they were raptors introduced at some point to kill the rat population that the Polynesian colonists brought with them in the tenth century. The only other wildlife were horses and cows and three dogs."

Oceana, based in Washington, D.C., believes the world's oceans "are in crisis from overfishing, acidification, and habitat destruction [and] works internationally to alleviate these and other problems through policy-oriented campaigns." The nonprofit group has a $20-million annual budget, about 130 employees, a team in Chile, and eight other overseas offices. (In addition to Sharpless, three other alumni are also involved: president Jim Simon, J.D. '83, assistant general counsel Eric Bilsky, J.D. '91, and board member María Eugenia Girón, M.B.A. '92.) Its goals extend from banning the shark-fin trade and requiring seafood traceability in the United States to overhauling the European Union's fisheries policy, preventing offshore oil drilling in Belize (and elsewhere), and saving specific endangered marine species and habitats, such as the Steller sea lion in Alaska. Earlier this year, Oceana publicized its "seafood fraud" investigation, which found that one-third of the seafood sold to American consumers was mislabeled. The results, Sharpless wryly notes, got more media attention than Oceana's fight against oil drilling during the year that "BP was ruining the Gulf of Mexico, proving that people care more about what goes in their stomachs."

The fraud investigation supports Oceana's push for a national system that tracks fish from "boat to plate"; Sharpless says that would reduce illegal fishing significantly. Bills to require such a system are pending in both the House and the Senate, and the American fishing fleet, he reports, agrees, for a change, with Oceana's efforts "because they see themselves as more law-abiding than the foreign fleets." ("More often," he adds, "we are fighting with them.")

Oceana focuses on influencing the laws of the nine countries, plus the European Union, that together control two-thirds of the world's marine fish production. Seven out of eight fish are caught within 200 nautical miles of the coast in an "exclusive economic zone" controlled by the closest country; Peru, China, the United States, Russia, and Indonesia lead the pack. Sharpless outlines the workings of the global fishing industry as part of his first book, *The Perfect Protein: The Fish Lover's Guide to Saving the Oceans and Feeding the World* (Rodale), published in May. The rest are nabbed in the "high seas" controlled by committees such as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)—which Sharpless says is more commonly known in the industry as the commission "to Catch All Tuna." It is much harder to change fishing operations at that level, he adds, because committees "tend to make decisions by consensus, which means they arrive at the lowest common denominator—and very often do not even enforce that." By contrast, the top fishing countries, he says, "generally have the capability, if they choose to do it, to manage their fisheries well and to make them abundant forever."

The Perfect Protein promotes eating more fish because Sharpless believes, along with many others, that it's healthy for the brain, the body, and the world. Choosing meat or poultry instead, he argues, directly affects the demand for grain, which leads in turn to further deforestation and loss of biodiversity; the oceans, which cover 71 percent of the planet, can still recover, despite current pollution and overfishing. The concise book, with a foreword by former president Bill Clinton, gives a general audience guidance on "eating responsibly," along with 21 "sustainable" recipes from renowned chefs, and a fine selection of further readings.

JIM HARRISON

From left: David Otto, Bruce Johnson, Xandy Walsh, Alex Walsh, John Fryer '64, Tony Rossmann, and Paul Bamberg read letters buried in 1988.

Sharpless loves the challenge and sense of integrity in public-advocacy work. A birthright Quaker, he was raised in Philadelphia and finds compelling "the idea that Quakers are radical and definitive about your responsibility for your own moral judgment. You are not to be a follower," he says. "You own your own life, conscience, and moral decisionmaking."

He cannot tolerate ineffectiveness or waffling. "I am very nonmystical, very hardheaded," he asserts—and a devoted player of competitive sports, even though he didn't come close to varsity: "I think I got to play two minutes for Harvard's freshman soccer team, all year."

For the last 12 years, he has held an annual "Gameboy Weekend" at his summer house on Chesapeake Bay, to which about 30 male friends between 34 and 65 (includ-

Time, Flying

Senior English orator Félix de Rosen '13 (who in a throat-clearing moment told the Tercentenary Theatre throng, "This feels a little bit different from speaking in section") chose a graduation chestnut—the passage of time—as his theme, but refreshed it by tying in the story of the late Charles A. Ditmas Jr., long the keeper of the College's antique clocks. On Wednesday, some Eliot House members of the class of 1963—who as seniors had created one time capsule, exhumed at their twenty-fifth reunion, and buried a second during that event—gathered to examine their 1988 missives. Tony Rossmann, David Otto, Bruce Johnson, and Paul Bamberg opened the capsule at Eliot; missing was Boone Turchi, stuck in traffic. Not all the letters proved prescient, but one did. Also missing was Myles Alexander Walsh III, who died in 2008 (he was represented by his son Myles Alexander Walsh IV, and *his* son, Myles Alexander Walsh V); he had written, "There is a chance that I will not be able to attend our 50th reunion." (For more on this story, see **http://harvardmag.com/capsule**.)