The Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra formally celebrates its bicentennial locally during Arts First weekend, joining the Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus for a performance of Brahms’s German Requiem on May 2, and overseas with a “200th Anniversary Season Tour to Korea” on June 12-19 (see www.hcs.harvard.edu/~hro).

Richard Dyer, A.M. ’64, wrote about classical music for the Boston Globe for 33 years.

**Off the Shelf**

**Recent books with Harvard connections**

**Yeltsin: A Life,** by Timothy J. Colton, Feldberg professor of government and Russian studies (Basic Books, $35). A monumental biography of the flawed, but democratic, Russian president.

**Mean and Lowly Things: Snakes, Science, and Survival in the Congo,** by Kate Jackson, Ph.D. ’02 (Harvard, $27.95). A journal from an amphibian- and reptile-collecting expedition in swamp forests, sans antivenom (no refrigeration). The author was profiled in this magazine’s March-April 2006 issue.

**Life in the Balance,** by Thomas Graboys, clinical professor of medicine, and Peter Zheutlin (Union Square Press, $19.95). Graboys, a cardiologist, recounts his life with Parkinson’s disease and dementia—when the “rush of feeling able-bodied” comes only in dreams.

**Richard Rorty: The Making of an American Philosopher,** by Neil Gross, assistant professor of sociology (University of Chicago, $32.50). An academic life and analysis of the controversial public philosopher, whose final illness last year kept him from receiving an honorary degree at the 2007 Commencement.

**Trespassers Will Be Baptized,** by Elizabeth Hancock ’00 (Center Street/Hachette, $21.99). Hancock, who grew up Baptist in eastern Ken-

**Who Owns Antiquity? Museums and the Battle over Our Ancient Heritage,** by James Cuno, Ph.D. ’85 (Princeton, $24.95, paper). Amid controversies over repatriation, the president of the Art Institute of Chicago, formerly director of the Harvard University Art Museums, addresses the “question of unprovenanced antiquities” and the issue of access to evidence of “the world’s common ancient heritage.”

**The Dismal Science,** by Stephen A. Marglin, Barker professor of economics (Har-
Anthony Lewis’s Freedom for the Thought That We Hate: A Biography of the First Amendment offers a lucid and engaging overview of American free-speech law. The former Nieman Fellow has twice won the Pulitzer Prize, and this volume puts the skills that earned him those accolades much on display. Again and again, he brings to life the dramatis personae in leading cases, plucks out moving or telling quotations, and explains who won and who lost in order to provide a clear introduction to First Amendment doctrine. Lewis ’48, NF ’57, styles the book “a biography.” In fact, it is more nearly a history in which unfolding events are presented as teaching by example—sometimes positive and sometimes negative example. He begins by sketching the hated traditions of British censorship against which the American ideals of free speech developed. By the late eighteenth century, various state constitutions included guarantees of freedom of the press. When the Constitution of the United States that emerged from the Philadelphia Convention contained no bill of rights, there was widespread sentiment that the omission needed to be rectified.  

The first Congress thus drafted and the states ratified a Bill of Rights, the First Amendment of which guarantees that “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” Interestingly, however, there is considerable uncertainty about what the Framers and ratifiers of the First Amendment understood it to protect. Accordingly, in Freedom for the Thought That We Hate, Lewis scrupulously avoids claiming that the “original understanding” of the First

Riding the Waves: A Life in Sound, Science, and Industry, by Leo Beranek, S.D. ’40, AMP ’65 (MIT, $24.95). The acoustical scientist and entrepreneur was involved in telephony, the Tanglewood Music Shed, and the precursor to the Internet.

The Fall and Rise of the Islamic State, by Noah Feldman, professor of law (Princeton, $22.95). After long reflection on constitutional change in the Islamic world, Feldman observes that “the Islamists continue to promise justice and the rule of law”—and that trying to deny them power will likely backfire.

Reagan’s Disciple, by Lou Cannon and Carl M. Cannon, a 2007 spring fellow at the Institute of Politics (Public Affairs, $27.95). A pair of political journalists, biographers of Ronald Reagan and Karl Rove, respectively, put the “troubled quest” of George W. Bush, M.B.A. ’75, “for a presidential legacy” in perspective. Reagan, they find, “was practical, in ways that George Bush was not.”


The Greatest Game: The Yankees, the Red Sox, and the Playoff of ’78, by Richard Bradley, A.M. ’90 (Free Press, $25). Some 257 pages, plus notes, on the moment of maximum baseball ecstasy (New York) and agony (Boston). Of course, that was then.

Santiago’s Children: What I Learned about Life at an Orphanage in Chile, by Steve Reifenberg (University of Texas, $55 hardcover, $24.95 paperback). The director of the Chile office of Harvard’s David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies recalls his life-changing work in an underclass orphanage during the political and economic traumas of the Pinochet dictatorship. Presley professor of social medicine Paul Farmer contributed the foreword.

In Reagan’s Disciple, a father-son team explores the way Bush 43 has sought to emulate not his father, but Bush 41’s predecessor instead.