Incident prompts debate on how to relate survivor stories

By SHARON KATZ
The tale of a female undergraduate falsely accused a fellow student of sexual assault has raised questions about the university’s ability to effectively speak out against sexual violence.

While administrators have suggested that the use of an open-meeting format for the annual “Take Back the Night” march could encourage survivors to make their voices heard, many others have argued that this feature is central to affirming women’s voices.

Those involved in preventing sexual assault and harassment, moreover, have emphasized that the same environment which allows for this kind of activity to occur encourages campus communities to now question the validity of survivors’ stories.

In the incident which has raised these concerns, Mindy Brickman ‘91 recanted much of her experience about sexual assault in a letter appearing today’s issue of The Daily Princetonian. Brickman spoke in Henry Arch during this month’s march about her experience shortly after which she submitted a letter to the “Prince” repeating her story.

The dean of students office reminded to her allegations made during the march by printing a letter which stated that many of her facts, including her allegations regarding the office, were incorrect. In the letter, Brickman apologized for her inaccuracies.

Organizers expressed concern that these kinds of incidents might use this incident as an excuse to dismiss the presence of sexual harassment and assault.

Blame victim

“It could serve to vindicate certain people who are threatened by women empowering themselves, and find ways to blame the victim again,” said Women’s Center participant Alicia Maharaj ‘92.

Women’s Center participant Hitanjali Maharaj ‘92 pointed out that listeners at the march should focus their attention on the concerns of rape survivors, rather than analyzing the details of their experiences.

News Analysis

Echoing the March’s message

INTERIM SHARE director Joyce Clark said, “I think that kind of conversation is important. We’ve come a long way in learning to believe survivors and in giving them the respect they are due. And I hope that we can continue to move forward on these issues and make progress.”

Women’s Center participant Hitanjali Maharaj ‘92 pointed out that listeners at the march should focus their attention on the concerns of rape survivors, rather than analyzing the details of their experiences.

MoBio emerges as top program following decades of stagnation

By NOAM LEVEY
After 30 years of on-again off-again attempts at developing a major molecular biology department, Princeton has at last created a program of world-class caliber.

While MoBio is in the top five or six biology departments in the country in terms of high quality research and teaching programs, said molecular biology chair Arnold Levine, who recently turned down an offer to direct the Salk Institute, one of the foremost molecular biology institutions.

In creating in 1983, the MoBio department has broken into one of the university’s most prominent scientific fields and has grown into a substantial institution for the study of molecular biology.

In 1983, only a handful of professors, both from the original department of biochemical sciences, the predecessor to the MoBio department in 1984, and the most MoBio department boasts 25 professors, over 100 graduate students, five postdoctoral fellows, 50 technical staff members and 15 junior and senior concentration.

Meanwhile, research in molecular biology has skyrocketed. In fiscal year 1984, the first year the department received its separate discipline, the department received less than $1 million in external funds. By 1990, by contrast, MoBio received almost $13 million in research grants — about 20 percent of all research funding last year.

In the long-delayed creation of a strong MoBio department, originated in 1981 by President Howard Milstein, who announced that the university would pour $46 million into a major molecular biology initiative.

The project included a $29 million complex to house the department, what is now Princeton’s Thomas ‘63 Laboratory, as well as an appointment of a five-year, $1.5 million program.

The assistant in charge of the Shapira laboratory, James Shapiro, was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment.

Shapiro said that many of the details about how he will operate and administer the department have not yet worked out, but he expects to focus on the science, taking care of unforeseen events and support Shapiro in his representational responsibilities outside the university.

By MICHELLE WOOLEN
David Bradford, associate dean of the Woodrow Wilson School, is expected to be nominated soon by President Bush to serve on his Council of Economic Advisers.

Though Bush has not yet officially nominated a candidate for the Council of Economic Advisers, we have been conferred with Bradford, Bradford, who teaches economic policy at the School, is expected to receive the nomination in the upcoming weeks.

“I’m not officially nominated, but I’m just speculation,” Bradford said yesterday “I’m in discussion with the administration about possibly being their candidate.”

Three-member council

The three-member council of Economic Advisers makes recommendations to the president on economic policy, including monetary, fiscal, and trade. The department of Economics at Princeton University, founded by Nobel laureate Richard Thaler, will soon have an opening on the advisory board.

Levine School Dean Donald Stokes GS ’51 said yesterday that he believes Bradford will most likely take the nomination.

“Told me he’s been talking very actively with them,” Stokes said. “I’m understanding that the president is going to nominate him.”

Economics professor Alan Blinder ’67 said Bradford’s background qualifies him for membership on the Council.

“He has all the necessary experience,” Blinder added. “He’s got the smarts and the intellect. He would be a very good choice.”

Under the Ford administration, Bradford served on the Treasury Department as deputy assistant secretary for tax analysis and economic incentives. He is a partner with Treasury.

Stokes praised Bradford’s previous work for the national government.

“Stokes has had significant experience in Washington, and he did a very impressive job,” Stokes said. “It’s not a world of the ranking public finance economists. It’s the president’s decision to make, but I admire his taste.”

Bradford downplayed his experience at the Treasury Department, noting instead that the limited number of economic policy makers narrowed the field considerably.

“My experience in the Treasury was relevant,” Bradford said, “but this is a fairly small world.”

If Bradford joins the Council of Economic Advisers, the university would take a step forward in the presidency with the option of adding a second year, Stokes said.

Stokes said he anticipates no problems with taking a leave from his teaching responsibilities. He sees this as “rather typical” for a Council member.

Kevin Bush may wait weeks before naming a candidate to fill the position, Stokes said.

By MARC SOLE and ERIK SWAIN
In a significant shift of responsibilities, Vice President Thomas Wright ‘62 expects to be moved next year into One Nassau Hall to work more closely with President Shapiro on institutional planning and responsibilities outside the university.

Wright, who will retain his title as vice president and secretary to the Board of Trustees, said he plans to continue overseeing the athletic and health science departments in the immediate future, but added he would likely give up those responsibilities eventually.

The decision to shift responsibilities was made by Shapiro, in consultation with Ford, and Hugo Sonnenschein. Assistant to the President Carter Warrenburg said that Wright’s move had been considered ever since Warrenburg left the president’s office to coordinate university efforts against alcohol abuse on campus four or five months ago.

The change signals Shapiro’s latest effort to mold the structure of the administration to better align with a president’s own needs and preferences since he took over in 1984, (Continued on page 7)

Bush expected to name Bradford as adviser

By KEVIN WRIGHT
Kevin Wright will resign as director of the university’s alcohol and other drug program on July 30, The Daily Princetonian learned last night.

The move comes at a time when Princeton is looking to enhance the university’s primary mission of education, Said Wright in an interview yesterday, “We are in Kevin’s debt for that. He has always been there for us.”

Wright added that he did not have a plan to be replaced.

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**On curriculum, free speech, beer jackets**

**Fabricated issue?**

I would like to correct the comments made regarding the "Scholars debate value of multicultural trends" article by Benjamin Edelman '93. First, although I am very much opposed to those who dismiss the study of non-European Americans as irrelevant or ineptly addressed, I believe our research was accurately presented in the study. Indeed, it was not aimed at Princeton, but rather at U.S. universities in general. In fact, the interview process was repeated in such a manner that although much work remains to be done, I am very pleased with the advances this university has made in the areas of faculty, student and curricular diversification.

Second, the statement on the focus of the university’s scholar-ship being "overwhelmingly on the Euro-American tradition" was taken out of context. In an Ameri-can university, as I noted during the interview, this emphasis is to be expected, as it is a necessary component of an American's liberal education. Given the importance of the function successfully in the U.S. without a solid understanding of Euro-American cultural practices. We have not erased the Euro-Ameri-can that leaves no space for alternative perspectives, relevant (U.S.) multicultural content, or other curricular approaches.

Third, while curricular resistance to change is great everywhere, but not at Princeton, our university’s willingness to move forward and compromise its high standards, is proof to me of its commitment to responsible change. And this is no small part of the attraction that drew me here in the first place.

In the future, please do not try to fabricate a controversy where there is none.

J. Jorge Krul de Jong Professor of Anthropology

**Myth of silence**

I would like to defend the myth of the disappeared campus liberals who attempt to silence opposing views. By including many of their comments, this article appears to be a series of quotes from students who are seeking to define the "myth of silence." Rather, I believe these comments, which I consider to be a series of quotes from students who are seeking to silence the voices of others.

According to Dean of Students regulations, every flyer posted by campus organizations must have the name of the sponsoring student organization on it, as well as a contact person and phone number. PSAC did not sponsor any of the flyers I saw. It is very easy to make the point that I could not tell Hal to remove them or that I could bring a flyer to their office and then the provost would remove it from their bulletin board.

Despite Hal’s outrageous lies,VOCAL did use his waging against the "PSAC's lack of diversity"("Proud Americans," 'Prince, May 10). Supposedly their flyers have been "Completely dismantled by freakish Bulldog attacks,"

"Vocal" instead of being a group of students that are being silenced, is instead being called a group of students that are being silenced for not being vocal enough.

In addition to this, Vocal did not have the opportunity to make their point as there was no second side to this story. Vocal is not a registered student organization. Despite this, no person organizes that I know of (myself included) took down any of VOCAL's flyers. We ignored university regulations that permit art students to speak in support of the "second side to this story." So who is trying to silence others?

I am a Graduate Research Committee member, which is a registered student organization and have flyer privileges, attempted to publicize their efforts by putting posters up in dining halls and the eating clubs. Most flyers in the clubs were torn down within six hours. In Wilson, which housed members of my cohort, they were gone after some time, until one night I found all of them torn down. No other flyers had been torn down. At least they had been left alone. Later that night, a friend and I were making banners for the rally. We were harassed from a nearby room, and then showered with at least five eggs from Wilcox Hall. One banner was burned.

I am not trying to complain about working on beer jackets last spring and so they signed up to work on the brokers. I am sure that all of the brokers, most were assigned to work on other committees (ones they had little interest in) and our president, Mr. Hal, put me right at the top of his TI brothers as the head of the beer jacket committee. This committee for the most part worked in secret with perhaps participation from Steve or Marco Soreni '91, our vice-president and Steve's roommate. The senior class was never invited to vote on a design, and contrary to claims made by certain indi-viduals, neither was the executive committee. It was, of course, done by a group of senior students, I was not informed of when meetings were or so I was not present at any of the planning meetings. I had no idea what the senior jackets were like until I saw a friend of mine who had gotten hers (she happens to be a Senior). From the little that has been dis-cussed about the senior jackets at committee meetings, I gather it is a one-man show. And the jackets has been a financial one. Well, my suggestion to Stephan, he had ever been contacted, would have been that his response to pressures to reduce alcohol consumption should have been to divest some of the money from pub night to beer jackets and leave beer jackets beer jackets rather than keeping all the pub nights and symbolically renaming beer jackets senior jackets (a deci-sion, once again, that was not discussed at any executive committee session I or either of the other two delegates was informed about).

The secretive manner in which decisions about senior jackets were made is what I feel is the key factor to these events. Class of 1992 senators were made to do their job and made to do their job. There was little or no input from senior class organizations (one was that I was not told about any). This kept my senior year at Princeton one of the worst I had ever had. I hope this helps.

The Class of 1992 officers will make every effort to get input from their entire class as they plan their senior in the near future. I hope this helps.

Sanjay Patel '91
Class of 1992 Delegate

**Condemn unjust accusations**

Isolated incident

Though Mindy Brickman '91 thought she was helping raise campus awareness about the plight of rape victims, she may have set back the very goals she sought to promote. Brickman, who spoke out in the "Take Back the Night" march in April and wrote a letter to the "Prince" about her experiences, falsely accused a fellow student of raping her. Her actions were a horrific offense to the student she named in conversations with the editor of this campus publication who could make some people doubt rape survivors in the future.

Brickman admits to her deceipt. She libeled a student whom she had not even met, and spread false claims through the university community.

This incident may give rise to speculation about the legitimacy of women's rape survivor stories, and this episode may damage the impact of the "Take Back the Night" march in the future.

As harmful as Brickman's actions were to this student, they should not alter the community's sensitivity to the existence of rape. What must be remembered is the experience of survivors' stories and the pain which rape survivors suffer when they are not believed — either in a personal or public forum.

Rape survivors have traditionally been demoralized by societal suspicions and doubt. However, awareness of rape is growing and we should not allow such progress to be set back by an isolated incident.

Society has been quick to doubt the accusations levied by victims of rape and other violent crimes. A person who walks into a police station, for example, and says "I've been raped" would not be questioned as if he or she was responsible for the crime.

Rape victims have a right to feel protected and sensitivity we give victims of other violent crimes. This recent incident, damaging as it may seem, should not harden us to the horrors of rape.

**Apologizing for false accusation of rape**

By MINDY BRICKMAN ’91

I wish to make the community aware that some of the statements I have made recently on the editorial page of this paper and at the "Take Back the Night" march have been incorrect. I believe it is absolutely essential that I clarify my story so that no unjust accusations continue to be made by myself or others against any of my fellow classmates or other members of the university community.

Despite my comments to the contrary, I never brought any official charges of sexual harassment or assault against any Princeton student. Consequently, no student has ever been dismissed or suspended from Princeton University as a result of a sexual harassment or assault offense.

I never intended for anyone to be hurt by my statements and I wholeheartedly apologize to anyone who either took offense or felt as if they were personally injured by my letter and speech. I apologize for not achieving any type of revenge toward my alleged assailant. I made my statements in The Daily Princetonian and at the "Take Back the Night" march in order to raise awareness for the plight of the campus rape victims.

Although I warrant sympathy and support for my fellow victims, I do not want to create an uncomfortable academic or social environment for any other Princeton University student.

Because of these comments, a certain individual has been wrongly accused and is being pursued for a crime he did not commit. Although I have never met the individual or spoken to him, I would like to utilize this public forum to specifically apologize to him. In fact, the student I identified as my assailant in conversation with many members of this community was not the person who raped me. He coincidentally left Princeton on his own accord around the same time and was never accused of raping me. I urge students who are members of this community to contact the second person where there is none.

J. Jorge Krul de Jong Professor of Anthropology
Rape accusation triggers debate

which has inhibited women from speaking out against sexual harassment and assault, said March organizer Emmy Chang '93.

"There are all kinds of societal pressures that make sexual assault stigmatized, and that so often silence survivors," Chang said. "All kinds of emotions are involved when a survivor tells her story. They may not be able to tell the whole story because the details are too painful, and everything they might say is influenced by the way in which they think people might perceive them."

Alternative formats

Administrators suggested that a better format might include small group discussions in lighted rooms with counselors present. In this setting, they said, trained individuals could help survivors cope with their emotions and still receive the affirmation they need.

Survivors sometimes regret their immediate decision to speak at the march and suffer painful psychological consequences later, administrators said.

Student organizers of the march, however, disagreed strongly with any proposals to eliminate the present structure of the march.

"The march in its present format has a lot of power, with the whole community there," Chang said. "I don't think you can duplicate that in small groups."

Tara Creat '93 said, "The open mike is an extremely important medium. If there was some kind of screening, people would be less likely to speak, and the whole purpose is to let people come forward who have been silenced."

March organizers emphasized that instead of questioning survivors, community members should question the environment which perpetuates sexual violence.

'People have to feel free to find strength to find healing, and while it's never easy to get at truth, the truth is what we have to get.'

— Eugene Lowe '71, Dean of Students

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