

Presumably, one of the payoffs from new University financial-information systems will be more timely and coherent reports for the institution as a whole, and more consistent, complete income statements and balance sheets for the individual schools. In materials released last fall for the beginning of its fundraising effort, the Business School moved toward a bit more public disclosure of its revenues (see "Capitalism Campaign," November-December 2002, page 55). Should society or Harvard's supporters demand clearer or more comprehensive reporting from this nonprofit institution, it seems, the tools to do so are being put in place.

On matters like these, Reischauer will clearly have a good deal to say. Overall, he has found "the scope of the issues the Uni-

versity deals with daily and monthly rewarding." Having apprenticed as an Overseer, he said, he felt that in these "interesting times" he "had learned enough about the workings of the University now to be of some use."

## Poetry and Politics

ON NOVEMBER 12, two days before poet Tom Paulin was scheduled to deliver the annual Morris Gray Lecture, sponsored by the department of English and American language and literature, his reading was canceled "by mutual consent." So read a statement posted on the department's website by its chairman, Cabot professor of English Lawrence Buell. The terse announcement expressed sincere regret

about the "widespread consternation that has arisen as a result of this invitation, which had been originally decided on last winter solely on the basis of Mr. Paulin's...accomplishments as a poet."

The "consternation" arose—within the department and from external sources, such as an article titled "Welcome Voice? Harvard invites academic who wants Jews 'shot dead,'" posted on the *National Review Online* website November 12—due to Paulin's harsh published comments about Israeli troops and settlers in contested territories. Thus issues of free speech contended with the boundaries of hate speech—so the lecture committee members, who had sought to arrange a poetry reading, suddenly confronted something different and much more divisive. They reportedly weighed the likelihood of protest beyond what might be accommodated in a discussion separate from Paulin's presentation itself, and then acted. Editorials in the *Crimson* and the *Boston Globe* supported the decision to cancel the appearance.

Then others weighed the issue differently. In a November 15 letter to the *Crimson*, law professors Alan M. Dershowitz, Charles Fried, and Laurence H. Tribe described Paulin as "By all accounts...a despicable example of the anti-Semitic and/or anti-Israel posturing" current in some circles; regretted the initial invitation; but called the cancellation "truly dangerous" and pointed to Harvard's ability to engage speakers who have included "cranks, monsters, scoundrels, and charlatans." The English department met on November 19 and reinstated the invitation. Buell's statement on the new decision said, in part, "All faculty members present, constituting nearly the entire department, approved this decision," noting that the action was "initiated and pursued by the English department alone." The decision was motivated by "belief in the importance of free speech as a principle and practice in the academy," and members of the department "in no sense endorse the extreme statements by Mr. Paulin that have occasioned concern in the Harvard community...." The statement concluded by noting that if Paulin appears on campus, tentatively this spring, "we hope that his delivery of the Morris Gray Lecture may serve as a learning occasion for us all."

## Scoreboard 2.0

"We're never really going to be 'finished' with the website," says John Veneziano, director of sports information, but online access to news about Harvard athletics strode boldly forward this past October, when the athletic department launched its newly enhanced site (<http://gocrimson.ocsn.com/>). The OCSN (Official College Sports Network)—which serves 125 colleges nationwide, including Brown, Cornell, Penn, and Princeton, as well as sports powerhouses like UCLA and Notre Dame—built and manages the website. Previously, a typical autumn day attracted about a thousand visitors to the Harvard sports home page, but on the new site's first day, 4,000 showed up. "We expect that number to grow," Veneziano says.

Enriched options should spur that growth. More complete and accurate schedules and scores, updated daily, are now only a click away from the home page. There are more photographs of more athletes, from a wider range of sports. Potential recruits can complete an on-line questionnaire; the data go directly to the appropriate coach, who can add it directly to a database. There is webcasting of radio coverage of Harvard games. There are fan polls. More statistics and box scores, along with improved layout and design, complete the package.

"The world is moving away from printed materials and traditional forms of media," Veneziano says. "We want to be ahead of the curve when it comes to electronic forms of communication. The upside is that we get our message out unfiltered as we bypass other media which, because of space and time limitations and editorial judgments, aren't covering Harvard athletics to the extent that we can." Some colleges have already eliminated printed media guides in favor of their websites. Harvard hasn't yet ventured that far into the post-Gutenberg world, but, Veneziano says, "that day is coming."

