

# The Boston Globe

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## Cohen describes deal at Oval Office

Testifies 'retainer' checks were reimbursement by Trump for paying off Daniels

By Ben Protess, Jonah E. Bromwich, and Maggie Haberman

NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK — Little more than two weeks into Donald Trump's presidency, he and his personal lawyer met in the Oval Office for a private conversation about money.

"I was sitting with President Trump and he asked me if I was OK," the lawyer, Michael Cohen, recalled Tuesday from the witness stand at Trump's criminal trial. "He asked me if I needed money," and volunteered that a check would be forthcoming, Cohen added.

When monthly checks started arriving — most bearing Trump's signature — they disguised the nature of the payments, Cohen testified. The stubs described the checks as part of a legal "retainer" agreement, but they were in fact reimbursements for hush money that Cohen had paid to silence a porn actor's story of sex with Trump. Cohen said that Trump was present when a plan to fictionalize the records was cooked up weeks earlier in New York.

The testimony marked a pivotal moment for prosecutors. They charged Trump with falsifying the checks and other records, and Cohen's recounting drove those accusations home. It offered the jury its first and only personal account tying the former president to the documents at the crux of his case.

Trump has denied the allegations and the sex, **COHEN, Page A6**

## In Rome, Healey pitches business leaders on Mass.

By Samantha J. Gross

GLOBE STAFF

ROME — Governor Maura Healey posted a video on X Tuesday afternoon, standing in front of the Vatican with a big smile to announce her arrival at a week-long summit with global leaders, framed as a mission for the fate of the climate.

Hours earlier, however, she was in a sleek conference room on the eighth floor of the Rome offices of KPMG to focus on another top priority: economic competitiveness.

In the distance, through the office windows and beyond a well-manicured roof deck, the dome of St. Peter's Basilica shone.

"We are so delighted to see the office here in Rome," Healey said to two dozen suit-clad business leaders and consultants, before launching into her pitch of why they should do business in Massachusetts.

The KPMG meeting precedes the governor's week-long list of appearances at the Vatican Climate Summit, cohosted by the UMass Foundation.

The conference also provides the backdrop for Boston Mayor Michelle Wu's first overseas trip since taking office 2½ years ago. She is the only American mayor attending the conference, which puts an international spotlight on a first-term mayor who ran on a platform of climate initiatives meant to make Boston "the greenest city in America."

Wu is slated to make several appearances, including an address that aides say will highlight Boston's leadership on climate using finance, green jobs training, energy retrofits, clean energy, and public health.

**HEALEY, Page A7**

## HARVARD PROTESTERS PACK UP THE LAST CAMP

Vote to quietly shut it down after school offers to continue a dialogue

By John Hilliard, Nick Stoico, and Hilary Burns

GLOBE STAFF

and Maddie Khaw

GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

CAMBRIDGE — The last of the student protest encampments in the Boston area came down quietly Tuesday, ending a tense period of demonstrations over Israel's handling of its war

against Hamas that roiled college campuses, disrupted commencement celebrations, and triggered hundreds of arrests.

Nearly three weeks after setting up camp inside Harvard Yard, the student coalition Harvard Out of Occupied Palestine said its members voted Monday to close down its encampment after the university agreed to

continue dialogue with protesters and expedite reinstatement procedures for more than 20 suspended students.

The decision to wind down the encampment also comes as many students have left campus with the academic year drawing to a close. And unlike some campus encampments in the United States that ended with scenes of

police in body armor confronting and arresting demonstrators, the Harvard protest ended peacefully as protesters spent much of Tuesday packing up their gear.

"The encampment is not the start or the end of our solidarity with Palestine," the students said in a statement. "It is clear to us

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JOSH REYNOLDS FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

On Tuesday morning, members of the encampment pulled their tents down after about three weeks on Harvard Yard.

## Interim president successfully walks a fine line

By Hilary Burns

GLOBE STAFF

It would not be quite right to say that anyone won the battle of Harvard Yard. But Alan M. Garber, the interim president of the university, has survived it — for now.

Protesters were exiting the yard Tuesday after about three weeks of camping out, and they'll likely be reinstated soon as students. School leaders have agreed to meet to discuss the university's investment practices, but

Garber has told them Harvard will not divest from Israel. Preparations for commencement can move forward, to the relief of thousands with plane tickets and hotel reservations.

Garber outlasted the protesters, and did so without calling in police or using over-the-top rhetoric to shame student demonstrators. It's a best-case scenario in one of the grimmest academic years in Harvard's recent history — and, surely, in Garber's career. Some think this test of his leadership has

proven his mettle to stay on permanently as president.

"I suspect it reinforces Alan's approach to conflict," said Barbara McNeil, a Harvard Medical School professor, radiologist, and longtime friend of Garber. She described him as even-handed, calm, logical, with the "ability to think about downstream consequences."

The secretive Harvard Corporation, the school's top governing board, has yet to as-

**GARBER, Page A8**

## Growing overly attached as plants take over your house

By Beth Teitell

GLOBE STAFF

Sarah Connor was recounting her evolution from a person with no plants to someone who lives with so many that it looks like she somehow moved into a greenhouse, and she had just revealed that she gazes at pictures of her "babies" when she's away, when she stopped herself.

"I realize now how crazy I sound," she said. And that wasn't even the half of it.

We'll return to Connor, a nurse who worked in the ICU at Mass. General during COVID, but first let's acknowledge a truth:

Houseplants are calming, everyone knows that. But as some people also come to learn — perhaps after

frantically scouring their entire collection, one by one, through a magnifying lens, certain they saw a pest — plants can do a number on your psyche.

Weslie Pierre technically the founder of Wesleaf Designs and Decor, but actually a plant therapist, or a therapist for people with plants, put it plainly: Plants can make people get emotional, she said, drawing out her words. "Super . . . duper . . . emotional."

What? How do plants cause anxiety? They seem like the ideal companions. Alive but mute. House trained. Growing, but never quite old enough to borrow the car.

But just because they don't speak

**PLANTS, Page A7**



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Sarah Connor, shown with her partner, Jeremy Laporte, and their animals, wasn't always so big on plants.



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF

## BRUINS START CLIMBING OUT OF DEEP HOLE

In a game they had to have, Boston shut down the Panthers in a 2-1 Game 5 win in Florida. They'll be back in Boston on Friday night, now trailing the series 3-2. **C1.**

A settlement was reached in a sexual harassment lawsuit against the City of Boston and former city health chief Felix G. Arroyo. **B1.**

After 27 years on North Beacon Street, Grasshopper, an Asian vegan restaurant, is closing its doors. Devra First couldn't resist a final visit. **G1.**

Both Boston Public Schools and Massachusetts reported slight drops in graduation rates from the historic highs of last year. **B1.**

Israeli airstrikes overnight killed dozens of people at a family home and a school in the central Gaza Strip, local residents said. **A3.**

## Another shady deal

**Wednesday:** Overcast, cooler. High 68-73. Low 54-59.

**Thursday:** A few sprinkles. High 60-65. Low 49-54.

Sunrise: 5:22 Sunset: 7:59

**Weather and Comics, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.**

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