

then of litigation. There, she won awards, and even found herself on the team that represented a class in a lawsuit that alleged discriminatory promotion practices at the Library of Congress (ultimately settled), in which her mother, Anna Mae Buchanan, was a class member. She also learned that her father, Herbert C. Buchanan Sr., who passed away in 1998, had been party to a separate case represented by the office.

BUCHANAN'S CONCEPTIONS of evil and wickedness stem from her parents' values—essentially, “The world does not just consist of you; don't forget about the people less fortunate”—and from her Adventist faith. “Evil is not all on one side, in the sense that if you are charged you must be guilty,” she asserts. “Evilness can be someone who hates our client so much, they are willing to lie and go to all kinds of lengths to harm our client

wrongfully or disproportionately to what he or she has done. It's evil to put someone in jail, *at least* for reasons that are wrong.” Has she witnessed evil in action? “Yes. I've seen the evil of people doing decades in jail for crimes they were not guilty of.”

Ideals are deeply attractive to her. Even as a kindergartener at the all-black Dupont Park Adventist School, Buchanan (whose parents were not then Adventists or particularly religious), was impressed by the “sense of this thing greater than you are that calls you to be more than what you are,” and the “logic” of Adventist teachings that the Scriptures are the sole source of Protestant faith and practice. “The Bible says Christ rose on the first day of the week, Easter is on Sunday, so the seventh day is Saturday,” she says. “The Jews don't have any confusion about that. So why would you get rid of the fourth commandment—

remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy—but follow the other nine—you still can't kill, you can't worship false idols, and cannot bear false witness?”

She sits on her church's board of trustees, her former school's board, and on the board that runs the local Adventist Health Care system. She says she has never smoked or drunk caffeine or alcohol, but later adds, for “full disclosure...technically I had a sip of beer once as a child, with my parents' permission, to see what all the fuss was about.” But she is not a full vegetarian, as the church urges. “The irony,” she says, is that Adventists “like to run a truck through” their otherwise healthy diet restrictions. “You will see enormous plates of desserts, and I am not sure all the meat substitutes are all that healthy,” reports Buchanan, who loves to eat—especially “bad food: French fries. Pound cake.

Reardon to Retire

John P. “Jack” Reardon '60, executive director of the Harvard Alumni Association (HAA)—known for diplomacy, warmth, humor, and dedication throughout his long University career—will step down at the end of June. Hired in 1965 by another renowned Harvard veteran administrator, Fred L. Glimp '50, Ph.D. '64, Reardon had earned an M.B.A. at Penn and was working at the Boston Redevelopment Authority when, he reports, “Fred offered me [a College admissions] job for \$9,000. And I have not been unhappy at Harvard for a minute since.” In return, he has been respected and even beloved by undergraduates, alumni, and administrators across four presidencies.

Reardon rose to become associate dean of admissions and financial aid before moving across the river in 1978 to become Harvard's athletics director. The wholesale turnaround he managed included expanding the women's programs; his tenure also saw the men's heavyweight crew win the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley in 1985 and the men's ice-hockey team beat Minnesota for the national championship in 1989. His skills in building relationships with alumni and other supporters were readily apparent, and in 1990, Glimp and President Derek Bok persuaded him to become executive director of the HAA.

“Alumni are so different from one another, and have different ideas, and it seems to me my job has been to figure out how to bring all

of them together, and closer to the University,” says Reardon. “That's been interesting work—and not that easy! But I've always just loved this place. And there is a lot of stuff going well and good people in place. I'm 75 years old and there comes a point where I'd rather be doing things on my own terms.” He plans to continue applying his institutional memory and people skills on Harvard's behalf—working on fundraising, Ivy League athletic matters, with the Board of Overseers, and projects tied to alumni relations. And he remains a Harvard Magazine Inc. board member.



John P. “Jack” Reardon