



Publisher's Note

The Heat is On

by William J. Birnes

I'm sure we're going to be taking a lot of heat for this issue. We're publishing Jeremy Vaeni's article on the controversy between pseudonymous Emma Woods and Associate Professor David Jacobs of Temple University. In UFO circles, Jacobs is best known for his research into alien-human hybrids and the alien abduction of human beings.

Professor Jacobs uses hypnotic regression as a part of his research into the experiences of the alien abductees he works with. This is a very touchy subject for us because on her website www.ufoalienabductee.com and on Jeremy Vaeni and Jeff Ritzmann's *Paratopia* and Lan Lamphere's *Overnight AM* radio shows, Emma Woods has publicly accused Professor Jacobs of, among other things, conditioning her to believe that she is suffering from multiple personality disorder.

Jacobs has said that he did this with her full consent because he and Woods were in an agreement to throw off the alien hybrids who were using her to get to him. David's rebuttal to Emma's charges and his own explanation of the controversy can be found at www.ufoabduction.com/defamationcampaign.htm.

Jeremy tries to unravel the intricacies of this relationship in his article in this issue. As a magazine, we take no official position on who is right and who is wrong. But, inasmuch as this is a news story concerning a woman who says she is a victim of a UFO researcher and a UFO researcher who says he is a victim of a woman he has worked with, we are covering it.

We have been warned *not* to cover it by various folks in the UFO community who, much to their discredit, have dictated to us that we must conform to the party line. David Jacobs is a respected alien-abduction researcher who has devoted his life to the field, and therefore, he is beyond criticism. Emma Woods, they say, is simply a venomous and vindictive woman who is suffering from a mental disease and is out to defame poor Professor Jacobs. But we don't buy the party line.

Too many UFO and paranormal publications are simply cheerleaders rooting for the strange and condemning anything that challenges their belief system. And if you don't adhere to what the self-proclaimed experts say, you're part of the opposition.

Want to talk about Big Foot? You're not qualified unless a major Big Foot organization says you are. Want to talk about Roswell, the Phoenix Lights, RAF Bentwaters? Then you

must get the OK from one of the many self-described experts. How about alien abduction? Unless you get the nod from one of researchers, many of whom are completely unqualified, unlicensed, and uncertified to conduct any therapy whatsoever, you're out of line. Thus, in this issue, because we dare to question the nature of the controversy between David Jacobs and Emma Woods, we are out of line.

Having heard Emma's side of the story as well as David's own appearance on the *Paracast* podcast where he dismissed Emma's charges, I called David Jacobs, whom I know personally, for an interview. However, it was Jacobs himself who questioned why we were even covering the story.

He said that to give Emma Woods any space was to give her a legitimacy she did not deserve because she was trying to ruin his life, and we, by covering the story, were also out to ruin his life. Needless to say, I was pretty surprised.

Instead of information, we got our first threat. Jacobs said that on advice of his attorney he is not making any statement. However, if he believes that we are repeating what he referred to as Emma's defamation of his reputation, he will sue.

Interesting logic here. He claimed that Emma had been defaming him for over two years, but he has taken no action against her. However, if a magazine covers the story in such a way that he interprets it to be damaging to his reputation, he will sue. In other words, he has no response to what he calls defamation but rather a response to news coverage of what he calls defamation. The illogic is stunning.

In subsequent conversations, David and I did get into a discussion of some of the substance of Emma Woods's complaints against him, complaints that Jacobs says are not only unwarranted but untrue. He admitted that he suggested to Emma that she was suffering from multiple personality disorder—we heard *Paratopia's* broadcast and the tape of him suggesting it to her over the phone—but Jacobs says that Emma took that snippet of conversation out of context.

The larger context, he says, was that he had her consent to do so as a ruse, a *ruse de guerre*, to throw the alien hybrids off the track. The hybrids, you see, were using Emma to get to David Jacobs, to threaten him into stop pursuing his research.

So, in order to make Emma's mind unusable to the hybrids as their instrument, to taint it so they would go away, Jacobs had to make them believe that Emma was suffering from a mental disease. She, he says, agreed to this ruse and agreed

continued on page 58

Publisher's Note

continued from page 7

to be hypnotized into believing she was suffering from a multiple personality disorder.

He says she agreed. She says she was under his hypnotic control and didn't have the ability to give informed consent. Who's right? Read the article, listen to the tapes, go to both websites, and decide for yourself. Isn't that the way we do things in ufology? Instead of adhering to a party line, let's stop condemning anyone who asks whether the emperor is actually wearing new clothes or indeed any clothes at all.

Then there's the business about the underpants. Folks who go to the Lan Lamphere *Overnight AM* archives to hear the actual tape or read the transcript in Jeremy's article will find that David asked Emma to send him her underpants. He told her this, apparently, while she was under hypnosis, and he asked her not to think about it at all. Just wrap them up and send them to him.

David's explanation was that he wanted to test for alien seminal fluid. He says it was standard operating procedure to find evidence of alien contact. She says that she was troubled by it and felt it was wrong. Is this the procedure an alien-abduction researcher follows during the course of his hypnotic regression sessions with a subject? You be the judge.

David said he tried to pull away from Emma Woods, but she pursued him. Emma said that she tried to break off any continuing relationship with David, but he pursued her. She did provide emails from David in which he wrote that he wanted to remain in contact with her.

The UFO community has chimed in, claiming that Emma Woods is trying to destroy David and along with him the entire alien-abduction theory. I disagree. Alien abduction, at least in terms of some of the key cases, remains an important area of research no matter what happens with this story. Emma says her only intent is to put the interaction between herself and Jacobs into a public forum. Both parties say they are talking to lawyers, and this entire situation may well wind up in court.

But my larger issue concerns the UFO community that almost universally condemned Emma Woods, branding her mentally ill and saying that the evidence she presented in the form of audio tapes was contrived evidence; "cut and pasted together" one critic said. For his part, Lamphere said that he analyzed the audio tapes that Emma presented and found no evidence of minute cutting and pasting.

Excerpting, yes. Cutting and pasting, no. In other words, what David said on tape and Lan reported in his radio show was what he said. So much for the cutting-and-pasting argument.

The larger issue that concerns me, as chairman of a community mental-health center in downtown Los Angeles and author of many books on deviant psychological behavior, is that in this field of alien-regression hypnotherapy there are no actual qualifications or certifications. Try to find alien abduction in the list of psychological diagnostic symptoms, the DSM, and you won't find it.

So how can you be a qualified, licensed, certified alien-abduction therapist when there is no such thing? At the very least, if you are engaging in research bordering on the recovery of repressed memories, you should have some qualifications. Perhaps you should be a certified or licensed clinical hypnotherapist.

Perhaps you should have some sort of therapist license to practice in your state. Maybe you should even get a degree in psychology or at least a masters of social work. Something. But, as David Jacobs disclaimed to Emma Woods, he was neither a psychiatrist nor a psychologist. He was not a therapist nor did he have any certifications. He was simply a researcher.

In retrospect in our phone conversations, David agrees that he never should have pursued the Emma Woods case. He acknowledged that he had no formal training in therapy and should have only worked through Emma's therapist and not directly with her. And those in the alien-abduction community who have been most strident in condemning *UFO Magazine* and me for pursuing this story have also agreed that David Jacobs should have had some certification or formal training leading to a recognized qualification before pursuing these cases.

Moreover, at least in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, research on a human subject, whether university-approved or not, does require a level of formal state approval. Temple University has written to Emma Woods disavowing any connection to David Jacobs's alien-abduction research even though Jacobs asked Emma to sign forms mentioning Temple University as some sort of governing body. And as of this writing, David has not produced any state approvals of his research. Is alien-abduction research an off-the-books operation? No wonder skeptics attack us with such enthusiasm.

This makes it even more problematical when the UFO community gets itself up in arms when someone dares to question the legitimacy of a methodology. I can guarantee that if Woods v Jacobs ever winds up in court, the skeptics and debunkers will have a field day. Just imagine hearing the audio of David trying to convince Emma to send him her underpants playing out in court and then on Fox news.

Imagine hearing the tape of David suggesting to Emma that she is suffering from multiple personality disorder and urging her to seek treatment also playing out in court. Collective groans, right? But we bring it on ourselves by not questioning the methodology of research and qualifications for conducting that research. We're too involved in hero worship and public stoning of anyone who questions the heroes. It's the UFO Taliban all over again.

Read Jeremy Vaeni's article and make up your own minds. At the very least, weigh the evidence before you decide what to think. If you don't take sides and just listen to both sides, you'll be surprised at what might happen. **UFO**

Master Psychics

Past, Present, Future

Crystal 1-866-571-1111

Fay 1-888-237-2263

Laura 1-877-852-8255

Eve 1-800-966-6806