

## Yesterday's News

From the pages of the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* and *Harvard Magazine*

**1920** The Graduate School of Education registers its first female students, making them the first women ever admitted to candidacy for a Harvard degree.

**1925** The College establishes a board of faculty advisers to counsel freshmen.

**1930** Six hundred students move into Dunster House and Lowell House, the first completed units of the House plan.

**1935** Massachusetts passes a law requiring every U.S. citizen teaching in the Commonwealth to swear to "support" the state and federal constitutions. President Conant, who opposed the bill's passage, says he will take the oath and urges all faculty members to do the same, to avoid involving Harvard in a technical controversy regarding its enforcement of the law against its own teaching staff.

**1945** Paul H. Buck, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, is named Harvard's first provost—"a further step," according to President Conant, "in arranging for the organization of modern Harvard...commensurate with its size and vast complexity."

**1950** "Joint instruction" is extended to Radcliffe fresh-

men, allowing them to take most of their courses with their Harvard counterparts.

**1955** An administrative decision lifts the ban on TV cameras in the Stadium, allowing Harvard football games to be broadcast regionally; officials still refuse to allow games to be shown nationwide. Maintaining its commitment to scholarship and athletics, Harvard states that it will not take part in "big time" football.

**1965** In an address to Harvard freshmen, dean of the College John U. Monro urges caution in exploring the "wonderful, happy, healthgiving, and finally dangerous world of women," warning that D.H. Lawrence, Norman Mailer, and Paul Goodman may not be the most reliable guides on this complicated and explosive matter.

**1975** President Bok loses a World Series bet (an unspecified amount of baked beans, reports the *Crimson*) to the president of the University of Cincinnati when the Red Sox lose to the Reds in seven.

**1985** In response to antiapartheid protests and demands by 300 alumni that the University divest, President Bok declares his continued opposition to blanket divestment and emphasizes "the need to respond to social problems affirmatively, instead of trying to cut all one's ties with the situation."

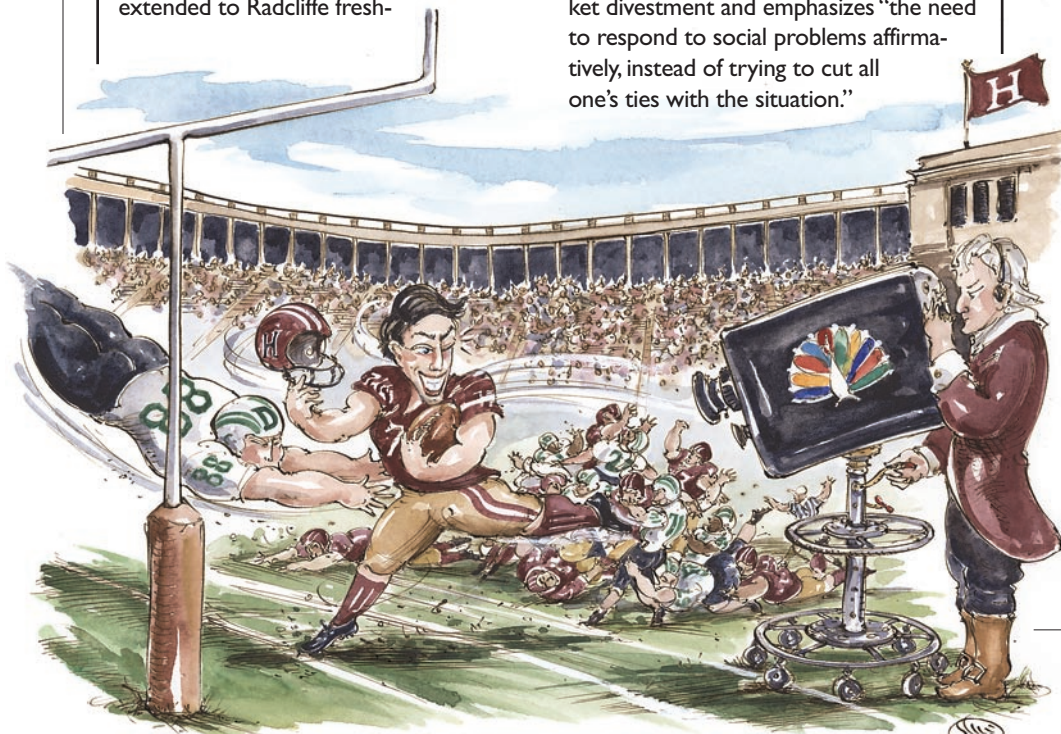
had tried to retain Clark, Summers said, "[I]t became clear to me almost instantly that I was the president of Harvard and the president of Kim's church had spoken. And so I was best off accommodating the reality that I faced."

Clark's chemistry radiated widely, contributing to HBS's fundraising prowess and ability to plan and complete extensive construction during his tenure. It is perhaps telling that the stories about his deanship frequently revolve around very personal anecdotes. Cizik professor of business administration Clayton M. Christensen, who completed his thesis under Clark, lived in the same town, and attended the same Mormon congregation, told how Clark led 12-year-old scouts on monthly campouts and hikes, even during winter storms, as he took up his duties at HBS's helm. With Clark heading off to Idaho, said Christensen—the very model of an HBS scholar of technology and operations management—"I feel like half of my heart is getting ripped out."

## A Humanist Who Knows Corn Flakes

HOMI BHABHA TELLS A STORY about corn flakes to illustrate the relevance of the humanities to international commerce. "For many years in India there was a ban on imported goods because the government wanted to encourage local markets," he says. "But people travel, and while you can stop traders from importing things, you can't stop people from knowing about them. Indian manufacturers would produce imitations of foreign goods—for instance, corn flakes.

"When the Indian market opened with globalization," says Bhabha, "Kellogg's set up a branch in India and started producing corn flakes to give consumers the real thing. What they didn't realize was that Indians, rather like the Chinese, think that to start the day with something cold, like cold milk on your cereal, is a shock to the system. You start it with warm milk. But you pour warm milk on



Mr. Kellogg's corn flakes and they turn to wet paper. You pour warm milk on the sturdier Indian corn flake, it holds up. Does it taste better than Mr. Kellogg's? No. If Mr. Kellogg's is eaten as Mr. Kellogg intended, it is somewhat better than Indian corn flakes. The point is that in business studies, when you look at a market, you have to know something about the anthropology of a place and its cultural rituals. People in the humanities have to be part of the conversation."

Bhabha, a prominent figure in post-colonial studies, has written and lectured widely on cultural migration, globalization, human rights, race, gender, and the arts; *The Location of Culture* is his best-known book. He says he feels equally at home in Bombay, where he grew up and graduated from the University of Bombay; in England, where he did his graduate work at Oxford and has been a visiting lecturer at University College, London; and in the States, where he taught at the University of Chicago before he came to Harvard in 2001 as Rothenberg professor of English and American literature and language. On July 1 he became the new director of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences' Humanities Center, succeeding Kenan professor of English Marjorie Garber, who held the post for the first 20 years of its existence (see [www.fas.harvard.edu/~humcentr](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~humcentr)).



STEPHANIE MITCHELL/HARVARD NEWS OFFICE

## Provost Positions

The provost's office ([www.provost.harvard.edu](http://www.provost.harvard.edu)) continues to add staff to cover more areas of University-wide planning and coordination. Doyle professor of cosmology John P. Huchra now devotes three-quarters of his time to serving as vice provost for research policy; he works with the office of sponsored research, the general counsel, and the schools' research offices to create uniform policies and represent Harvard in negotiations with outside funders. Another vice provost will oversee international affairs: Harvard's research and student engagements outside the United States. That position and the senior vice provost for diversity and faculty development, advocated by the task forces on women faculty (see "Diversity Director," page 56), are also to be filled by senior faculty members.



COURTESY OF JOHN P. HUCHRA

John P. Huchra



COURTESY OF ERIC P. BUEHRENS

Eric P. Buehrens

And effective September 1, Eric P. Buehrens, Harvard Medical School's executive dean for administration, becomes deputy provost for administration, focused on expediting construction of science facilities in Allston. The new officers join the recently appointed associate provost for arts and cultural programs (see "Brevia," July-August, page 67), and current staff responsible for science policy and planning, social sciences and the professions, information technology, and fundraising.

The center now offers a robust program of 39 ongoing seminars—on subjects ranging from Buddhist studies to opera—and also supports lectures, conferences, workshops, and informal occasions for faculty and graduate students of Harvard and other local institutions to come together for interdisciplinary talk and the sharing of scholarly work. Bhabha hopes to focus the conversation, "to emphasize through the center the central importance of the humanities for Harvard as a whole."

At a time at Harvard "when science and internationalism are the two major new fronts for research and intellectual and academic expansion," he says, "I want to convince my colleagues of the importance of the humanities in those fields. Anything to do with genetic engineering, stem-cell research, or even issues related to the treatment of AIDS demands that a whole set of humanistic issues be addressed. These issues are as fundamental as 'What is human life?' and 'What have been the historical and social values that define what human life is about?' We need to understand how we choose to

**Homi Bhabha: He wants "to sow conversation in Harvard's rich soil."**

make decisions that are in keeping with our scientific ambitions, but do not neglect our moral, cultural, social, and humanistic commitments."

While Bhabha hopes "to sow conversation in Harvard's rich soil," he wants also "to make links between the center and major institutions outside Harvard that take the whole culture of the humanities seriously, whether they be newspapers or museums or governmental institutions." He wants to see humanistic concerns have impact "on important areas of policy, whether the policy has to do with education or social interpretation."

He is exploring new programmatic initiatives. Bhabha imagines a University-wide seminar based at the center that would examine an important, current topic over a period of two or three years. "If the topic were, for instance, changing notions of freedom in the global world, the philosophy and government and sociology departments could address the subject from their perspectives during the first year," he says. "The next year there might be a different constellation of departments or schools exploring the topic, their results issuing forth in publications, meetings, and conferences. These constellated approaches would create crossroads, I'm hoping, across the University."