Cambridge 02138

Climate change, China's gains, palliative care

ATHLETICS ANGLES

Anent the letter in the March-April issue (page 8) about football: should Harvard not take the lead in banning this dangerous sport? There is compelling evidence of lasting—and potentially lethal—psychological/neurological adverse sequelae following the repeated occult cerebral injuries incurred by the players. They are inevitable by the nature of the game.

GIULIO J. D'ANGOLO, M.D. ’45
Philadelphia

Editor’s note: For other views and news, see the next letter; the book review by for-

7 WARE STREET

On My Honor

Harvard undergraduates now have an honor code—spelling out expectations of integrity in their academic work, as legislated by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) last spring. This fall, they will have to “affirm their awareness” (emphasis added) of the code, but not take an oath to accept the values it embodies or conform to its standards—see harvardmag.com/honor code-15. (Whatever their position on the code’s merits, students are bound by its standards, much as they operate subject to civil and criminal law in the larger society.) Entering freshmen and sophomores will also write briefly about academic integrity.

The honor code, in the making since 2010 and given greater urgency during the lamentable events of 2012-2013, when more than 100 students were ensnared in an Administrative Board investigation of their behavior. At least one House master held forums to air the issues; presumably resident tutors, departmental leaders, and others did, too. But no community conversations for freewheeling discussion of academic expectations among professors and students were convened: by the administration, FAS, or even students themselves or their Undergraduate Council.

In choosing to direct so much of the discussion into formal channels (committee deliberations, faculty meetings, and legislation), an important teaching moment was lost. Such forums would have been risky, to be sure—but at worst, too few people would have attended. At best, the conversation could have been more organic, more vivid, and, in all likelihood, more meaningful for advancing a healthy College academic culture.

~JOHN S. ROSENBERG, Editor

Board of Incorporators

This magazine, at first called the Harvard Bulletin, was founded in 1898. Its Board of Incorporators was chartered in 1924 and remains active in the magazine's governance. The membership is as follows: Stephen J. Bailey, AMP ’94; Jeffrey S. Behrens ’83; William I. Bennett ’62, M.D. ’69; John T. Bethell ’54; Peter K. Bol, Fox Butterfield ’61, A.M. ’64; Sewell Chan ’98; Jonathan S. Cohn ’91; Philip M. Cronin ’55, J.D. ’56; John de Cuevas ’52; James F. Dwinnell III ’62; Anne Fadiman ’74; Benjamin M. Friedman ’66, Ph.D. ’71; Robert H. Giles, NF ’66; Richard H. Gilman, M.B.A. ’83; Owen Gingerich, Ph.D. ’62; Adam K. Goodheart ’92; Philip C. Haughey ’57; Brian R. Hecht ’52; Sarah Blaffer Hrdy ’68, Ph.D. ’75; Ellen Hume ’68; Alex S. Jones, NF ’82; Bill Kovach, NF ’83; Irene L. McCormack ’67; Margaret H. Marshall, Ed.M. ’79, Ed.D. ’77; Lisa L. Martin, Ph.D. ’90; David McClintick ’62; Winthrop Blier, Peter K. Bol, Jonathan L.S. Byrnes, D.B.A. ’80, Thomas F. Kelly, Ph.D. ’73, Lars Peter Knoth Madsen, Margaret H. Marshall, Ed.M. ’69, John P. Reardon Jr. ’60, Bryan E. Simmons ’83;

LETTERS

2 May - June 2015

Reprinted from Harvard Magazine. For more information, contact Harvard Magazine, Inc. at 617-495-5746
mer Harvard College dean Harry Lewis, page 65; and Brevia, page 27.

W.C. Dowling’s letter and Dick Friedman’s “amplification” about “walk-ons” prompts me to recount my own participation in Harvard basketball as an extreme case.

Though I had played the sport in city and YMCA leagues in Racine, Wisconsin, I had never even gone out for my high-school team. When the call came for tryouts for the Crimson freshman team in 1949 (freshmen were ineligible for varsity in those days), I signed up just for the exercise. I was baffled when I remained after each cut was made by Floyd Wilson, then freshman (and later, varsity) coach. He apparently saw something in me that I was not aware of—for I not only made first string but in our final game against the Yale freshmen I limited their star to 9 points and made 16 as high scorer in our win. Although I lettered the next three years, that was the high point of my college basketball career.

But subsequently I was a starter on a European U.S. military all-star team for an international tournament in Cap d’Antibes (Dean Smith of North Carolina fame was on the second five), and then was player-coach for many years on college faculty intramural teams. While I most value my Harvard years for their intellectual stimulation, I remain grateful for that athletic nurturing as well.

Forest Hansen ’53
Easton, Md.

CLIMATE-CHANGE EXCHANGE

While president Faust has wisely elected to be politically correct by using the words “climate change,” rather than the Al Gore tag of “global warming” (The View from Mass Hall, March-April, page 3), I wonder if she is displaying a lack of humility to Mother Nature in suggesting that, despite millions of years of highly variable climate change, there is “a role that research universities can play in combating climate change.”

F. Gregg Bemis Jr., M.B.A. ’54
Santa Fe

I was bemused, but not surprised, to see President Faust touting Harvard’s Center for Green Buildings and Cities as an approach to fighting climate change. Such a center presumably can’t hurt. But it certainly can’t help to have the most prestigious educational institution in the country steadfastly sticking to a course of investing in climate-destroying fossil fuels for profit. Faust has backed this course and has stone-walled the students who will have to live in the world created by climate change, refusing even to meet with them until it became a tactic to try to get them out of Massachusetts Hall.

Harvard and Faust are morally disgraced by this course. If the world behaves in a sane fashion and rapidly phases out fossil fuels, they will lose a lot of money as well.

Doug Burke ’67
Oak Park, Ill.

Alumni urging the University to divest fossil-fuel stocks have chosen the wrong target. Eighty-seven percent of the world’s energy is derived today from fossil fuels and divestment will not alter that. The path to effectively addressing climate change leads not to Cambridge but to Paris, where the global climate conference will be held in November.

Advocates claim that, regardless of global warming, retention of oil stocks is an Unwise investment. Harvard’s financial managers (and many other investors) disagree. Advocates point to recent oil-price declines, but this did not derive from falling demand (quite the contrary), but rather from additional production at shale formations in North Dakota and Texas. However, this additional production is unlikely to depress prices long term, since the additional three million barrels per day from U.S. shale is a tiny fraction of the 90 million barrels consumed daily worldwide.

Advocates further claim that the South African [divestment] experience is a useful precedent. However, the analogy is inapposite. South Africa, with less than 1 percent of the world’s population, was a rogue state conducting a violent racist regime that necessarily yielded to accepted moral standards. By contrast, the production and consumption of oil is the world’s largest enterprise, reaching into every country in the planet, conducted daily by...
reduce the supply of labor in most developing countries, so increased training and education will be needed to improve productivity and maintain competitiveness.

Finally, it is clearly true that China’s growing income and wealth inequality is causing some concern and resentment among the populace. President Xi Jinping’s attack on corruption among the elites is designed, in part, to defuse the issue. This is a delaying tactic that will do little to correct the trend. China, like the United States, may need to tackle this issue more directly through tools such as taxation, but it may also be that demographic trends will offer a correcting influence as labor becomes more scarce and more valuable and, possibly, capital will earn lower returns.

John Krafft, M.B.A. ’76
Lone Tree, Colo.

MOMENTOUS IMAGE
I have always considered the photo of the occupiers of University Hall (included in “His Own Decisive Moment,” March-April, page 61) to be striking as well as historic. Thus I was interested to learn of the post-1969 career of Tim Carlson, the photographer. I’ll submit one minor correction: the police bust took place in the morning, not in the nighttime. As a proctor in Weld Hall at the time, I witnessed the bust.

Joel Studebaker, Ph.D. ’71
Princeton, N.J.

Editor’s note: The police entered Harvard Yard just before sunrise—at 4:55 a.m. The use of “predawn” might have avoided confusion.

BUILDING BUDGETS
EGADS! The editorial in the March-April issue (“Bricks and Mortar,” page 2) implied that the expansion of the Kennedy School of Government, an institution dedicated to training our future public servants, will cost an astounding $1.500 per square foot. Surely there is no better argument for the need for a scalpel-wielding dean. Perhaps the magazine might solicit a future article from the appropriate University official in charge of capital projects to explain costs and financing in relation to scope and purpose, accompanied by a table outlining recent and near-future projects along with their costs per square foot (total and construction), size, type of construction (office, lab, etc.), new or renovation, and any qualifying comments. One way or the other, let us know the response.

Bon Cook ’68
Director emeritus, Arnold Arboretum
(1989-2009)
Brookline, Mass.

MATTERS OF DEGREES
The squib regarding the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg (“Brevia,” March-April, page 25) indicates that she graduated from Harvard Law School in 1959. That is not true. Ginsburg dropped out in 1957, following her first year. [Editor’s note: She transferred to Columbia Law School, when her husband took a job in New York.]

Academies understandably like to publicize luminaries among their graduates. However, by misrepresenting such an accomplishment, neither you nor Ginsburg honors our institution. HLS has less need than perhaps any other law school for such aggrandizement, either false or true.

Ernest M. Thayer, LL.B. ’59
San Francisco

Editor’s note: Harvard records the class year of those who enroll in a degree program—hence Ginsburg, L ’59, or College dropout Bill Gates ’77. Those who complete degrees are so designated—as Mr. Thayer is (above). The magazine adheres to this University standard.

Thank you for another good read in the March-April issue. The magazine usually adds the Harvard degrees to the names mentioned in articles, so I am wondering why no degrees were mentioned in “An Extra Layer of Care” (page 33). Joanne Wolfe, Andrew Billings, and Atul Gawande are all graduates of Harvard Medical School. Joanne and I celebrated our twenty-fifth reunion last year, so in the article she should have been listed as Joanne Wolfe, M.D. ’89.

Edward Chen, M.D. ’89
Needham, Mass.

Editor’s note: We do not list degrees for faculty members; it seems overkill, and their faculty affiliation is what matters most to readers. For alumnae/i who are not faculty members, we try always to list the degrees—their principal University affiliation.

PALLIATIVE CARE
In “An Extra Layer of Care,” by Debra Bradley Ruder, regarding the progress of pal-
Palliative medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, it was encouraging to read that relief of suffering has become a focus of patient care. But I was left with many unanswered questions.

The cancer patient Eric Buck is referred by his physician “to specialists to address his emotional and spiritual struggles.” It was not clear whether these “specialists” (chaplains, social workers, psychologists?) are on the staff or out in the community; if they are not professionals on the staff at MGH, the scope of treatment is sadly lacking—and hardly progressive. It was good to read that there is a “staff harpist,” but in general the approach seems far from holistic. What about a music therapist, meditation (University of Massachusetts Medical Center has developed highly effective treatments) and body workers (massage and Reiki)?

Some of these modalities are not covered by third-party payers, but they are relatively small expenditures for a major teaching hospital. Perhaps all these other approaches are integrated into the patient care and simply not mentioned. If not, there are other hospitals with much more progressive programs. Physicians are crucial for pain medication, and on some occasions to prescribe psychoactive drugs, but many dimensions of suffering can only be treated by other professionals.

Gene Gall, M.Div. ’74
Cumberland, Md.

The author responds: The palliative-care programs at all the Harvard Medical School teaching hospitals do, indeed, include or work closely with staff chaplains, social workers, and other professionals to help relieve patients’ physical, emotional, and spiritual distress, although some patients may seek outside help. Integrative therapies such as massage, acupuncture, stress management, and yoga are typically available at these hospitals, too; the staff harpist I mentioned is trained in therapeutic harp.

Palliative-care teams may include “physicians, nurses, social workers, chaplains, and others.” Lawyers are an important component of that last, catch-all category. “Medical-legal partnerships” combine medical and legal services to address social determinants of health for vulnerable populations. If a moldy apartment is not up to code, a child’s asthma cannot improve. As the co-founder of Terra Firma, the first medical-legal partnership specifically for released unaccompanied immigrant children, we integrate mental health, pediatric, and immigration legal services to promote resilience in child survivors of trauma. Recently, I spoke on a panel about medical-legal partnerships with a palliative-care doctor. Though our patients and clients were worlds apart, the need to holistically address health and legal problems collaboratively, rather than in silos, was resounding.

Brett Stark, J.D. ’12
Brooklyn

Computing Duo

“Computing in the Classroom” (by Sophia Nguyen, March-April, page 48) might have included the efforts of graduates Ali

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and Hadi Partovi (both A.B. and S.M. ’94) to encourage the teaching of computer programming in public classrooms. Their nonprofit website, Code.org [mentioned in the text], contains extensive resources for anyone interested in learning or teaching computer programming. In addition, the Partovis created the annual “Hour of Code.”

Judith E. Bevans, Ed.M. ’69
Blackburg, Va.

The author responds: The article was intended to focus on those working more directly with teachers and school systems with an eye toward changing classroom pedagogy, but I thank Judith Bevans for this chance to acknowledge the Partovi brothers. As she points out, their Code.org has been a major force behind the “Coding for All” movement.

STOUGHTON SCHOLAR
Thanks for the reproduction of the portrait of William Stoughton and the references to him (Treasure, “Early BMOCs,” March-April, page 8o). When I was a graduate student in city planning at the Kennedy School in the early 1980s, I was the recipient of an award made possible by the William Stoughton Bequest of 1701.

This assistance not only made my graduate study possible, but provided me with an opportunity to meet Seamus Malin, who signed the letter notifying me of the award [see “The Shots Heard Round the World,” May-June 1994, page 38]. I never get tired of telling people that I went to Harvard thanks to the generosity of someone who, if he did not himself believe in witches, certainly lived in a time when it was possible to do so.

Ned Daly, M.C.R.P. ’83
Needham, Mass.

ALL HAIL HALE!
Once again the “Brief Life” series captures the essence of a life well lived: the January-February issue offers a superlative example in Rev. Edward Everett Hale (Vita, page 54). His motto, “Look up and not down; Look forward and not back; Look out and not in; Lend a Hand!” is as motivating today as it was in the 1800s. As a board member of the Lend A Hand Society, I am pleased to report that over 120 years later his institution is still going strong. We’re still raising resources from the more fortunate to help the less fortunate. We’re still lending a hand!

William T. Gregor ’66, M.B.A. ’73
Boston

MILITARY MOTIVATIONS
In “Youthful Ardors” (The College Pump, March-April, page 72), President Drew Faust is quoted as describing our Civil War as “a military adventure undertaken as an occasion for heroics and glory....” I pray there’s a fuller context to this statement. Otherwise, it’s a reeking insult to the honorable motivations and brave actions of Northern soldiers intent on preserving our country and destroying slavery. Why must the intellectual community denigrate military service even when absolutely necessary and painfully successful?

Joel W. Johnson, M.B.A. ’67
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Primus V offers fuller context: “A war that was expected to be short-lived instead extended for four

(please turn to page 79)
years and touched the life of nearly every American,” Faust wrote in This Republic of Suffering. “A military adventure undertaken as an occasion for heroics and glory turned into a costly struggle of suffering and loss.” We regret if the abbreviated account in The Pump led to any misunderstanding; Faust has written extensively on many aspects of the Civil War, and her scholarship is widely acclaimed.

**GRIFFITH AND TROTTER**

I read with interest the reference to the new book by Dick Lehr ’76 on the film Birth of a Nation (Off the Shelf, March-April, page 64). The blurb says, “The hitherto unreported confrontation between the Hollywood director D.W. Griffith and Monroe Trotter, A.B. 1895, A.M. ’96.”

I found this wording curious. In the fall of 1974 I was one of the leaders of a protest against the showing of the film Birth of a Nation at Adams House. We surrounded the projector and insisted that if the film was to be shown there should be a discussion rather than the film shown as entertainment. Those who originally arranged the showing decided, as a result, to cancel it.

Beginning the following day there was a major debate that unfolded around the film and the protest. There were those who said that we challenged freedom of speech. Dr. Ewart Guinier, chairman of the Afro-American Studies department, came to our defense. In an op-ed published in The Harvard Crimson, Guinier compared what we had done with the protests organized by William Monroe Trotter in Boston in 1915 when the film was first shown.

I wanted to bring this to the attention of Harvard Magazine. While I am excited to hear about the publication of Dick Lehr’s book and wish to take nothing away from him, I think it is critical to set the record straight. The struggle led by Trotter against the film may not be well known, but it was known. Guinier made sure to remind us of Trotter’s role and why the stand that several of us took that fall evening in 1974 was the right thing to do.

**Bill Fletcher Jr. ’76**

Mitchellville, Md.

**AMPLIFICATIONS**

The article “Good Design” (March-April 2015) referred incorrectly to the nonprofit with which Toshiko Mori Architect (TMA) partnered in Senegal as “Le Kinkeliba.” After the French medical nongovernmental organization Le Kinkeliba ceased operations, its American affiliate changed its name from American Friends of Le Kinkeliba to American Friends of Le Korsa—TMA’s partner. The article also described the brickwork patterns in TMA’s Senegal project as reminiscent of Bauhaus tapestries; they were in fact meant to evoke the brickwork of Bauhaus faculty member Josef Albers. The article stated as well that a public interest design certificate program at the University of Minnesota launched last fall. That program’s timeline has been pushed back, and a similar program—the first of its kind—has since launched at Portland State University.

Vijay Iyer (Harvard Portrait, March-April, page 23), is Rosenblatt professor of the arts.

An editing error caused the misspelling, in a caption, of the name of education professor Tina Grotzer (“Computing in the Classroom,” March-April, page 49).

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