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**Mainstream science and many in the media have yet to catch up with the millions who have had genuine psychic experiences and truly feel that these have helped to enrich their lives.**

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tinguished neuroscientist John Eccles had theorized that mental telepathy "might involve a PK effect on one or more 'critically poised' neurons." It would appear that my technically oriented neighbor and my physician friend are in some good company.

Fame anthropologist Margaret Mead had pressed for scientific recognition of parapsychology; she told me so in an interview. Even the great physicist Albert Einstein "looked sympathetically" on parapsychology. Sigmund Freud said that the sleep state "creates favorable conditions for telepathy," thus offering a theory for ESP dreams. Carl G. Jung had long been a believer and supporter of the paranormal. Recently, Dr. Judith Orloff wrote of being both a psychiatrist and a clairvoyant, combining the skills of both in her practice. At Princeton University Robert Jahn was dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science when he began investigating psychic phenomena. At the University of Nevada, Dean Radin, Ph.D., is a parapsychologist and director of the Consciousness Research Lab.

### HEALING BY PRAYER

Other scientific names have emerged: for one, Larry Dossey, M.D., whose research involves finding scientific evidence for prayers' ability to heal. Raymond Moody, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross and Melvin Morse, all medical doctors, have researched and written about near-death experiences, and Brian Weiss, M.D., and Ian Stevenson, M.D., have both authored serious books about reincarnation and past lives. Harvard psychiatrist John Mack has worked with those who claim to

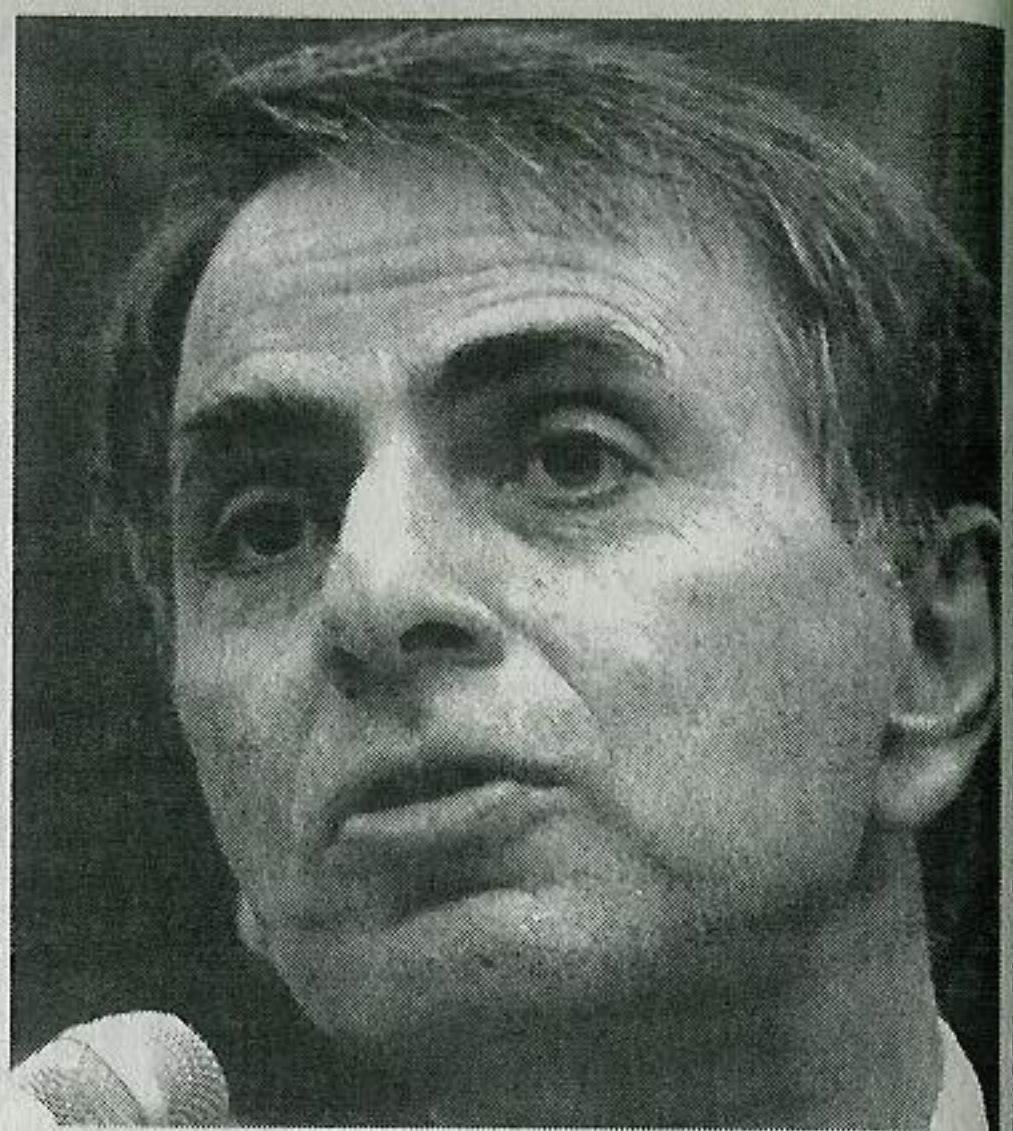


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**The late astronomer Carl Sagan states that psychic experiences are all just "instances of pseudo science."**

have experienced alien abductions.

It appears that, contrary to Sagan's ideas, many science-minded people do find the paranormal worthy of serious consideration. Over the years I have interviewed on radio and TV many openminded scientists and physicians who are interested in the paranormal. Some of them have even had their own personal psychic experiences.

But aren't those who are open to psychic phenomena best described as weird, wacky and "on the fringe"? Too often, unfortunately, that has been the stereotype. Consider a *TV Guide* story in 1994 about the "rash of reality-based shows [that] probe the supernatural." The article was "Something Weird Is Coming to a TV Near You." The story quotes co-executive producer of *Unsolved Mysteries*, John Cosgrove, as saying, "When you look into stories of life after death, or reincarnation, you're instantly skeptical. Yet when you meet people who are not bizarre wackos, who are regular, ordinary people, that sense of skepticism begins to diminish." Yet in 1995 the respected TV industry trade magazine, *Broadcasting and Cable*, still described the trend in TV programming about the paranormal and unexplained phenomena as "Weird TV."





Nancy Reagan employed an astrologer in her White House years. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has reportedly consulted with a spiritual advisor and held imaginary conversations with deceased historical figures, which one newspaper editorial called a "harmless bit of New Age nonsense."

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## THE AFFLUENT GENERATION X

Leading the pack of such programs is *The X-Files*, which many credit with this trend in programming. The audience for *The X-Files* weekly paranormal-conspiracy-laced plots can hardly be called weird, wacky or antiscientific. The show's key viewers are young adults, the so-called generation Xers, including many who are well educated, affluent and computer literate. In 1994 *USA Today* found that 46 percent of those questioned in a survey believed in aliens. They were generation Xers attending college, hardly uneducated people. The *New York Times* reported in 1993 that "the genre of self-help, inspirational, New Age and pop psychology books has exploded in the last decade." So, many people open to psychic phenomena obviously read — a lot — which makes them the more literate group in society.

TV producer, host and reporter Margaret Wendt, herself psychic, has produced both network TV programs and videos about psychic and unexplained phenomena. Asked who believes in psychic phenomena, Wendt said, "We are not wacky or weird. We are educated people. We include those in Hollywood, as well as Wall Street, and corporate types in boardrooms, and people of all kinds, in every city and town."

One who supports Wendt's belief system is her fiancé, D.C. Webst, who is a successful Canadian businessman and entrepreneur. His personal interest in the paranormal was so great that he funded, for many years, the prestigious New Horizon Research Foundation in Toronto, which encouraged research in and held conferences about parapsychology.

Attendees included Nobel laureate Brian Josephson, physicist and staunch supporter of parapsychology. Another participant was the British mathematician Dr. A.R.G. Owen, whose specialty was "psychokinesis and poltergeist activity."

Wendt also observed that in Hollywood the list of celebrities who consult psychics and astrologers is a long one. Often that fact has become a target of jokes and ridicule. However, the paranormal always was and continues to be immensely popular among those in show business and the arts.

## TYPICALLY QUITE NORMAL

For years I have conducted paranormal research, observing thousands of psychic readings and gathering material from an equally large number of people of every age, type and color, whom I've interviewed about their psychic or paranormal experiences. The people I've talked to came from virtually every occupation and walk of life, young and old, rich and poor. I've had psychic experiences told to me by inmates in correctional facilities, as well as those in law enforcement. I've heard psychic incidents from individuals of every possible religious persuasion and belief, as well as from atheists and agnostics. Very few could be described as weird or irrational, they are typically quite normal. Few sought any attention for their precognitive dreams, ESP experiences, premonitions or various "contacts with the dead," including near-death experiences (NDEs), ghosts, apparitions and vivid dreams of deceased loved ones.

Are they all lying? Have they all fabricated