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

1914 The Class of 1918—with 704 matriculants (up from 622 a year before)—moves into Gore, Standish, and Smith Halls, the new dormitories created by President Lowell as a way to plunge incoming students quickly into college life. The editors suggest the new dorms and scholarships have made the College more attractive, and also credit the past year’s efforts to publicize Harvard nationally.

1924 A number of “radical changes in policy and service have been made in Memorial Hall.” Instead of being charged board by the week, students may buy single meal tickets or six- or 30-day coupon books (breakfast is 35 cents, lunch 65 cents, dinner 75 cents). White waitresses will replace black waiters. And “for the first time in the history of the dining hall, women will be allowed at the transient tables” in the main dining hall, rather than being restricted to a private dining room.

1934 American Ballads and Folk Songs, compiled by John A. Lomax, A.M. ’07, and Alan J. Lomax ’34, with a foreword by Professor George Lyman Kittredge, is praised as evidence that the United States, “at least the part of the population which has not been trammelled by excess of schooling, is in fact a singing land.”

1939 A New York Times article headlined “Harvard Descends on Student Communists; Burns 5,000 Soviet-Hitler Pamphlets” prompts a swift reply from the Corporation denying destruction of the circulars; pointing out that the single student leafletter had simply broken a rule requiring distribution of printed matter by mail, not in person; and denouncing the article’s mention of an alleged “quiet drive by the university authorities against student communism” as “utterly incompatible with the well-known traditions of academic freedom in Harvard University.”


1999 A standing-room only crowd estimated at 1,500-plus (including students who slept on the steps to get a seat) hears the Reverend Billy Graham deliver a Sunday-morning sermon in the Memorial Church.

2004 Founded-at-Harvard website Thefacebook has been sued by rival ConncetU, founded by fellow Harvardians.

2014 To encourage undergraduates to relax, and avoid a disciplinary summons, Lamont Library and the Administrative Board distribute “Practice Safe Citing” squeeze balls at the start of fall term.

Also within the president’s influence, at least, is securing the resources to advance aspirations as professors articulate them and as the University pursues its institutional interests. During most of his travels for alumni events, Bacow’s schedule set aside time to meet privately with some of those best University supporters: in the aggregate, probably scores of such visits. They seem to be having an effect.

Even with the conclusion of the $9.6-billion Harvard Campaign just before Bacow became president, the Corporation’s senior fellow, William F. Lee, indicated in May that “It was a great fundraising year” (see harvardmag.com/srfellow-update-19). The annual financial report will presumably show the results this fall. Among those already publicized are:

• A $100-million anonymous gift in support of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), math, and science, announced last autumn.
• Weeks later, a further landmark gift from Len Blavatnik, M.B.A. ’89, whose foundation gave $200 million to the Medical School (harvardmag.com/hms200mgift-18), and, the week after Commencement, $310 million more for bioengineering from Hansjörg Wyss, M.B.A. ’65 (see page 28).
• And sandwiched in between, $200 million from David E. Goel ’93 and Stacey L. Goel for a new American Repertory Theater facility, a new element in Harvard’s plans for Allston (harvardmag.com/art-allston-19). “I said I wanted to accelerate development in Allston,” Bacow noted. The ART gift will make an impact some years hence (an architect has been named for the project, as reported at harvard-