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## Letter Questions Work of 'UFO Dr.'

Committee Had Concerns About Mack

By ANDREW L. WRIGHT  
A panel of his peers declined to censure the controversial Medical School Dr. John E. Mack, who investigates people convinced they were abducted by aliens for sexual experiments.

But a letter obtained by The Crimson says that panel had "important questions" about the conduct of the professor, the rigor of his research and his use of the Harvard name.

The July 18 letter—written by Dean of the Medical School Daniel C. Tosteson and addressed to the Mack, was distributed to senior faculty of the Medical School's Department of Psychiatry, of which Mack, 65, is a member.

While emphasizing Mack's academic freedom to "choose the phenomena which you wish to study, the hypotheses you wish to generate, and to state your opinions," the bulk of the two-page letter raises critical questions about the way Mack conducted his research, which has garnered national attention because of its controversial subject matter.

The Medical School began its review of Mack's work after the professor appeared on "Unsolved Mysteries" and other television programs to promote his 1994 book *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens*—about his treatment of 120 patients who say aliens took them away in spaceships for sexual experiments.

Tosteson's letter outlines the conclusions of the ad hoc committee, which was established by the Medical School this year to investigate Mack's work.

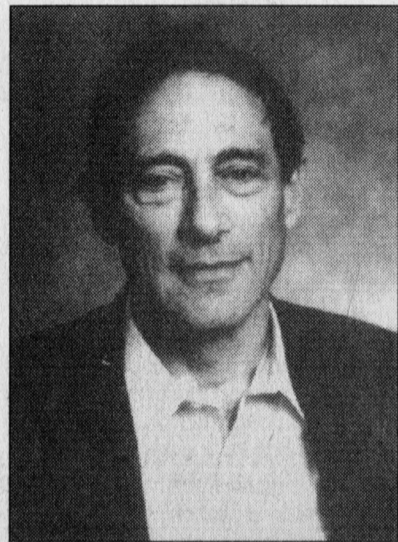
The chair of the committee, Professor of Medicine and Social Medicine Emeritus Arnold S. Relman, said Tosteson's letter accurately reflects the committee's view of Mack's studies.

"My interpretation of the letter is that the dean has asked professor Mack to be more rigorous in his manner of studying this issue," Relman said.

"The letter emphasizes that there was no intention to restrain Dr. Mack's freedom of investigation or his right to his own opinions, but rather that he conduct his work in a more scholarly way. And in my opinion that is a reasonable expectation of a Harvard faculty member," Relman added.

Mack's lawyer, Roderick MacLeish, denied the conclusions

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DR. JOHN E. MACK

## Money Problems May Force Changes to Ball

By TODD F. BRAUNSTEIN

Concerns about obtaining corporate sponsorships have some Undergraduate Council members talking about the possibility of scaling back next month's Harvard-wide gala formal.

Invitations to the ball, which were sent to all returning upperclass students last month, have already drawn requests for 75 tickets.

A budget approved by the council last spring called for \$75,000 in outlays, including a \$25,000 investment from the council itself. But concerns about corporate sponsorships are causing the council to rethink that budget.

Council members planned to solicit \$5,000 donations from each of four local corporations: BayBank, Cambridge Savings Bank, Cambridge Trust and the Coop.

Summer organizer and council executive Jonathan P. Feeney '97 said he has spoken with representatives of each of those groups and now doubts he can raise the originally proposed \$20,000. In fact, he has revised his

estimate to between \$5,000 and \$8,000.

The only bank that has actually pledged to give money is BayBank, but Feeney said he doubts that corporation will donate the full \$5,000.

In addition, the council needs to sell about 2,000 tickets to reach its financial goal, although council members say they're not too worried about achieving that.

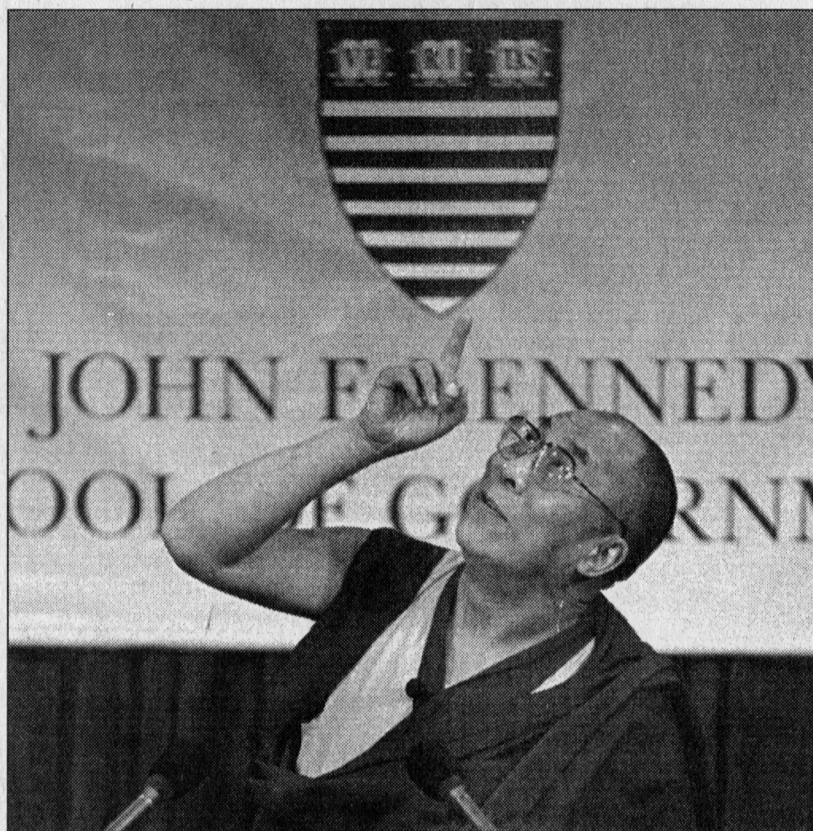
The ball, which costs \$18 per ticket for undergraduates, will be held on October 7 in two tents in the Memorial Hall courtyard in front of the Science Center.

The formal will feature music from swing band the Lester Lanin Orchestra, and from a D.J.

As a result of the financing, the council said it may be forced to cut back some of the dance's amenities. Council members have suggested eliminating heating in the tents, or scrapping one of the tents altogether and having the D.J. outside.

They acknowledged, however, that

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The DALAI LAMA gestures to audience members in the building during his speech yesterday at the Kennedy School of Government.

## Dalai Lama Calls For Compassion

SARAH J. SCHAFFER

The Dalai Lama, the spiritual and temporal leader of Tibet, spoke yesterday of Tibetan autonomy and the need for human compassion to a crowd of more than 700 at the Kennedy School of Government.

Dressed in traditional Tibetan red and gold garb, the holy man brought his crusade for Tibetan autonomy to the Arco Forum, stressing his hope for negotiations with China.

"I am appealing to the international community—please help us to bring the Chinese government to the negotiating table," the Dalai Lama said. "I am ready to negotiate with the Chinese government anytime, anywhere, as soon as a positive indication comes from them."

The Chinese invaded Tibet—a central Asian nation larger than all of western Europe combined—in 1949. China has occupied Tibet ever since.

Chinese officials argue that the occupation is for the well-being of the Tibetan people. But according to a statement released by the Dalai Lama, more than one million Tibetans have died, and thousands of monasteries, temples and forts have been destroyed since 1949.

The Dalai Lama has lived in exile in India since Chinese Communist troops crushed a popular uprising in 1959.

"The Tibet issue very much involves peace," said the Dalai Lama, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989. He added that Tibet should become a demilitarized zone of peace and an ecologically safe area. In addition, its culture should be kept distinct from China's, he said.

The United States should improve its relations with China and hold

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## U.S. News Names Harvard Top School

Despite Sixth Straight Top Ranking, University Places 17th in Teaching Quality

By MICHAEL M. LUO

For the sixth straight year, Harvard ranked first among national universities in the annual top rankings of colleges by *U.S. News & World Report*, but in a new category that ranked American universities by teaching quality, Harvard finished only 17th, the magazine announced last week.

In the new teaching category, *U.S. News* asked college presidents, provosts and deans of admissions to

select 10 schools in their respective categories that do the best in undergraduate teaching.

Dartmouth College topped the list for outstanding teaching among national universities, followed by Brown University and College of William and Mary. Rice University and Princeton rounded out the top five. Yale ranked tenth in the category.

Among national liberal arts colleges, Amherst College once again was tops, but in the teaching quality

category Carleton College ranked first.

Yale and Princeton followed Harvard in a tie for second place among national universities. Stanford moved up one place from the previous year to fourth place and Massachusetts Institute of Technology dropped one place to fifth.

Another area school, Tufts University, cracked the top 25 for the first time.

Harvard's Dean of Admissions

and Financial Aid William R. Fitzsimmons '67 downplayed the significance of the rankings.

"I think one of the things that's important from our point of view is to ask whether there is a meaningful difference between number one and say number 45," Fitzsimmons said. "The Admissions Office always cautions people about worrying about a particular ranking on a particular

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## Frosh Get Settled

Sewer Backs Up in Two Wigg Entries

By JONATHAN N. AXELROD

After a busy day of moving in most first-years perhaps could think of few things they would rather do than shower.

Unfortunately for those living in Wigglesworth B and C entries, showers and water were not available most of Saturday, as sewer back-ups forced raw sewage out of faucets.

Residents said water in both buildings was turned off because of these problems.

"I woke up Saturday morning to

take a shower and walked into the bathroom and there was gross stuff all over the floor," said Henry B. Wilson '99, a resident of Wigglesworth B-11.

Although the Wigglesworth students' experiences were atypical, one day after beginning their college careers most members of the class of 1999 were still attempting to get their lives in order.

"There so much going on I don't

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## 1,612 to Register Today

By The Crimson Staff

Great things are expected from the 1,612 members of the class of 1999 who are expected to register at Sever Hall today.

"There has been no class in Harvard's history that has put forth evidence of greater accomplishment," said William R. Fitzsimmons '67, dean of admissions and financial aid.

Perhaps the most notable aspect of the entering class is the male-female ratio. The class is 53 percent men and 47 percent women, a two percent increase in the number of women

over the class of 1998.

Harvard is proving to be no exception to the increase in number of women attending Ivy League schools.

At Dartmouth, the last Ivy League school to go co-ed, the majority of the students in the class of '99 are women.

And for the first time in Yale University's nearly 300-year history, women outnumber men in the entering first-year class, 694 to 675.

"We don't factor gender into the

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## Nye Named New K-School Dean

Former Prof. to Leave Defense Post

By TODD F. BRAUNSTEIN

Joseph S. Nye Jr., a top official in the U.S. Defense Department and a former Harvard professor, was named the eighth dean of the Kennedy School of Government last month.

Nye's appointment, announced on August 20, ended President Neil L. Rudenstine's 15-month search for a successor to Albert Carnesale, who became University provost in May, 1994.

Nye, 58, will leave his post as assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs to take over the deanship in December.

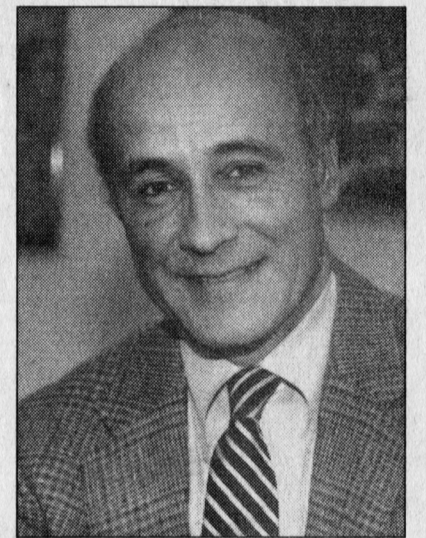
"The Kennedy School is a tremendous institution with an enormous set of resources," Nye said in a telephone interview from his Pentagon office. "I'd like to focus those resources on the larger questions of what's the role of government in our society and imperatively in modern societies today."

Nye has been in charge of the Defense Department's "little State Department" since resigning from Harvard 12 months ago. He is in responsible for defense dealings in all areas of the world.

Prior to serving in the Defense Department, Nye was chair of the CIA's National Intelligence Council. He was deputy to the undersecretary of state for security assistance, science and technology from 1977-79 under former president Jimmy E. Carter.

A 1958 Princeton graduate, Nye earned his Ph.D. from Harvard after completing a Rhodes Scholarship. He received tenure at Harvard in 1971, and has held named chairs in both the Kennedy School and the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS).

In fact, it was Nye's combination of outstanding academic credentials and public service experience that made him an ideal choice for the job, Kennedy School faculty and administrators said.



JOSEPH S. NYE, Jr.

"He brings an outstanding combination of personal and professional qualities to the deanship—a record of distinguished government service, scholarly accomplishment, excellent teaching, administrative skill and proven leadership," President Neil L. Rudenstine said in announcing Nye's appointment. "[H]e personifies the school's commitment to education and to service."

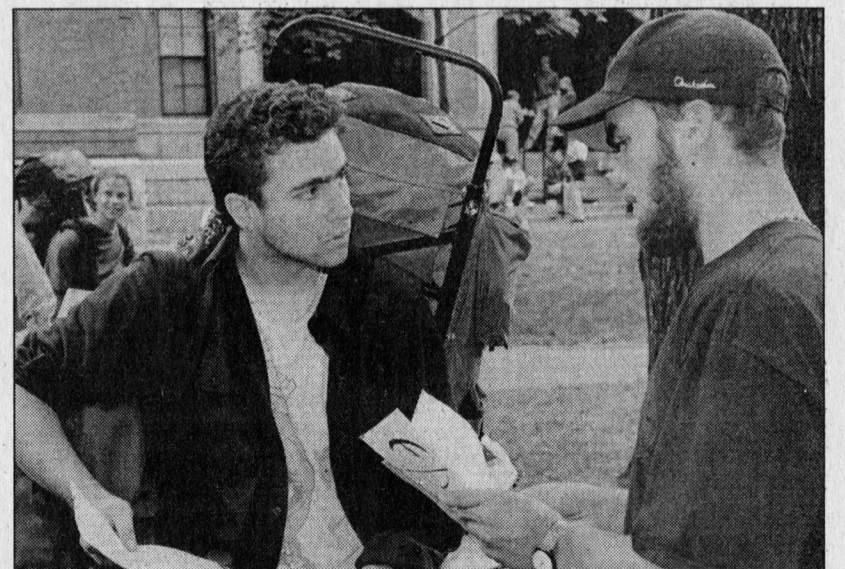
"The Kennedy School always experiences a tension between the professional...and academic [realms]," said Julie B. Wilson, who served on Rudenstine's advisory committee and is secretary of the school. "And I think because he has a foot so firmly in both camps...and still fundamentally understands both, he will have credibility on all sides and will be able to keep us pointed in an appropriate direction."

Nye also has extensive experience as an administrator at both FAS and the Kennedy School. He served as director of the Kennedy School's Center for Science and International

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Actress BETTY WHITE signs copies of her new book, *Here We Go Again*, yesterday at the Coop.



GIL DIBNER '99 of Brookline, MA, and FELIX FISCHER '99 of Munich, Germany, discuss move-in plans at the key tent yesterday.

## INSIDE

◆ **DESTRUCTION**  
Women's soccer pulverized Fairfield, 4-0, and Canisius, 9-0, this weekend. **Page 14.**

◆ **WIN ONE, LOSE ONE**  
Women's field hockey lost to Rhode Island, 2-1, but rebounded to beat Vermont, 3-1, on three Daphne Clark goals. **Page 14.**

◆ **WELCOME**  
The Harvard and Radcliffe Presidents and Dean of Freshmen greeted first-years at Convocation ceremonies yesterday. **Page 7.**



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An official letter from the Dean of Harvard Medical School summarizes the findings of the special committee formed to investigate Dr. John E. Mack, the Harvard professor who studies people who say they've been abducted by aliens for sexual experiments. And in sharp contrast with earlier statements and press reports, the letter says that Harvard's investigators raised...

# 'Important Questions' for Dr. Mack

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faculty members and leaked to The Crimson.

"This is a behind-the-back smear job," MacLeish said. "For this to be released is a gross departure from University standards...It is absolutely reprehensible and is part of the continued effort to discredit Dr. Mack."

University Attorney Anne Taylor said Thursday that while she was surprised to have learned that the letter reached the media, "it would not be irregular for a dean to share a letter with the responsible department chair in a matter involving a faculty member of that department."

When Medical School officials announced in early August that they had completed their investigation of Mack, none of the specific criticisms of Mack's research were revealed.

And at the time, local and national press reports stressed that the Medical School was not taking any action against Mack.

But Tosteson's letter raises critical questions which had previously not been made public.

"I do not read the letter as 'an exoneration' of Dr. Mack

but as a collegial criticism of how he conducted his work," Relman said.

"The dean's letter corrects much of the misinformed interpretation contained in earlier press reports," Relman added.

MacLeish responded to news of the letter with skepticism of Tosteson's motives is releasing it.

"The real question is why will Harvard not simply end this issue. Why was this letter circulated around after a number of fairly good press reports about Dr. Mack? Why would they circulate this internal personnel letter? It doesn't make sense to me. I can't believe it—but all kinds of unfair things have been said about this man."

MacLeish said he had already contacted Harvard's Office of the General Counsel to demand answers to these questions.

Tosteson's letter is significant because it is the first document obtained by the media which spells out some of the findings of the ad hoc committee.

According to the letter, the committee:

- Identified instances of ambiguity and confusion regarding Mack's professional relationship with individuals treated and/or studied.

- Raised important questions about the quality and appropriateness of the clinical care Mack provided to his patients.

Expressed the opinion that Mack did not make adequate use of professionally qualified consultants.

- Voiced concern that Mack's "adoption of one interpretation of [his patients'] experiences isolated them further from

their friends and families."

- Questioned whether Mack's billing procedures were clear and consistent.

- Questioned the rigor with which Mack's research was conducted. "For example, it is unclear whether sufficient diligence was exercised in the search for physical evidence of the abduction experience," the letter says.

- Stressed the importance of proper use of the Harvard name and identification of sources of funding. Tosteson stressed in his letter that Mack "should make it clear that [his] research is not being conducted with the sponsorship of Harvard University but rather through an outside agency."

Mack's work has been primarily funded by private donations and the Program for Extraordinary Experiences Research (PEER), a program which operates at Cambridge Hospital, one of Harvard Medical School's teaching hospitals.

PEER, although not sponsored by or affiliated with Harvard University, uses the "veritas" shield on its letterhead.

"As I read the letter it puts few demands on Dr. Mack other than that he disclose the sources of his funds and the disbursements of those funds, which is part of University policy, and that he should make it clear that his research is not being sponsored by Harvard University but by an outside organization," Relman said.

"Given this difficult and unprecedented problem, the Dean's letter seems to me admirably restrained and judicious," Relman said.

"Although it criticizes the way Dr. Mack has gone about his work, it defends his freedom of inquiry and his right to his own opinions. It is neither punitive nor coercive but it does suggest how Dr. Mack's future studies might be brought up to the standards expected of the Harvard Faculty of Medicine."

But MacLeish, Mack's attorney, offered in an interview a point-by-point rebuttal of the conclusions cited in Tosteson's letter—and he challenged the legitimacy of the committee itself.

MacLeish said:

- There was no ambiguity concerning Mack's relationship with the people he treated. "They all acknowledged that they understood precisely what the nature of the relationship

was. They were his short-term patients, not research subjects. Just because he wrote his findings up in a book did not mean that they were the subjects of a research protocol."

- There is no doubt that Mack's patients benefited from his treatment. "Everybody we interviewed talked about how John's treatment of them was beneficial and somehow changed their lives. There was no patient complaint before the ad hoc committee when they started their investigation...It was presumptuous, at best, for the committee to reject the testimony of the patients of themselves."

- Mack spent many hours helping his patients attempt to place the events concerning aliens within the contexts of the rest of their lives. "The suggestion that John was somehow biased and didn't take into account other hypotheses was simply untrue."

- Mack made all appropriate patient referrals. "There has been no patient who has come forward to the committee with any complaint about the care they received. John was a very positive force in their lives," the attorney said.

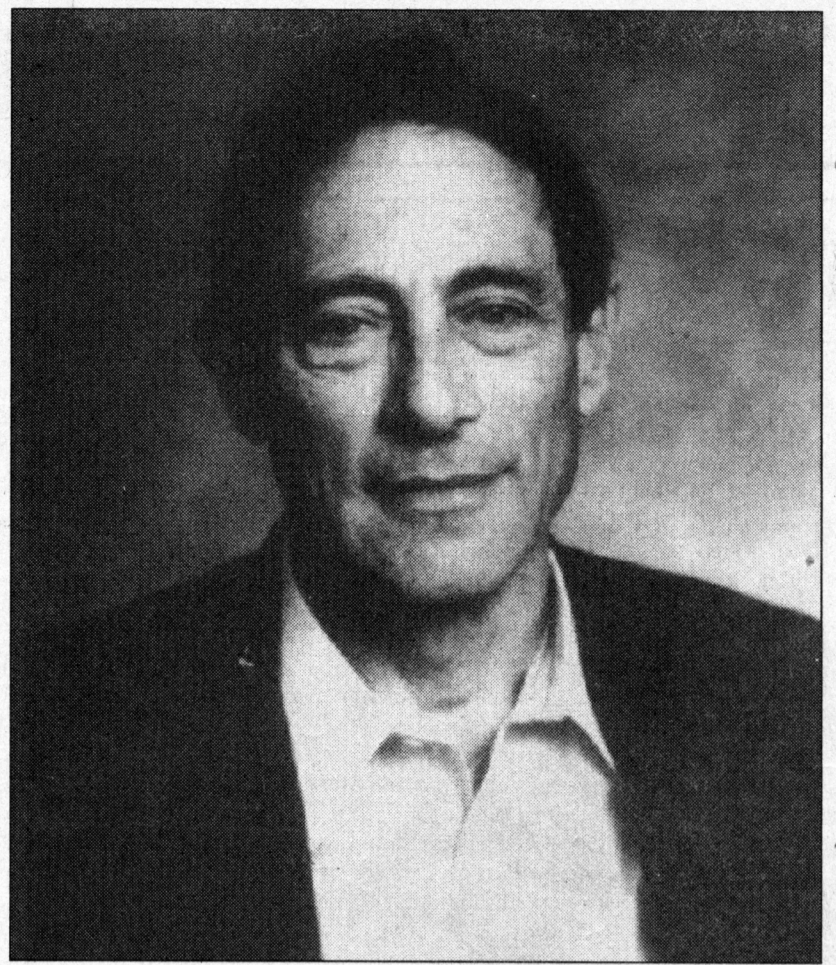
- Instead of isolating his patients, Mack provided patients with strategies for dealing with families and friends.

- There were no irregularities in any of Mack's billing procedures. "This is an extraordinary allegation given that John did the vast majority of his work for free. I have no idea what the dean's referring to."

- Mack was under no obligation to search for physical evidence of alien encounters since he stated clearly in his published work that his was not physical evidence research and that the patients whose stories he recounts were not part of a control group.

- Mack should not be criticized for failing to publish his work in peer review and scientific journals because "he was told that it was unlikely that his work, given its controversial nature, would be accepted in a peer review scientific journal. John has the right as a faculty member to choose the medium through which he wishes to communicate his work."

- Mack has never held that his work in this field was being done with the sponsorship or endorsement of Harvard Medical School.



DR. JOHN E. MACK

Despite this long list of rebuttals, Tosteson refused to comment publicly on his letter, Medical School spokesperson Karen R. McGinity said last week.

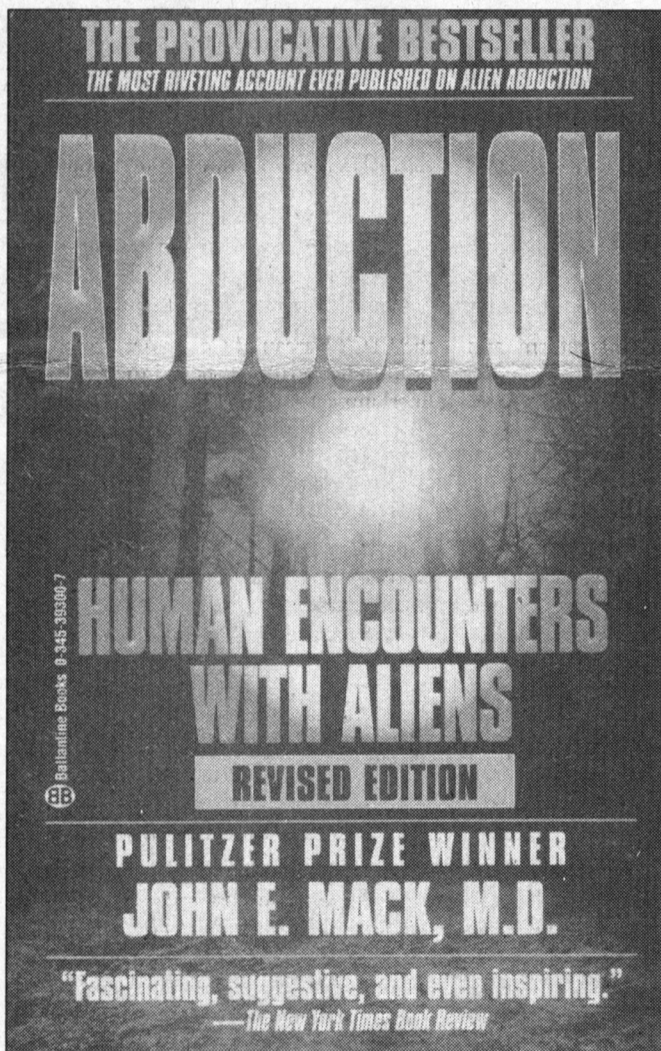
Mack, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 1977 for his biography of Lawrence of Arabia, said in an interview last year that he does not necessarily believe in space aliens, but thinks some unknown traumatic experiences—and not mental illnesses—explains his patients' memories.

Mack's book describes 13 cases in which people were

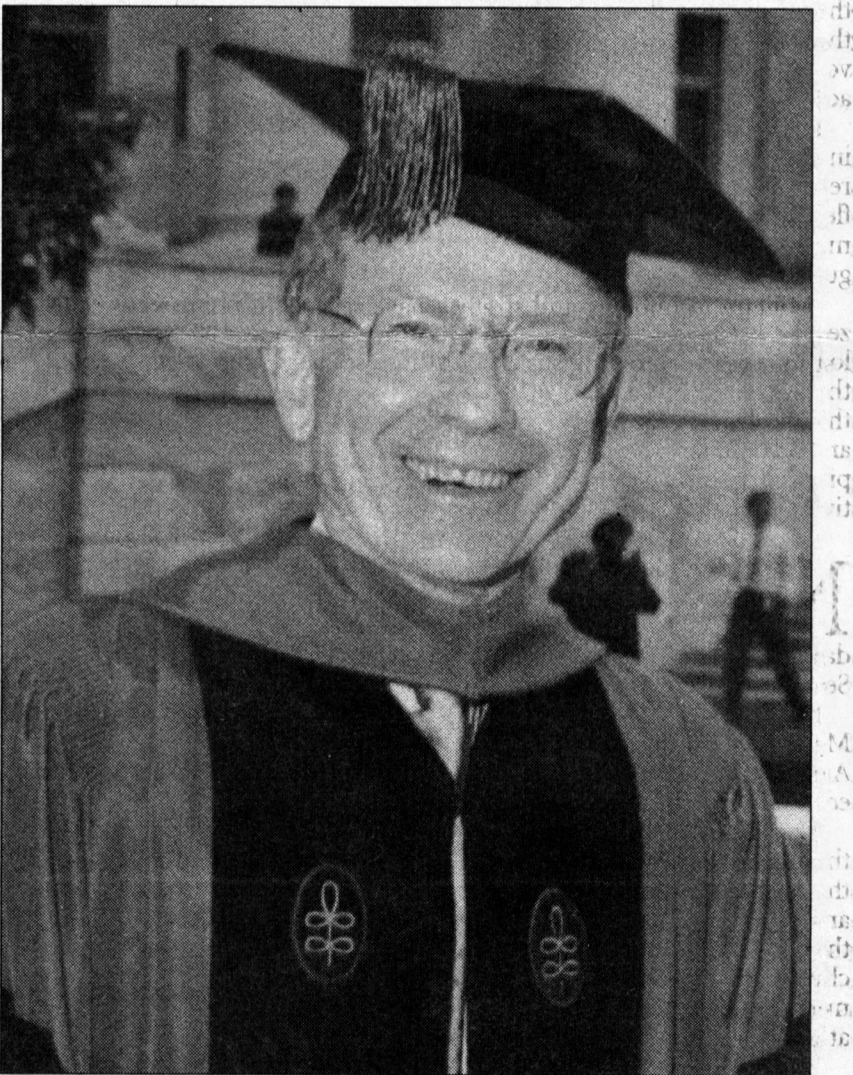
abducted for sexual experiments, including that of a man who remembers an alien female taking a sperm sample from him, a woman who says she gave birth to a human-alien hybrid and a man who says he had an alien wife in a parallel universe.

Mack said last year that colleagues were too quick to dismiss his work.

"We don't have room in our culture for this," Mack said. "It's the elite people, my colleagues, who decide what we're supposed to believe, and to them this isn't supposed to be."



Dr. John E. Mack's book, *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens*, sparked a year-long debate about academic freedom at Harvard Medical School.



DANIEL C. TOSTESON, dean of the Medical School.

## Harvard Study Questions Benefit of Angiography

Common Diagnostic Test Performed on Heart Attack Victims Provides Few Benefits, Researchers Find

### Research UPDATE

By CURTIS R. CHONG

A new study released last week by Medical School researchers found that angiography, a common diagnostic test performed on heart attack victims, is being overused with few apparent benefits to patients.

The study—published in the New England Journal of Medicine—may change the ways doctors treat heart attacks, said Edward Guadagnoli, the assistant professor of health care policy who headed the study.

"This [study] could potentially effect a policy change. It suggests that in some places where the rate of angiography use is high, physicians need to be more careful about the patients they select," Guadagnoli said.

To study the geographic differences in treatment after a heart attack, the researchers examined the use of angiography among 3,689 elderly heart attack patients on Medicare in New York and Texas.

The Harvard team's research was part of a \$5 million project funded by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research based in Washington, D.C.

While there were no differences in mortality rates or the long-term outcome pictures of patients in the different states, Texas patients at a low risk for a second heart attack were more likely to receive an angiography than New Yorkers, Guadagnoli said.

"Texan [cardiologists] appeared to use angiography when indicated and perhaps when more discretion should have been used," said Paul J. Hauptman, an instructor in medicine and one of the report's co-authors.

Overuse of angiography in Texas may be due to the accessibility of the procedure, Guadagnoli said.

"In New York there's a stricter regulatory environment for establishing [angiography] services, where in Texas it's a lot more lax environment," Guadagnoli said.

William C. Roberts, executive director of the Baylor Cardiovascular Institute in Dallas, said the Harvard research group's results may be due to literal discrepancies in street traffic patterns between the states.

"Obviously there's a lot more traffic in New York than Texas so the longer the delay, the less chance the patient would have a primary angioplasty preceded by an angiogram," Roberts said. "If you're stalled in a traffic jam, then it's harder to get to the hospital."

With over one million angiographies performed in the United States each year the Harvard study could result in cost-cutting if its

findings are accepted by the medical community.

"In 1990, the hospital costs for Medicaid heart attack patients who received angiograms was \$18,000, [compared to] \$9,000 for those who didn't receive one," Guadagnoli said. "If the number of patients receiving this potentially overused treatment was reduced, there could be savings," he said.

"With the increase in managed care, people may say that patients should have certain characteristics before angiography is done," Guadagnoli said. "Insurance companies may define who is eligible for this procedure or physicians may change their practices on their own."

Guadagnoli said that his group's research was an investigation into differences in medical treatment between regions. He added that he fears the study may be misinterpreted as an evaluation of angiography.

## Colon Cancer Link Found

Study Says Aspirin Use Can Cut Risk by Almost Half

By CURTIS R. CHONG

A Harvard Medical School study released last week reports that aspirin can do more than ease headaches and lower risk of heart disease: it may protect people from colon cancer.

Medical School instructor Edward L. Giovannucci '80 led the team of researchers that published the study in the latest issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

The team followed the medical histories of more than 90,000 nurses between 1980 and 1992.

Research results showed that women who took between four and six aspirin tablets each week for a period of more than 20 years reduced their risk of colon cancer by almost half.

"Aspirin slows down production of prostaglandin which may slow down the process of a cell becoming cancerous," Giovannucci said.

Doctors now recommend that most women and men over 50 take

half a tablet of aspirin every day to decrease their risk of heart disease.

But while aspirin may have many benefits, the drug may irritate the stomach and cause stomach ulcers, Giovannucci said.

"We're not making a recommendation that everyone take aspirin," Giovannucci said. "People at high risk, who have a family history of colon cancer or polyps may benefit from taking aspirin because their risk-benefit ratio is favorable."

Colon cancer claims the lives of over 55,000 Americans a year, and Giovannucci said he hopes his group's research will help to lower that number.

"I think it's promising that we have a way to prevent a lot of colorectal cancer because it is the second leading cause of death aside from lung cancer—with 160,000 new cases each year," Giovannucci said. "Anything to prevent these cancers has the potential for significance."