JOHN HARVARD’S JOURNAL

Yesterday’s News
From the pages of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin and Harvard Magazine

1926 After closing the Memorial Hall commons because of students’ “unsociable fashion of ‘eating round’ at cafeterias and lunch counters,” President Lowell writes a letter to the Crimson challenging undergraduates to enter a prize-essay contest “...on the feeding of undergraduates” to help “remedy the most unsatisfactory condition in the social life of the University.” The president laments that “[the students] are not aware of the pleasant hours, the interesting talk, and the lifelong friendships that come from the club tables of former times.”

1931 A new rule is announced regarding “the entertainment of women in Harvard Houses”: written permission must be obtained from the House master or senior tutor 24 hours prior to the visit—unless the visitors are mothers or sisters.

The Harvard Athletic Association reports an annual income of more than $1 million, mostly generated from football games. The Bulletin’s editors warn, “So long as intercollegiate football is a million-dollar business, it is bound to seem correspondingly important. In helping to create this illusion, institutions of higher education are denying their own profession and working against the very purpose to which they are dedicated.”

1936 The idea of an intercollegiate competitive athletic league, the “Ivy League,” is proposed. The editors suggest the league might have the effect of “quickening enthusiasm for football among the undergraduates” and “would in fact give football added impetus.”

1941 Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, nearly 6,000 students, faculty, and employees pack Sanders Theatre and stand outside Memorial Church to hear President Conant promise to use all Harvard resources “to help insure a speedy and complete victory.”

1946 The Law School hires its first female faculty member, Soia Mentschikoff, as a visiting professor. The Bulletin editors note, however, that “students in the Harvard Law School always have been, are now, and (in the immediately foreseeable future) will continue to be Men Only.”

1956 The new Radcliffe Graduate Center, across the Common and on the far side of Brattle Street, is dedicated on November 3 with “ambassadorial representatives from 34 countries.”

1961 An Office of Latin American Studies is established to foster increased research at Harvard on Latin American issues.

A University-wide committee has been appointed to investigate “what action, if any, the University should take to meet the possibility of physical injury or damage from fire or fall-out in the event of nuclear attack.”

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences votes to admit women directly to the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences should Radcliffe College decide to cease admitting graduate students.

1966 Stokely Carmichael, national chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, addresses 800 people in Sanders Theatre.

1971 Newly installed President Bok and nine members of his staff accept a challenge from the Crimson to play a game of six-man touch football. The game ends in a 6-6 tie, but the Crimson, note the Bulletin’s editors, claims to have triumphed by a score of 23-2.

Debra Brown Allen writes, “We’ve moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, where my husband, Mike, is assistant professor at Stetson University College of Law. I am at home with our son, Benjamin, who turned two in October. We would love to hear from any classmates in the area: dalllen2@tamhillonline.com.”

Born to Mike Blanchfield and Beatrice Tsao, a daughter, Anna, on April 13 in Schenectady, N.Y. Beatrice writes, “Son James (3) is thrilled with her. As Mark is running for city council, both children are making their share of campaign appearances at street fairs, church socials, union halls, and the doorsteps of the Electric City. I keep busy juggling my ob/gyn practice and our lively household.”

Married: Marilyn Richtarik and Matt Bolch (Middle Tennessee State ’87) on May 12 in Atlanta. “Members of the class in attendance included Lisa Gordin, Phil Daly, Chris Avery, and Amy Spater Paulson, who was my matron of honor. We are settled in Atlanta, where I am an associate professor of English at Georgia State University. Matt has a son named Walker (6). I’d be happy to hear from friends at engnjo@panther.gsu.edu.”

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Roberta Feldman Brzezinski reports that her husband, Matthew Brzezinski, has a new book out, Casino Moscow: A Tale of Greed and Adventure on Capital’s Wildest Frontier (Free Press). “I lived there, too, and am a character in the book; you may also recognize a number of other Harvard types who were in Russia at the same time, looking for fame and fortune.”

Allison Charney will sing the leading soprano role in a performance of Franco Alfano’s opera Risurrezione at Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center on November 30. The production, by Teatro Grattacielo, also features Joshua Benaim ’97 singing the lead baritone role and two smaller parts. The opera, based on the Tolstoy novel Resurrection, is a tour de force for sopranos because it makes unusual vocal and dramatic demands on the singer.