

Harvard Crimson

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

THIRTY CENTS

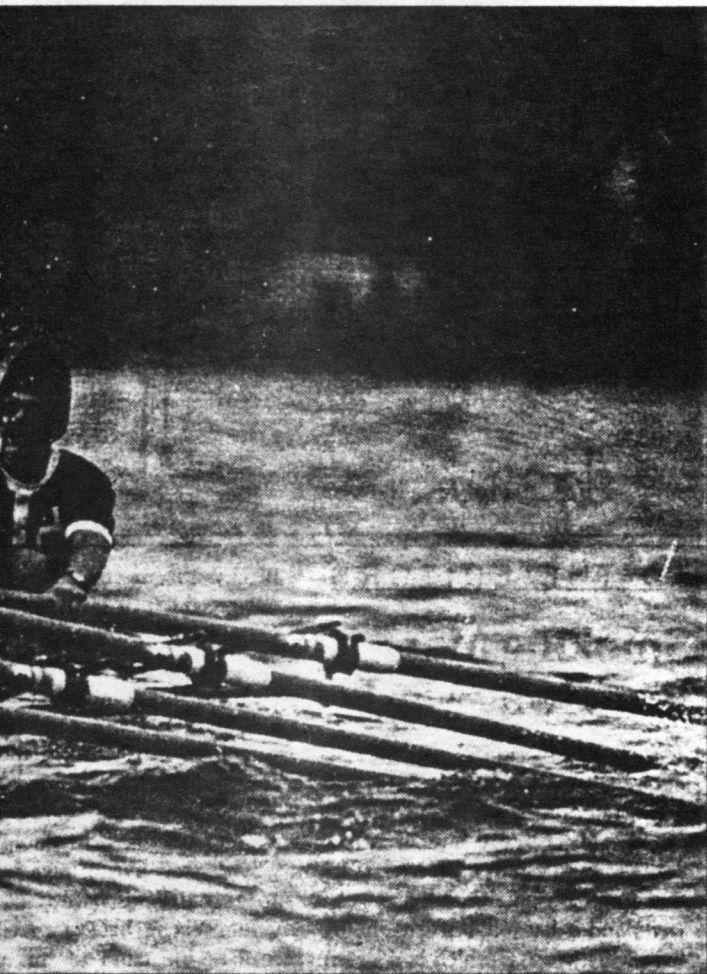


Photo by Jim Davis courtesy of The Boston Globe

M. Heavyweight Crew Trounces Brown in Upset

By MATT HOWITT

Harvard heavyweight crew resoundingly defeated the defending national champion Brown on the very choppy, very nasty Charles River Saturday.

Harvard smoked Brown by more than three boat lengths. The Crimson completed the 2,000-meter course in 6:52.15, while the Bears came in more than 12 seconds later at 7:04.20.

The race was much more than about margin of victory, however. It was about the dethroning of a crew that had seemed invincible over the previous two seasons.

In a two-year span, Brown has run Harvard and the rest of collegiate crew ragged. Brown handed Harvard each of its dual-meet losses in the 1993 and 1994 seasons. And, the Bears won everything in sight last

season—capturing a perfect dual-meet record, Eastern Sprints, the National Championship and the Henley Regatta in England.

Despite its gaudy record over the last couple of years, Brown appeared unprepared for the conditions that Harvard captain Elijah White termed "biblical." Headwinds were strong enough to knock a full minute off the two boat's expected times. Waves crashed over the big boat every third or fourth stroke. Conditions were so bad that B.U. and Northeastern decided to postpone their race until Tuesday.

"I've never raced in anything like it before," White said.

"Most of us couldn't even feel our fingers halfway into the race—they

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ned invincible over the past two years.

Petition to Censure Liston Is Shot Down

Signatory Removes His Name, U.C. Move to Reprimand Its President

ANDREW A. GREEN
At night's meeting the Under-Council voted not to discuss allegations of misconduct levied against Council President Joshua D. Liston for his role in organizing a petition against the administration's decision to reprimand Gina Grant.

Grant's petition to censure Liston was introduced on Thursday. It indicated that Liston implied that he was speaking for the council when he protested the decision.

The petition said Liston misrepresented his authority because the council did not take a stand on the issue.

According to council bylaws, a petition to censure must have at least 10 signatures and be introduced to the council three days before it can be debated and voted on.

Council Vice President Justin C. Kaufman said he received the petition on Thursday night and immediately introduced it to the council on Saturday morning, however,

one of the petition's signers, Marco B. Simons '97, asked to remove his name from the petition. Later that evening, another signature was added.

Simons said he removed his name because he was worried about the motivations behind the petition.

"It is difficult for me to escape the impression that on the part of some, the primary motivation was political and not ethical," Simons said. "But on the whole, I think that council members were under the impression that Josh had used his name to gain media attention and had perhaps misrepresented the council."

Label said the council's rules are ambiguous on how to deal with signers wanting to remove their names, and some questions remained about whether or not names could be removed.

Label ruled that since the petition was in order when it was introduced, it was admissible as council business.

However, council member Philip R.



Crimson File Photo

JOSHUA D. LISTON '95

Kaufman '98 introduced a motion to overrule Label's decision and terminate the debate on the petition.

"I want to get this over with as fast as I can so that we can get back to the real business of the U.C.," Kaufman said.

The council voted for Kaufman's resolution 30 to 15, deciding that if a petition for censure ever drops below ten signatures—as this one did for five hours on Saturday—it becomes void.

In a surprise move, the council voted not to allow Liston to give his presidential remarks about the issue after

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Mack's Research Is Under Scrutiny

By LANA ISRAEL

Dean of the Medical School Daniel C. Tosteson '46 has convened a secret "ad-hoc fact finding" committee to investigate the research of a Harvard professor noted for his study of UFO phenomena and alien abductions, according to a source requesting anonymity.

And members of the UFO community are calling it a modern-day "witch hunt."

Both the University and Dr. John E. Mack, the professor of psychiatry under scrutiny, would have preferred to keep the matter secret. But instead, news of the committee has been circulating among the UFO, legal and academic communities as well as the press and the Internet.

Mack, a Pulitzer Prize winner and former chair of the department of psychiatry at the Medical School, became the center of attention and controversy last year upon publication of his bestselling book, "Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens."

The book, which suggests that alien abductions may be real, catapulted Mack—a psychiatrist at Cambridge Hospital—into the national spotlight and onto the talk show circuit.

The University could neither acknowledge nor refute the existence of the committee. The Harvard press office issued the following statement: "It is the policy of Harvard University to neither confirm nor deny information relating to personnel matters, including

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Grant's Uncle Disputes Account of Interview

Says Applicant Didn't Lie About Car Crash, Calls Question About Death Inappropriate

By SEWELL CHAN

Contending that the Harvard interviewer acted inappropriately by asking about the death of Gina Grant's mother, Grant's maternal uncle said yesterday that the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School senior never attributed her mother's death to a car crash, and that the question should never have been posed.

Members of the Faculty Standing Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid, which voted April 3 to revoke Grant's admission after learning that she had killed her mother in 1990, told The Crimson last week that she had said her mother died in

Dickson added, however, that Grant may have misrepresented the circumstances of her mother's death. But he said the interviewer should not have asked about private information.

"If you look at the dilemma Gina's in when you ask this question, how should she respond?" Dickson said. "Frankly, Harvard has no right to any of that information whatsoever."

Dickson, the brother of Grant's mother, Dorothy Mayfield, said his niece may have had a "stock" answer prepared for inquiries about how her mother died.

Members of the faculty admissions committee refused yesterday to



Crimson/Gabriel A. Blier

ane Manners and Rachel Smith Adams House.

Painted

INSIDE

Citizens Work 4 Hours A Day Just to Pay Taxes

New Study Is Released by Tax Foundation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Taxpayers jamming post offices to mail their returns before tonight's midnight deadline can ponder this: The typical American works almost until lunch time just to pay federal, state and local taxes.

According to the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan research organization financed partly by corporations, the typical person devotes two hours and 46 minutes of every eight-hour work day to earn enough to pay taxes.

If that person starts work at 9 a.m., he or she would have earned enough to pay federal taxes at 10:49 a.m. and state and local taxes by 11:46 a.m.

Tax Foundation economist Patrick Fleenor said that taxes consume 34.4 percent of the typical person's gross income—22.6 percent for federal taxes and 11.8 percent for state and local. That's a higher proportion of gross income than a typical American spends on food, clothing and shelter combined.

Looked at another way, the typical taxpayer this year must work 126 days to pay taxes, putting Tax Freedom Day—as the foundation calls it—on May 6, tied with last year for the latest ever.

The Tax Foundation, like many groups, uses today's IRS filing deadline—when Americans' minds are on taxes—to focus attention on their own views.

Its report, an annual tradition, is challenged by such groups as Citizens for Tax Justice, a labor-financed research organization, which points to the value received for tax dollars.

"The implication that somehow this money goes to Washington and disappears just isn't true," Robert S. McIntyre, the group's director, said in an interview yesterday afternoon.

"It shows up in roads. It shows up in a cleaner environment. It shows up in national defense, which I presume most of us want. It shows up in taking care of poor people. Every nickel that goes in comes back in some way or another," he added.

McIntyre also said the foundation's use of statistics can be misleading.

The U.S. tax system is progressive, meaning that wealthy people pay a much bigger proportion of their income than others on federal taxes. So any average is skewed, McIntyre said. He said a typical taxpayer actually pays less taxes than the Foundation asserts.

Tax Freedom Day occurs later in some states, earlier in others. Connecticut and New York residents have it the worst—May 24, or three hours and nine minutes out of an eight-hour day.

Alaska has the lightest tax burden: two hours and 17 minutes each day, and a Tax Freedom Day of

April 14.

The next lightest burden is in Mississippi—two hours and 21 minutes; April 17.

The Tax Foundation study, however, makes no attempt to measure the quality and amount of state and local services received in Connecticut and New York versus Alaska and Mississippi.

"If you take the example of Mississippi and Connecticut, what you get in Mississippi is basically what you pay for and what you get is not the range and depth of public services that you get in Connecticut," said economist Daphne Clones of the Corporation for Enterprise Development, a research organization that studies states' economic development.

"The more appropriate question is, 'Are you really getting your money's worth?' If your state's physical infrastructure is falling apart and you don't have an adequate education system, then what has a lower tax rate gotten you?" she asked.

As recently as 10 years ago, in 1985, Tax Freedom Day came a week earlier, on April 30.

A decade ago, the tax bite also was eight minutes shorter at two hours and 38 minutes. In 1945, it was only an hour and 59 minutes.

Kennedy School Administrator Is Tapped for High Post at Pentagon

By JEREMY L. McCARTER

John White, the director of the Kennedy School of Government's Center for Business and Government, was chosen last week to fill the No. 2 position at the Pentagon, according to the Boston Globe.

White currently serves as the chair of the Pentagon's special commission on roles and missions.

He was unavailable for comment yesterday.

Pentagon spokesperson Kenneth Bacon told the Globe that White is "an imaginative choice" for the job.

"He is a very bright guy," Bacon said. "His background is extraordinary."

White, a former Eastman Kodak executive, worked as an assistant secretary of defense during the Carter administration.

He also wrote the economic program for Ross Perot's 1992 presidential campaign.

Defense Secretary William Perry cannot formally nominate White until his predecessor, John M. Deutch, gains Senate approval for his own nomination to the directorship of the Central Intelligence Agency. The Senate Intelligence Committee is scheduled to hold Deutch's confirmation hearing on April 26.

Source: Medical School Is Investigating Mack

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those regarding members of its faculty."

But The Crimson has learned from a reliable source requesting anonymity that an investigation is indeed going on.

"By agreement of all parties concerned it was supposed to be confidential," the source said in an interview last week. "It was leaked by a breach of that confidence. The committee is still going and no final conclusions have been reached."

News of the committee was likely leaked by Mack's former lawyer Daniel P. Sheehan, who acts as legal counsel for the Christic Institute, a Washington public-interest law firm.

In an attempt to muster support for his former client, Sheehan sent letters to prominent individuals in the UFO community, appealing for their support and testimony. In the letter, obtained by The Crimson, Sheehan provides excerpts from the committee's "Draft Report" along with his own commentary regarding its objectives and motives.

Sheehan quotes the draft report as saying, "There is, of course, a long history of sightings of unidentified objects in the sky. But the interpretation that these are 'space ships' controlled by extraterrestrial beings is controversial. When carefully investigated, such sightings have been proven to be erroneous, fraudulent or due to known natural or man-made phenomena."

Sheehan also quotes the Committee's draft report as declaring that "Dr. Mack adds no new evidence on the subject" and that he provides "only unsubstantiated reports of UFOs as support for the stories of 'abduction.'"

Dr. John G. Miller, an emergency room physician at the Kaiser Hospital in Anaheim, called this contention "absurd."

"Whatever the shortcomings of his methods, he has approached this problem in a scientific manner, i.e. he has spoken with the witnesses, sought evidence and tested hypotheses," Miller said. "Additionally, his work certainly generated 'new evidence' in this field in that he has stimulated others, myself included, to think and publish ideas and data."

In his letter, Sheehan writes that the committee calls any acknowledgement that patients truly experienced alien encounters as "irresponsible."

He writes, "To communicate, in any way whatsoever, to a person who has reported a 'close encounter' with an Extraterrestrial life form that this experience might well have been 'real,' The Harvard Faculty Committee 'FINDS,' is professionally irresponsible on the part of any academic, scientific or professional person."

In his letter, Sheehan contends that the investigation may even result in the revocation of Mack's tenure.

But according to Medical School press officer Keren R. McGinity, "Dr. Mack states that representations made about his involvement in an inquiry process are both unauthorized and inaccurate."

Roderick MacLeish, Jr., Mack's current legal counsel, who refers to himself as "Dr. Mack's sole lawyer," said in an interview last week that Sheehan was not authorized to send out the letter.

George Lamb, an associate of one of Mack's benefactors, said Sheehan's unauthorized behavior may have caused the termination of his

legal relationship with Mack.

"I understand that Sheehan had spoken out of turn and their company parted," Lamb said.

The source requesting anonymity also challenged the reliability of Sheehan's statements and interpretations. The source said, "The committee was convened by Dean Tosteson as an ad hoc fact-finding committee, not as part of a disciplinary or misconduct committee."

Yet despite claims the committee exists solely for purposes of "fact finding," a furor over the committee's existence still persists among academicians and ufologists—those who study UFOs.

"My guess is that this [fact finding] is not really what is happening," said David Jacobs, associate professor of history at Temple University. "Fact finding is a very neutral kind of phrase," said Jacobs, who teaches a course called "UFOs and American Society."

The secret investigation raises questions about academic freedom, the existence of UFOs and what constitutes legitimate research among Harvard faculty.

Some interviewed have speculated that the committee was formed because the Medical School regarded Mack as an embarrassment while others said faculty members may have questioned the validity of his research methodology.

"I think it was threatening for some of the people on the Medical School faculty to have one of their own publishing this book, going on TV and talking about this very weird phenomenon," Miller said.

Questioning the credibility of faculty studying unconventional subjects is not unprecedented. Jacobs, who also studies UFOs and the abduction phenomenon, said, "Temple University considers me to be an embarrassment also."

"If I continue with what I'm doing I will never be promoted to full professor—ever, no matter how many books I write or how many publications I make," he said. "The academics are extremely conservative when it comes to this kind of area."

According to Beverly A. Rubik, director of the Center for Frontier Sciences at Temple University, "Whether you're a young assistant professor or a tenured professor, if you ask unconventional, bold questions, you're going to find great opposition from the Church of Science."

Sheehan's unauthorized and allegedly inaccurate mass mailing has caused quite a stir in the UFO community, with respected researchers

calling the proceedings a "witch hunt."

Nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman, who had received a letter from Sheehan, said "I consider it a vicious attack, not because I necessarily endorse all of John's methodology."

Friedman, an international lecturer on ufology, continued, "But that isn't the question. The notion that [Mack] shouldn't study the area is what I consider a 'witch hunt.'"

Robert A. Baker, professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Kentucky, said, "I don't think anyone is trying to shut him up but trying to see if he has not lost touch with reality."

"The question is: has he done anything to damage the institution and what it stands for? That is the problem," Baker said. "It's Mack's ideas, which are crazy, which are connected with Harvard University, and Harvard University does not promote crazy ideas."

With all the controversy and confusion surrounding the actual intentions of the committee, Robert Mitchell, a board member for the Organization

for Paranormal Understanding and Support, said, "There's a lot of innuendo and hearsay going on, but nobody knows for sure."

"I don't think that this is the kind of publicity that Harvard would like to see go national," Mitchell said. "I think possibly that Mack wanted to keep this very quiet and then it leaked out and then it got into the Internet and then it snowballed."

The informed source affirmed the integrity and fairness of the proceedings. The source stated, "Mack was asked to appear and he voluntarily cooperated."

While there is much theorizing as to the committee's motives and purpose, Miller said "I'd just like to see that the committee looks at this very seriously. I'd be very happy to have more good minds work on this and see what they come up with."

"Some days I believe that this is definitely real and sometimes I think that it's a bunch of hogwash," Miller said. "I don't have any axe to grind—whether there are aliens or not. I would just like to know what the truth is. We'll never find the truth until we look."

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