Vote shakes divisive Harvard chief

Suzanne Goldenberg

Harvard's beleaguered president was fighting for his job last night after a humiliating no-confidence vote from his fellow academics.

The 218-185 vote yesterday by members of the faculty of arts and science was ostensibly symbolic, with decisions about Lawrence Summers' fate resting with the university's governing board.

So far, the board has extended its support for Mr Summers, who has come under fire for his managerial style and comments on women in science, but that may prove untenable.

Last night's vote made it increasingly unlikely that Mr Summers can convince his colleagues that he is able or willing to soften an imperious leadership style, and the board may develop second thoughts about having such a divisive personality at its helm.

The meeting was Mr Summers' third encounter with professors since his explosive comments last January that intrinsic differences in ability partly explain why there are fewer women in the pool of applicants for top science jobs.

He has also held several smaller meetings with professors, and nominated two task forces to look into the hiring of women academics at the university.

But the efforts do not appear to have lessened the fury of some professors and students at Mr Summers' comments, or his stewardship of Harvard.

Known for his brilliance as an economist, Mr Summers had already had a stormy tenure as Harvard president.

He has apologised repeatedly for the remarks on women in science, made at an academic conference.

In a long address delivered without notes, he speculated that women lagged behind men in the sciences and engineering because of biological differences, using as an example his young daughter's attitude towards her toy trucks. He also said that women academics were held back by their childcare responsibilities, denying that discrimination continued to be a factor in university hiring and promotion.

On their own, the comments would have been explosive, but Mr Summers already had a poor record on hiring women professors at Harvard.

He told the Harvard Crimson newspaper last night he would continue his efforts to win over the faculty, promising to "listen to all that has been said, to learn from it, and to move forward". But it is unclear how long the university will be willing to wait for Mr Summers to re-assert his authority.

Last night's vote forced the university to go on defending Mr Summers rather than concentrating on the management of Harvard's $22bn endowment and ambitious expansion plans.

"This was a resounding statement that the faculty lacks confidence in President Lawrence Summers and he should resign," J Lorand Matory, the anthropologist who introduced the motion, told the Crimson.

Mr Summers has an equally passionate camp of supporters, who have defended his comments on women as free speech. In an email sent moments after the vote, Harvard Students for Larry rejected the vote, saying: "This demonstrates a complete rejection of the major tenets of academic freedom".

guardian.co.uk/usa



Lawrence Summers is escorted by a Harvard police officer after last night's faculty meeting Photograph: Steven Senne/AP

US tries to sink forests plan

British initiative on illegal logging opposed

Paul Brown and **Roger Harrabin**

The US plans to wreck a British initiative to commit the G8 states to combating illegal logging in the world's threatened rainforests, a leaked memorandum revealed last night.

Hilary Benn, the development secretary, wants G8 environment and development ministers meeting in Derby tomorrow and on Friday to insist that all timber bought by official bodies in rich countries comes from properly managed forests.

The British initiative was prompted by Indonesia, which said corruption in the country was so rampant the authorities did not have the power to tackle the supply of timber by criminal gangs. Indonesia urged rich countries to reduce demand for illegal supplies by requiring proper certificates showing wood had come from properly managed forests.

But industry lobbyists in the US have resisted moves to certify timber. A US state department memo leaked to the BBC's Newsnight shows the US will refuse to sign up to the Benn initiative.

The state department head of forest policy, Stephanie Caswell, drafted a strategy in January designed to scupper the Benn plan, an "Input to strategy paper for G8 environment and development ministerial". Under what she described as "watch out items" is timber procurement. She said that "new import regulations/restrictions are unacceptable. We do not support issuance of 'action plan' by ministers. It should not be highlighted." The paper adds that the "US will work with Canada to hold back procurement actions and with Russia and Japan to dissuade them from supporting UK".

A state department spokesman said the paper was genuine, but said it was never formally accepted as US strategy. He confirmed that the US had reservations over proposals for new rules on timber procurement in America, but insisted that in this week's negotiations the US would allow other G8 partners to decide whether to support Mr Benn's scheme.

He said the US "might have had some discussions with Japan on the fringes of meetings about the issue" in G8 preparatory meetings, but said the Japanese would make up their own minds.

Europe is strongly backing Mr Benn's initiative, and the US tactics drew a furious response from rainforest campaigners. Faith Doherty of the Environmental Investigation Agency in the UK said: "This is outrageous. US business simply doesn't want any restrictions on its own practices."

Japan's foreign ministry told Newsnight that its position was much closer to the UK than to the US. It is understood that Russia is also lining up with the Europeans.

Agus Setyarso, an Indonesian expert on forests who works with Mr Benn's department, said the Indonesian government could not contain the organised crime rings carrying out the illegal logging without help.

"The problem cannot be attacked from within the country, but from the market side," he said. "What we are asking from developed countries is twofold. One is to stop buying illegal timber from producer countries. The second is to help us in bringing back the systems in our country in such a way that the market and the law enforcement can be back to normal."

A spokesman for Mr Benn's department said it did not comment on leaked memos, and negotiations over the statement for the end of the G8 meeting were continuing. Privately, however, officials were said to be angry at the US's refusal to join international efforts.

Other observers feel the state department's position is driven by ideology. Forest campaigners say the US position is a serious blow, because if all the G8 nations signed up to the Benn plan it would guarantee a substantial proportion of world timber was properly produced and send a clear signal to companies and exporting nations.

In an echo of the debate over climate change, the US is sceptical about G8 timber policies because China is a huge importer of stolen timber. Campaigners say China is unlikely to change unless rich countries put their house in order.

Saving the forests, Society, page 14

Russia pays £5m to informants who betrayed Maskhadov

Fondazione Alfred Lewin

Tom Parfitt in Moscow

Russia announced yesterday it had paid out $10m (£5m) to informants who helped track down the rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov, who was killed by Russian forces on Saturday.

Mr Maskhadov was shot dead in a village near the Chechen capital Grozny after his satellite phone was tracked by Russian intelligence. He was the most prominent separatist leader to be killed since the start of the second Chechen war in 1999.

Russia's FSB security service said the money was paid to "citizens who helped in the operation to liquidate Maskhadov". It said the payments were made in accordance with a presidential decree signed in 2003.

The FSB said the informants were close to Shamil Basayev, the radical warlord who is Russia's most wanted man, to give him the slip. Basayev masterminded the Beslan school siege in September, for which Basayev later claimed responsibility. More than 330 people died in the siege, including 186 children.

The FSB said the informants had been "working for a long time" to help track down Maskhadov. They had been in contact with the rebel leader's bodyguards and had passed on information about his movements.

The FSB said the money was shared between several people, including fighters who were captured in a rebel base in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt. Maskhadov was killed after he was surrounded in a basement of a house.

Mr Shabalkin said that the FSB was prepared to relocate the people who gave information to another region of Russia or to another country.

The FSB says Maskhadov was killed by grenades thrown into the basement. But Chechen rebels have claimed he was killed by a single shot to the head. Mr Shabalkin admitted this was a "joke".

The killing of Maskhadov, one of Russia's most wanted men, was seen as a victory for

ratist leader, Aslan Maskhadov, killed by special forces earlier this month.

The Moscow-backed administration in Chechnya said it was convinced the payment would persuade somebody forest or mountains he is in," the Moscow-based Chechen president, Alu Alkhanov, told Interfax.

A £5.2m bounty was offered for each of the two rebel leaders days after the end of the

blamed Maskhadov for the siege, although he denied involvement.

Ilya Shabalkin, chief spokesman for Russian forces in the north Caucasus, said the reward for locating Mas-

but the FSB [Federal Security Bureau] has fulfilled its promise and paid it," he said.

Maskhadov was killed in the village of Tolstoy Yurt, near Grozny, on March 8, after Russian special forces sur-

armed protection.

The FSB confirmed the payment, but would not provide details about who gave the tip-off. "They have received the money, but their identity will not be officially announced," a spokesman said. The FSB was

about the exact circumstances of his final moments.

The deputy prime minister of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, initially suggested he had been shot by mistake by a careless bodyguard, but later

lack of wounds on his body and suggested he was killed elsewhere.

But Mr Alkhanov dismissed the speculation yesterday, saying there was "no reason to falsify the circumstances of [Maskhadov's] liquidation".

Chechnya.

Maskhadov and other rebel leaders appeared able to move about fairly freely in the region, where they boast of a large network of collaborators.

guardian.co.uk/russia

Police kill 22 in end to Manila jail siege

Stuart Grudgings in Manila

Police in the Philippines shot dead 22 prisoners as they stormed a Manila jail yesterday to end a 24-hour stand-off with Islamist militant suspects.

One police officer was killed and six wounded in the morning assault after troops fired tear gas and scaled the walls of the four-storey building before overpowering the inmates.

The government, embarrassed by the latest in a series of prison security lapses, hailed its security forces for killing three militant leaders suspected of high-profile kidnappings of foreign tourists in 2000 and 2001.

But the assault drew a quick threat of retaliation from the Abu Sayyaf group, which has carried out a series of bomb attacks in the Philippines.

"This operation showered with the blood of our brothers will become like vitamins to us," a rebel spokesman, Abu Solaiman, said in a statement sent to the religious television network Net25. "We will bring the war to Manila. That we promise."

The group claimed responsibility for three bombings last month in Manila and southern Mindanao island, which killed 13 people and were seen as an attempt to relieve military pressure on rebels fighting soldiers in a remote southern island. Despite years of training and on-the-ground advice by US special forces, the government has failed to wipe out the small Abu Sayyaf group.

More than 400 prisoners, including 129 suspected Islamist militants, were being held in the building. Police said a core of about 10 Abu Sayyaf members carried out the uprising, in which the prisoners snatched a gun and shot dead three guards.

A police video taken after the assault and broadcast on local television showed several Abu Sayyaf suspects dead on the prison floor with bullet wounds. "Terrorism will never win in the Philippines," President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said in a statement.

The Manila police chief, Avelino Razon, said police had received intelligence reports last December that Abu Sayyaf suspects might be planning a jailbreak.

The government said at first that it had agreed to the prison rebels' demands, including speeding up long-delayed trials. But the talks broke down on Monday night when the militants demanded food and refused to give up their weapons.

Police said they had recovered eight guns in the prison after the assault. The uprising came 11 months after a mass escape from a prison on Basilan island. *Reuters*

In brief

Kosovo leader escapes blast

Kosovo President Ibrahim Rugova escaped unhurt yesterday when a bomb hidden in a metal rubbish container exploded as he drove past in the province's capital, Pristina. *Reuters, Pristina*

Suicide bomb plotter jailed

A Paris court yesterday jailed Algerian Djamel Beghal, 39, for 10 years for organising a suicide bomb attack on the US embassy. Beghal claimed his confession was obtained under torture in Dubai in 2001. *AP, Paris*

Somali village raid kills 22

Twenty-two people, mainly women and children, were killed in their beds when rival ethnic Somali armed clansmen attacked a village before dawn in Mandera, north-eastern Kenya, yesterday. *AP, Nairobi*

Fish have no rights to sue

Japanese residents in the Isahaya Bay wetlands, southern Japan, lost their battle against land reclamation yesterday when the court ruled that mudskipper fish, fiddler crabs and Dunlin birds had no rights to bring cases to court. *AP, Tokyo*

Ghost writers arrested

Malawi police held two journalists of the Nation newspaper and a government official over reports President Bingu wa Mutharika left his mansion because of fears it was haunted. *Reuters, Blantyre*

Warning over vitamin E

Large doses of vitamin E do not protect against heart attacks or cancer and might raise the heart failure risk in people with diabetes or clogged arteries, a study has found. *AP, Chicago*

Israel returns looted drawing

The Israel museum has returned the Degas drawing Four Nude Female Dancers Resting, looted by the Nazis, to its Dutch owners. *AP, Jerusalem*

Advertisement

Test proves Platinum Catalyst Device reduced petrol consumption

10% to 22% Road Test - 7.83% at 70km/h ECE 1504 Cycle Test

LONDON – Emissions Technology has introduced a low cost patented car accessory called the "Ctech-3000." (www.ctech3000.com)

This accessory reduces fuel costs, increases horsepower, and reduces exhaust emissions significantly.

With a simple connection to the engine vacuum line, the "ctech-3000" adds microscopic amounts of platinum directly into the air-fuel mixture of the engine.

Laboratory testing has shown that platinum allows non-burning fuel to burn and that a vast portion of each litre of petrol leaves the average engine unburnt.

Since unburnt fuel is pollution, this unused portion of petrol normally burns when it reaches the platinum of the catalytic converter.

Unfortunately, the converter's platinum burns this fuel in the tailpipe, where the heat and energy produced from this petrol cannot be harnessed to drive your car.

However, when platinum is introduced into the engine, more of each litre can now be burnt inside the engine by adding microscopic amounts of platinum catalyst to the air-fuel mixture. This means that fewer litres of petrol are required to drive the same distance.

After three months of testing the "Ctech-3000" on a Vauxhall Vectra the 'Sunday People' reports Tested: 'It works. Any driver concerned about the rising petrol costs – should have one. It's worth its weight in gold.'

Extensive research on the "Ctech-3000" technology was undertaken by the University of Kentucky and Leeds University. Says Dr Griffiths, BSc, Phd, Cchem, FRSC, MICorr. "This is a genuine breakthrough in combustion technology and should help to appease the many sceptics who put down fuel efficient technologies, without either trying them, looking at the science, or viewing test result.

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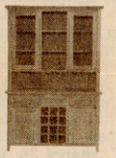
TV stand solid oak ~~£375~~ **£295**



Solid oak bed (excl. mattress) **plus two 3 drawer cabinets and 7 drawer chest** Individually priced ~~£1548~~ Sale ~~£1216~~ **Superdeal £995**



Hampshire solid oak 1400 extending dining table plus 6 oak chairs with leather seats Individually priced ~~£1417~~ Sale ~~£1069~~ **Superdeal £895**



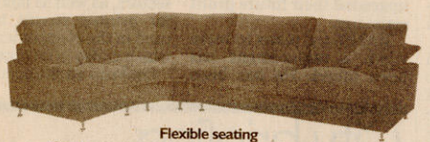
Finchley dresser solid oak ~~£1300~~ **£990**



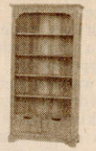
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