

African American studies, and Barbara J. Grosz, Higgins professor of natural sciences, endorsed Summers's "welcome commitment" in appointing them on February 3 to chair task forces on women faculty and on women in science, respectively (see "Tenure Task Forces," page 67), and said the Board of Overseers had pledged to review the results of their work.

Grosz—a specialist in computer sciences, a notoriously lonely field for women in academia—has worked on issues of equity for women in science and engineering during three Harvard presidencies. She silenced the room by telling the president, "I must report, with regret, that arguments...about your talk in mid-January...are creating a climate of distrust.... There are voices among the faculty at Harvard and elsewhere in this nation that, drawing on conservative biases and without first-hand knowledge of what you actually said...argue that Harvard is engaged in yet another instance of political correctness placing limits on freedom of speech and inquiry in the university. There are continuing attacks on women scientists, attributing to them arguments they have not made and attitudes they do not have.... We cannot have honest intellectual discussion of your points and the evidence you provided for them so long as neither is accurately known." Declaring herself shocked by the "continuing backlash against women scientists," Grosz said, "The work of the task forces will be hampered and the reputation of Harvard as an institution that values free and open discussion will be diminished until the air is cleared." Therefore, "I ask, respectfully, that you make the transcript of your remarks public...."

Summers responded that he would consider Grosz's request "very seriously."

The next speaker, Theda Skocpol, Thomas professor of government and sociology, suggested that, "By supposedly apologizing, but not releasing his remarks, the president is going along with the campaigns to smear his critics and his own University."

She asked what her colleagues would do to "address the broader crisis of trust, governance, and leadership of which this episode and its manipulative handling so far are but one instance." Her bill of particulars included treatment of professors

HARVARD PORTRAIT



Jacqueline Bhabha

EVEN AS A NEWBORN in Bombay in 1951, Jacqueline Bhabha was involved in refugee issues: her parents were German Jews who fled Nazism. "I'm an activist at heart," she declares, but Bhabha is also a lawyer, scholar, and executive director of the University Committee on Human Rights Studies. She teaches international refugee law at the Law School, and offers a freshman seminar and Kennedy School courses on human rights. In 2000 she launched Scholars at Risk, a program that helps academics facing persecution find temporary (usually one-year) safe havens in American universities. Much of Bhabha's current legal work aims to expand the scope of international refugee law to encompass the persecution of children. "These laws were framed by adults, for adults," she explains. She's haunted by the memory of an orphanage in India, where she saw children who had been maimed by their parents to increase their effectiveness as beggars. Her next book will explore the plight of children who cross international borders without parents or guardians, such as victims of child trafficking. Bhabha, who speaks six languages, grew up in Bombay until she was 10, when her family moved to Milan and she "became an Italian kid." Next she matriculated at Bedales, a British boarding school, and Oxford, where she earned a first and met her husband, Homi Bhabha, now Rothenberg professor of English and American literature and language. The couple moved from Oxford to the University of Chicago in 1994, then came to Harvard in 2001. Bhabha enjoys tennis, swimming, and especially their three children who, whenever possible, like to cite their parents for "human-rights violations" at home.