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

1927 The debating team has won four of six matches during a spring-break tour of the Middle West, the editors note. In each debate, Harvard supported the affirmative side of the question: “Resolved, that the American College is a Failure.”

1952 “Korea—symbol of the undeclared war between East and West—continues to dominate the academic year 1951-52,” with the University “steering a course somewhere between total mobilization and business as usual”; 40 percent of the freshmen are enrolled in the army, navy, and air force ROTC programs.

1962 Joseph Russin ’64 guides the four-plus-ton Sonata to a sweepstakes trophy for Harvard at the first Intercollegiate Elephant Race at Orange County State College in Fullerton, California.

1972 East Asian studies becomes Harvard’s newest concentration…Mexican-American and Puerto Rican students schedule a conference to explore problems in implementing a Chicano-Boricua studies program at Harvard.

1997 The Faculty of Arts and Sciences adds a new quantitative reasoning course requirement to the Core Curriculum, replacing the former test-out option.

Harvard’s first chair devoted exclusively to environmental issues is endowed by Gilbert Butler Jr. ’59 to honor the memory of his father.

More than 300 people gather in the Yard for the unveiling of a plaque on Matthews Hall commemorating Caleb Cheeshaheumuck, A.B. 1665, and the other four initial Native American students at Harvard’s Indian College.

2002 Following a year of debate and data-gathering, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences makes it easier for undergraduates to study abroad, and more difficult for them to earn academic honors.

Alongside those projects and other, lesser ones—in all, $2 billion of capital investments, give or take—still more construction is on tap. Harvard Planning Office’s “Town Gown Report” to Cambridge identifies multiple pending projects, including three major ones:

- The Law School has secured zoning approval for a new, 21,000-square-foot building at 1607-1615 Massachusetts Ave., replacing vacant one-story storefronts at the corner of Everett Street, to house public-service clinical programs; construction is planned late this year.

- The University is preparing to renovate the Arthur M. Sackler Building, whose collections have been consolidated at the renovated Harvard Art Museums (HAM), freeing its extensive galleries for other uses. Among them will be programmatic space for the history of art and architecture department, the main tenant already based there; the Arts@29 undergraduate art-making center (relocating from Garden Street to within a block of the Carpenter Center, home to the principal studios); and the Graduate School of Design, which is land-locked and still planning its own on-site expansion. Construction is expected this year. (Not involved is relocation of the fine arts library, which was moved from Werner Otto Hall before it was razed to make way for the HAM project. The library continues to reside in semi-exile from the art historians, in the basement of Littauer Center, near the Law School. At some point, Littauer itself will be reconfigured to better suit the evolving needs of the huge economics department, the major occupant—but it is not known when that work will advance.)

- And in the dreary-but-essential category, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences also plans to replace the entire heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and exhaust system for its huge Biological Laboratories complex.

Thus, University building budgets remain intact, even as pressure on schools’ operating budgets becomes evident (see next item).

~ J.S.R.

Illustration by Mark Steele

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