in 21 false stories included an absence of any threats or coercive elements and the presence of child or reporting adult symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, often stemming from previous, documented incidents of sexual abuse, said Dr. Jones, clinical director of the C. Henry Kempe National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect, Denver.

Nine of the 21 fictitious accounts of child sexual abuse were reported by adults. Six of these parents had been abused themselves and had significant residual psychological symptoms suggestive of unresolved post-traumatic neurosis.

Frequently, adults who claimed their children were abused were involved in custody or visitation disputes.

In seven cases there was a fusion of stories between young children and their mothers. In each case, custody or visitation was being argued; furthermore, an abnormal symbiotic or en

cating System, a NASA spokesman said. Not surprisingly, the children in Concord, N.H., McAuliffe’s hometown, were strongly affected by the accident, with many of the younger children in particular experiencing generalized anxiety and fear. Younger children also tended to be confused about what really happened, said Dr. James Wells, deputy director of Central New Hampshire Community Mental Health Services in Concord.

The elementary school that Christa McAuliffe’s children attend was “an emotional shambles,” and in the high school where she taught, students and teachers, particularly teachers, were very upset and shocked, he said.

(Continued on page 22)