

Yesterday's News

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

1913 The *Alumni Bulletin* welcomes the founding of the Harvard University Press as an "eminently appropriate [way to] powerfully advance the general cause of learning."

1923 President Lowell's refusal to let the son of a black alumnus live, as other freshmen must, in the freshman dormitories creates a furor in the *Bulletin's* letters section and in the public press.

1938 After 40 and 13 years, respectively, on the research staff of the Harvard Observatory, astronomers Annie Jump Cannon and Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin receive Corporation appointments.

1943 The presidents of Harvard, Yale, and Princeton issue a joint statement agreeing to forgo "athletics as usual" for the duration.

1953 Students voice disgust when the faculty approves new rules that allow women to stay in undergraduate rooms until 11 p.m. instead of 8 p.m. on Saturday nights, but completely eliminate the visiting hours of 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for the rest of the week.

1958 The Harvard Corporation issues the go-ahead on the construction of Harvard's eighth undergraduate House, Quincy.

1968 A letter calling for de-escalation of the war in Vietnam, with 4,000 signatures representing 54 percent of the faculty and 51 percent of Harvard and Radcliffe undergraduates, has been presented to President Lyndon Johnson. University Professor Edwin O. Reischauer, former ambassador to Japan, and one of the project organizers, calls it "a remarkable fact that 54 percent of the Harvard faculty signed anything."

1998 In response to student demands, the College replaces one-ply toilet paper in undergraduate residences with the more luxurious two-ply variety. Dean Harry R. Lewis explains that a "high-level committee, called the Harvard College Toilet Paper Commission, consisting of the Administrative Board, the Faculty Council, the Committee on House Life, the Committee on College Life, and the Masters of the Houses...met weekly all fall to consider this important issue."

he is negotiating with "a major established company" that wants to develop another idea from his lab into a product. The difference between the new OTD and the old OTTL, Mazur says, is "black and white."

THAT WAS THE GOAL. "Harvard has a remarkable research presence," says Steven E. Hyman, a professor of neurobiology who was appointed provost in 2001. "We produce an enormous number of important and highly cited new papers every year. But we had been relatively slow to commercialize our discoveries, and as a result, many potentially important discoveries...sat on library shelves....I actually think that it is part of the mission of a research university not only to publish papers, but also to get discoveries out into the world."

Hyman assembled a faculty committee in 2004 to set priorities for changing technology transfer at Harvard and mounted a search for someone to lead the charge. In May 2005, Isaac T. Kohlberg became the University's associate provost and chief technology development officer. Kohlberg, who has an LL.B. and an M.B.A., had held analogous positions at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, New York University, and Tel Aviv University.

At Harvard, Kohlberg integrated the separate technology-transfer office at the Medical School into a unified operation that would report to Hyman. (OTTL had reported to the vice president for finance.) He expanded the office's staff by 40 percent, to 35 people—about the same size as MIT's office—and focused on hiring colleagues who understand science and business and take a proactive approach. (Here, too, Mazur's story is illustrative. He says someone from OTD visits him "every couple of weeks, if not more...constantly trying to connect us to companies to see if there are mutual interests, and I think that's great.")

Kohlberg has emphasized formal networking, but also the informal interactions that may unearth unrecognized

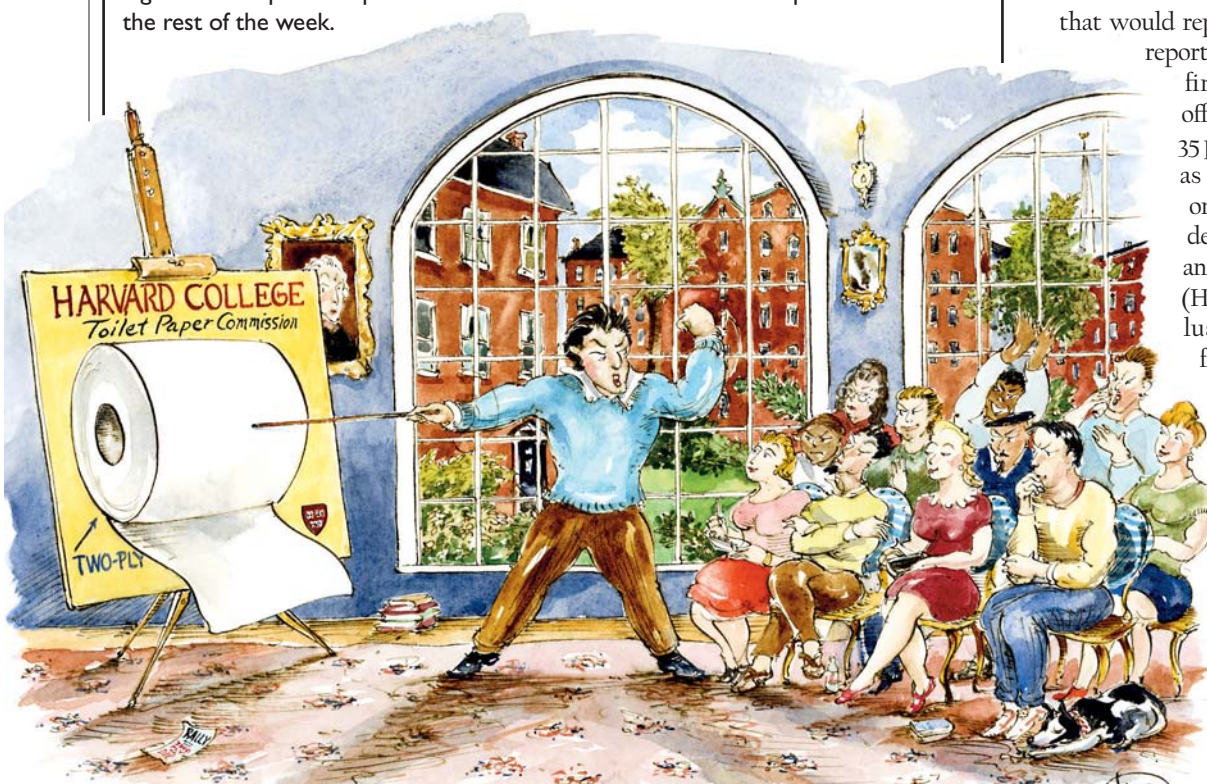


Illustration by Mark Steele