most interesting questions—and most difficult problems—in academic life are to be found at the interface between fields.

If anything, we could use a bit more indecision among Harvard’s humanists. At a time when only 13 percent of humanities concentrators take a non-Core course in the sciences, while 40 percent of science concentrators take non-Core courses in the humanities (for the social sciences, that’s 17 percent and 60 percent, respectively), the “Two Cultures” are as alive today as they were 40 years ago. Bridging them has become more important than ever. “Science—taken broadly—has extended its own reach,” says Mendelsohn, from infectious disease research to genomics and neuroscience, and never has it been more important for philosophers, political scientists, and sociologists together to confront its challenges and solve its enigmas. The interdisciplinary work of indecisive undergraduates, I can only hope, will be of some worth in that effort.

As for me, I suppose I’ve settled on a field of study. It took two years of furtive drive-breaking interceptions and three quarterback sacks.

The passing game shapes up as the offense’s long suit. Senior quarterback Liam O’Hagan, who had a fine sophomore season but struggled last year, was back in form at Holy Cross. He completed 19 of 30 passes for 264 yards and three scoring passes to Holy Cross—still looked porous in the first half of the Brown game, but then regrouped and helped lock up the victory with three Randolph uncorked a 40-yard touchdown pass to pull out a win with just 19 seconds to play. The Crimson defense—which yielded 492 yards in total offense and three scoring passes to Holy Cross—still looked porous in the first half of the Brown game, but then regrouped and helped lock up the victory with three

**SPORTS**

**Lights! Camera! Action!**

_Night football comes to the Stadium._

It’s now 104 years old, but after a three-stage, $5-million makeover, Harvard Stadium may be one of the nation’s best-equipped college football venues. First came synthetic turf, rolled out before the 2006 season. After the season came a removable protective bubble, allowing year-round use of the playing field. Then came floodlights.

After 651 home games at the Stadium—under a wide variety of atmospheric conditions, but always with natural light—Harvard played at night for the first time on September 22. Saturday night lights seemed to have a photo-voltaic effect on the Crimson grid-ders, who defeated an equally charged-up Brown squad, 24-17, in the Ivy League opener for both teams. A loud crowd of 18,898, with a larger-than-normal cadre of students, shared in the nocturnal excitement. Not since October 1993 has a home game against a team other than Yale lured so many spectators.

Harvard had started its season at Holy Cross the week before, absorbing a painful 31-28 loss when Crusader quarterback Dominic Randolph uncorked a 40-yard touchdown pass to pull out a win with just 19 seconds to play. The Crimson defense—which yielded 492 yards in total offense and three scoring passes to Holy Cross—still looked porous in the first half of the Brown game, but then regrouped and helped lock up the victory with three

For many squad members, Harvard’s first night game brought back the exhilaration of playing under lights in high school. “This is our star treatment,” said one. “This is a treat, it’s a blessing.”
after his catch, but was ruled out of bounds at the 5-yard line. Three plays later, with 58 seconds remaining in the half, O’Hagan squirmed into the end zone to put Harvard ahead again, 21-17.

When a hard hit sent O’Hagan to the sideline early in the third period, senior Chris Pizzotti replaced him. In the final period Pizzotti deftly directed a 70-yard drive, finished off by sophomore Patrick Long’s 23-yard field goal. With Harvard leading by seven points and just over three minutes to play, the Crimson’s blitzing defense—led by end and captain Brad Bagdis and junior linebackers Glenn Dorris and Peter Ajayi—did the rest. Senior cornerback Steven Williams had two of the team’s three late-game interceptions, with sophomore cornerback Derrick Barker snaring the other.

The win was Harvard’s eighth in a row over Brown, and its 77th in a rivalry that began in 1893—just one year after Mansfield (Pennsylvania) State Normal School and Wyoming Seminary faced each other in football’s first night game.

Tidbits. The loss to Holy Cross was Harvard’s first opening-day defeat since 2000, when the Crusaders prevailed at the Stadium, 27-25. The Crimson’s other Patriot League rivals also pinned opening-day defeats on Ivy opponents, as Lehigh beat Princeton, 32-21, and league champion Lafayette edged Penn, 8-7. Yale—strongly favored in a preseason media poll to win this year’s Ivy title—downed George-town, 28-14, with halfback Mike McLeod scoring the Eli’s four touchdowns...Penn, Harvard, and Princeton, in that order, trailed Yale in the preseason balloting.

Ouch: Despite a dominating defensive performance and a second-half comeback by the offense, Harvard was burned at the buzzer again in the season’s third game, a 20-13 loss at Lehigh. After a third-period shoulder injury put O’Hagan out of commission, Pizzotti came on to lead a 96-yard drive that tied the score at 13-13. But two late-game rallies died when the Lehigh defense blocked a 27-yard field-goal try and then forced a fumble as Pizzotti attempted to pass at midfield, running back the loose ball for a 27-yard touchdown with 30 seconds to play...Harvard’s stalwart defense stopped all of Lehigh’s 11 third-down conversion tries and did not allow an offensive touchdown. The Mountain Hawks’ earlier scores came on a 54-yard punt return and a pair of field goals.

Airing it out: A Harvard quarterback has some first-rate receivers to throw to. They include Mazza, a fifth-year senior who missed most of the 2005 season with an ankle injury, and senior Matt Lagace, junior Alex Breaux, and sophomores Matt Luft and Mike Cook...Mazza started the season with career totals of 1,994 receiving yards and 21 touchdown catches, second only to the all-time Harvard marks set by all-American Carl Morris ’03.

Quick study: When sophomore tailback Kai-Cheng Ho came to the United States from Taiwan at the age of 12, he did not speak English and had never played football. Yet he graduated from high school in Evans, Georgia, as co-salutatorian of his class and a four-year letter-winner in football, basketball, and track. Ho made his first varsity start at Holy Cross and had a 116-yard rushing day, including a dramatic broken-field touchdown run of 47 yards that put Harvard ahead in the second half.

Multi-talented: Senior Noah Van Niel, a two-year starter at fullback, is a man of parts. Besides blocking, rushing, catching passes (five in the Brown game), and long-snapping for the punting unit, he’s president of the Dunster House Opera Society; has sung tenor roles with that group, with the Lowell House Opera, and with Harvard’s Gilbert and Sullivan Players; and, as a Phillips Brooks House volunteer, has taught English as a second language to inner-city Boston youths. An English concentrator, Van Niel plans an independent study on the treatment of infidelity in Mozart’s Così fan tutte, Don Giovanni, and Le nozze di Figaro. He means to pursue a singing career after graduation.

Where are they now? This year’s team
can’t help missing four-time all-Ivy tailback Clifton Dawson ’07, who set new league rushing records a year ago (see “Dawson by the Numbers,” January-February, page 75). At last report, Dawson was on the roster of the National Football League’s Indianapolis Colts. He’d signed with the Colts as a free agent in May, but was later released and claimed by the Cincinnati Bengals. Released once again, he was re-signed by the Colts....Former teammate Ryan Fitzpatrick ’05, after two seasons of reserve duty with the St. Louis Rams, is now the backup quarterback of the Bengals.

Let there be light(s): To preserve the Stadium’s classic contours, the new banks of lights were integrated with existing fencing on top of the colonnade. Athletics Department officials say the lights were installed primarily to illuminate late-afternoon practices and allow off-peak use of the field by club, intramural, and intercollegiate teams, and that the football team will play no more than one early-fall night game in future seasons....Four other Ivy schools—Columbia, Cornell, Penn, and Princeton—have stadium lighting, but only the last two play night games on a regular basis.

Polo Renaissance

Yes, there was one gleaming black Bentley (but only one) parked on the greensward at Myopia Hunt Club in South Hamilton, Massachusetts. True, some elegant tailgating went on nearby, with white wines, goat cheese, and even beautiful flower arrangements set up on card tables. But the spectators who came for the exhibition polo match, pitting the Harvard Polo Club’s men’s and women’s teams against Myopia on a spectacular September Sunday afternoon, made up a relaxed and decidedly casual bunch. “Polo has the image of being a ‘Great Gatsby’ sport, and it markets that image,” says Crocker Snow Jr. ’61, a lifelong polo enthusiast who played that afternoon and coaches the Harvard men’s team. “But it isn’t that—it’s a dungaree sport. It involves the care, feeding, and training of horses, and practicing on them. Do you it all in dungarees.”

Indeed, Snow’s wife, Cissie Jones Snow, who mentors the Crimson women’s team, adds that a bona fide “white breeches” game (polo players wear white riding breeches in competition) is a serious event indeed: “It’s like putting on your uniform to go to war.” Harvard’s mounted warriors fared well at Myopia—so named because its five founders were all shortsighted—winning, 7-5, after six seven-and-a-half-minute “chukkers” (periods of play). The match benefited the recently revived Harvard Polo Club, and certain rules were relaxed, like those about mixing genders: the men played four chukkers and the women two. One of Snow’s polo-playing sons, Harvard captain and star player Nick Snow ’09, dominated the field, scoring five of his team’s seven goals.

The week before, seven Harvard players of varied skill spent five days training at the 6,000-acre ranch in San Saba, Texas, owned by Tommy Lee Jones ’69. Film star Jones is an avid polo player who sponsors the high-level San Saba pro polo team. He told the undergraduates he had invited them because he knew that Harvard students could learn quickly, so even a five-day session would pay off. It was polo boot camp: breakfast at 6:30 a.m. for both horses and riders, who were tacked and ready to play from 8:00 a.m. until noon; a midday strategy and rule session, followed by more polo from 3:30 p.m. until darkness. “It was pretty intense,” says Meera Atreya ’09, a dressage rider before taking up polo. “Those polo ponies were the best horses I’ve been on—they had very soft mouths [were highly responsive].” Toward the end, Harvard scrimmaged with and upset the 2006 national champions, Texas Tech, 10-8, in an arena match, vindicating Jones’s confidence; he invited the Harvard riders to return for two or three weeks next year.

Polo is an ancient sport, played in Persia as a form of cavalry training perhaps as early as the sixth century B.C. At Harvard, polo clubs have come and gone during the last century. Crimson riders won national championships in 1929 and 1933; the most recent active period ran from 1991 to 1993. The current revival, spearheaded by the Snow family (Nick Snow led the charge last year, in response to interest from Extension School student Michael Svetzka), involves about 15 undergraduates, nearly half of them women recruited from the Harvard Equestrian Club. Last fall Harvard took on the Universities of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Virginia, competed in a regional tournament at Cornell, and beat Yale.

Intercollegiate polo—30 American col-