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

1920 The Harvard football team, playing its first and last postseason game, defeats Oregon, 7-6, in the Rose Bowl.

1925 Five hundred students appear on January 10 for a final dinner in Memorial Hall before the University reluctantly closes the 50-year old “Commons,” a money-loser since the end of World War I. Plans for the hall’s future employment, say the Bulletin’s editors, will be “awaited with a lively interest.”

1930 Applications from members of the class of ’31 for places in Dunster and Lowell Houses (still under construction) far exceed the 168 spaces available.

1945 Harvard’s plans to help veterans complete their education include setting up a three-term calendar with 15-week semesters for the Law and Business Schools and one 12-week and two 16-week semesters for most of the rest of the University.

1970 As experimental co-residency begins in some undergraduate Houses, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences decides to defer a vote on the merger of Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges pending fuller investigation of the implications for both institutions.

1975 Construction of Pusey Library, which is intended to house rare books, maps, and manuscripts, has been completed after 20 months of excavation work in the south Yard. The cost of the building totals $7 million.

1980 The Corporation approves a 12.6 percent increase in tuition, room, and board, raising the total fee to $9,170, and making the cost of attending Harvard College second only to that of MIT.


1995 Undergraduates and other Harvardians returning from their winter breaks discover that Elsie’s, the unpretentious Mount Auburn Street eatery that dispensed definitive roast-beef sandwiches for 39 years, has gone out of business.

2005 In a speech addressing the possible reasons for women’s under-representation in fields including mathematics, science, and engineering at elite research universities, President Lawrence H. Summers sparks a furor that goes global.

2000 In a speech concluding that the financial impact on the endowment would be nil—and that as the economics of energy change, it might be riskier to retain fossil-fuel investments.

In response, Hooper professor of geology Daniel P. Schrag (who is also professor of environmental science and engineering, and director of the University’s Center for the Environment) opposed divestment as symbolic. He lamented Harvard’s decision not to make academic work on climate change and energy a major priority for The Harvard Campaign, and advocated doing so now, on a massive scale.

Burbank professor of political economy James H. Stock—the member of President Barack Obama’s Council of Economic Advisers who worked on plans to reduce power-plant carbon-dioxide emissions, and stop leasing for new coal exploration on federal lands (initiatives the current administration is reversing)—cast divestment