

# Prof struck, killed by car

By Amanda McGregor  
CHRONICLE STAFF

The community is mourning the loss of John E. Mack, Harvard professor and researcher of alien abductions, who was struck and killed by a car in London Monday night.

Mack, 74, who lived on Brattle Street, was a psychiatrist and a Pulitzer-Prize winning author on Lawrence of Arabia. He was speaking at a T.E. Lawrence conference in England at the time of his death. An alleged drunken dri-

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ver struck Mack as he was crossing a London street, according to Paul Clark at Scotland Yard.

Mack founded the psychiatry department at Cambridge Hospital in the 1960s, according to Alison Harris at the Cambridge Health Alliance, and began teaching at Harvard Medical School in

1972.

He began 20 years ago to extensively interview "experiencers," as he coined them, of alien abductions and study the effects of such encounters.

"Dr. Mack found ... that men and women had been touched by a part of reality they hadn't been prepared for ... and after support-

ive therapy were able to be more spiritual, deeper people," said Will Bueche of the John E. Mack Institute, Mack's organization dedicated to his research. "He was obviously widely rebuked at first."

Mack, whose home was at the corner of Brattle Street and Mercer Circle, founded in 1983 the Center for Psychology and Social Change at Harvard, which this year became the Mack Center.

"Dr. Mack was known nationally and internationally for his contributions to ... psychiatry," said Dennis Keefe, CEO of the Health Alliance, in a press release issued Tuesday. "He remained very proud of his long association with the city of Cambridge and his students, colleagues and patients at the Cambridge Hospital."

"The seed of [Mack's] life work has always been how one's experience of the world has affected one's perceptions," said Bueche. "As with his study of Lawrence of Arabia, he looked at how experience forces one into living a certain way."

Born in New York in 1929, Mack graduated with a degree in medicine from Harvard in 1955. Mack and his wife, Sally, divorced in 1995. Mack had three sons, one of whom still lives in Cambridge.