al., "Neanderthal DNA Sequences and the Origin of Modern Humans," *Cell* 90 (1997): 19–30), but the DNA from the tall blonde differs from the chimpanzee at 60 locations.

One might expect from the physical description of that tall blonde female, as well as from the possible sexual nature of the event, that such a tall blonde female might represent just some strange human racial type. One might predict further that her DNA should match closely that of

racial types in Finland, Iceland, or Scandinavia, given the long, thin blonde hair as direct evidence, plus her tall stature and fair skin from eyewitness testimony; but as we shall see below, that seems not to be the case.

Because of the subsequent clarification of the nature of the anomalous hair DNA sample, additional controls from blood samples were obtained from the young man, his wife, and a Chinese man who spent some time in the same room as the alien hair (but who never contacted it directly). From these, mitochondrial DNA was amplified and analyzed as before in the region 16,023–16,270. The results show that all three control samples lie very close to a modern human consensus, with few if any substitutions as seen for the alien hair.

Thus, the Chinese man shows a single substitution at 16,223 (C to T), typical of most Asians; while the young man's wife shows no substitutions at all. Finally, the young man shows a single substitution at 16,249 (T to C); a region near 16,190 remains unclear. The heteroplasmies seen for DNA taken from the young man's hair, in no more than one out of 6–12 clones, may therefore represent just occasional mutations in an aged hair, since they are not found in blood.

In summary, the blonde hair has a strange and unusual DNA sequence, showing five consistent substitutions from a human consensus (present in all cloned sequences), which could not easily have come from anyone else in the Sydney area except by the rarest of chances; is not apparently due to any sort of laboratory contamination; and is found only in a few other people throughout the whole world (see below).

COMPARISON WITH OTHER DATA

A detailed survey of the vast literature on sequence variation in Hypervariable Region I of mitochondrial DNA (see Mitomap) revealed that only four persons from this entire literature, consisting of tens of thousands of individuals, contain the extremely rare C-to-T substitution at 16,108. Quite surprisingly, those four persons who contain a C-to-T substitution at 16,108 also contain all four of the other substitutions at 16,129, 16,162, 16,172, and 16,304 in the blonde's sample, yet show almost no other changes in the entire hypervariable region of 380 base pairs (one person differs by a single base). Hence, we may conclude with high probability, that those four human persons and the tall blonde female share a common maternal ancestor, sometime in the past 2,000–10,000 years, given known rates of substitution in mitochondrial DNA. Indeed, a perfect 5/5 match between the tall blonde and those four persons indicates that little if any random substitution has occurred in the intervening period.

Who might those four persons be, who seem to share a distant maternal ancestor with the tall blonde female, who left her hair with a young man in Sydney in 1992? It turns out that all four are of the Mongoloid Chinese racial type, with presumably Asian appearance as well as dark black

hair. One was included as part of a small group from China, while the other three were found as just 4% in a large group of Taiwanese (see D84952, D84956, and D84985 from the DNA Data Bank of Japan). All four thus belong to a rare third human racial type (again, as defined by DNA sequence), found only in Asia. (See S. Horai and K. Hayasaka, "Intraspecific Nucleotide Sequence Differences in the Major Noncoding Region of Human Mitochondrial DNA," *American J. Human Genetics* 46 (1990): 828–842; and S. Horai, et al., "MtDNA Polymorphism in East Asian Populations," *American J. Human Genetics* 59 (1996): 579–590.)

What implications might these comparisons have for possible authenticity of the hair sample as collected by the young man in Sydney in 1992? While it would not be impossible for him to have had sexual contact with some fair-skinned, nearly-albino female from the Sydney area, such an explanation is ruled out by the DNA evidence, which fits only a Chinese Mongoloid as a donor of the hair. Furthermore, while it might be possible to find a few Chinese in Sydney with the same DNA as seen in just 4% of Taiwanese women, it would not be plausible to find a Chinese woman here with thin, almost clear hair, having the same rare DNA. Finally, that thin blonde hair could not plausibly represent a chemically-bleached Chinese (including the root), because then its DNA could not easily have been extracted.

The most probable donor of the hair must therefore be as the young man claims: a tall blonde female who does not need much color, in her hair or skin as a form of protection against the sun, perhaps because she does not require it. Could this young man really have provided, by chance, a hair sample which contains DNA from one of the rarest human lineages known (family C2), that lies further from the mainstream than any other except for African Pygmies and aboriginals (family C1)? Note that a few other persons from China, Japan or Korea show a partial 4/5 match to the blonde hair DNA, but none to date show the rare change at 16,108.

GENERAL IMPLICATIONS

Studies of mitochondrial DNA among various human types have led to disturbing conclusions, if one accepts the Darwinian theory which suggests that we evolved gradually from apes, by random mutation followed by natural selection. For example, humans appear to be far less genetically diverse than other species such as chimpanzees, which suggests a recent "bottleneck" in our origin (L. B. Jorde, et al., "Using Mitochondrial and Nuclear DNA Markers to Reconstruct Human Evolution," *Bioessays* 20 (1998): 126–136). Also modern Caucasians and Asians differ greatly from the lower primates in terms of genes for Rh factor (a determinant of fertility) and DNA sequences on the Y chromosome (among others). Could these large changes of DNA structure have come about just through random mu-

tation and drift? Or might the modern human population be a recent introduction to Earth from elsewhere, say 30,000 years ago when the Neanderthals went into rapid decline?

This suggestion is grounded on the idea that evolution would proceed more rapidly, on a galactic scale, with transfer of biological material from one solar system to another, rather than having life develop separately. This hypothesis is known as panspermia, or the seeding of life. If such transfer is common, then it would not be inconceivable that we would share a DNA sequence with aliens.

We cannot know the answers to these questions without much more open-minded, well-funded scientific research. Today most professional scientists deny that there could be any humans elsewhere with greater technical capability than our own; deny that there could exist any humans co-fertile with us from elsewhere; and deny that ancient people could have been superior to ourselves in the late 20th century.

Great progress could be made if both UFO and alien abduction studies were accepted within the scientific community as viable research, so as to deserve open discussion and funding of a high priority. Scientists of all kinds could then work with competent anomaly investigators as we have done here, to obtain samples for research; while the primary providers of such evidence need not be scorned, but could be treated as favorably as say Schliemann who found Troy, or some archaeologist who finds a novel human skeleton. Why should any science be forbidden?

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is a professional scientific group with no outside ties. Its members wish to remain anonymous for now.

Copies of a video tape on which the alien hair appears by darkfield microscopy, as well as copies of the alien DNA sequences which were cloned into plasmids, have been made and may be made available to serious researchers on request and where appropriate.

POSTSCRIPT BY BILL CHALKER

Other scientists have considered the issue of “humans” elsewhere. For example, Paul Davies, Allen Hynek’s former friend, has written about this in his books *Are We Alone* (1995) and *The Fifth Miracle* (1998). In the former, in an appendix entitled “The Argument for Duplicate Beings,” he states “The general conclusion of the argument is that, in most reasonably spatially infinite cosmological models with conservative assumptions, there are indeed an infinite number of duplicate beings.” He also writes (p. 23), “if we were to discover extraterrestrial DNA that could be proved to be of independent origin, it would strike at the very heart of Darwinian evolutionary theory and the entire (currently dominant) scientific paradigm in which all teleology is decisively rejected.”

When I go bush occasionally, where the sheer immensity and closeness of the night sky is very powerfully present, I have the overwhelming sense that our little portion of the cosmos is far from unique, and that we are far from unique. Life it out there. It may not be all that surprising that one day we might find that some of it is like us in so many ways, even down to its fundamental base, such as DNA itself. ♦