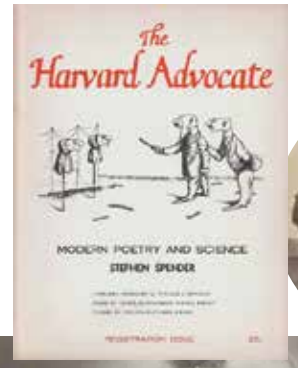
tic inquiry, yet student members do make sure that the publication comes out four times a year, despite the vagaries of undergraduate life and the magazine's seemingly constant money problems. "It's kind of an organizational miracle the way people were delegated to do things like tutor [other students through the comp process] and make decisions," says Jacobs.

Hindsight may, of course, give student work a polish it actually lacked. My friend the writer and translator Jessica Sequeira '11 recently forwarded to me responses to the many query letters she sent as a features-board editor seeking contributions from established writers. "Dear Jessica, Do you mean November 19 2010? That is eleven days from now. It takes me months to think of things. All the best, Colm [Toibin]."

Yet Mark Greif '97 found professional implications in the characteristic impracticality of fellow *Advocate* members. "The fact of having other people around you who are preparing for that particular life, with all of its ups and downs and sacrifices and glories, even while at other parts of Harvard people were really oriented to money or public life—it was really important in giving me the idea that you could go do it," he said.

Greif is one of the ones who did "do it"—about 10 years out of college, he founded the literary magazine *N+1* along with several other *Advocate* graduates. (*N+1* is the closest we have to the *Advocate* in the outside world, says *New Yorker* writer and *Advocate* board member D.T. Max '83.) *N+1* editor Ben Kunkel had read his inspiring stories at the Advocate "to a rapt audience," says Greif. Fellow editor Keith Gessen '97 was among those who heard Kunkel read, though he was not a member of the magazine. "Arriving and finding the *Advocate* to be incredibly pretentious was just one of the disappointments that I experienced [at Harvard]," he says now. (He did later publish a story in the magazine as an upperclassman, an imitation of *Pale Fire*, "which I'm sure if a freshman read it, it would have sounded very pretentious.") *N+1* also found one of its first writers in the pages of the undergraduate magazine. "Keith said, 'Wasn't there that tall Turkish girl who wrote something amazing?'" Kunkel remembers. That is how Batuman started contributing.

The *Advocate* honored *N+1*, as well as Louis Begley and John Ashbery, at the anniversary party. Alums described how the *Advocate* had appeared in unexpected ways after they left college. For years, as Greif had recalled earlier, students comping the fiction board had to read "They Ride Us," a story written "by a mythical figure, Caleb Crain, which just seemed like a pseudonym." When he moved to New York later on, Greif said, "I went to a party at *The Nation*, where there was a bespectacled person sitting on a banquette. Someone said, 'Have you met Caleb?'" I said 'Not Caleb Crain! Author of "They Ride Us!"'" ("For a while I worried that I had peaked early and that that [story] was going to be my most famous work," says Crain '89, author of the critically acclaimed novel *Necessary Errors*.)



Clockwise from top right: the *Advocate*'s editors in 1869; the December 1967 cover, by Taite S. Walkonen '69; editors playing to the camera circa 1900-1910; the September 1950 cover, by Edward St. J. Gorey '50

HARVARD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

In a corner, a young man was talking about undergraduate exorbitance. There's a reason, he was saying, that the event planner of the *Advocate* is called the "Dionysus." "Every party reached new heights of debauchery." Yet the 150th celebration ended almost calmly, until in their orderly departure, too many guests crowded into the elevator and broke it. Stragglers left through the back exit.

—MADELEINE SCHWARTZ

Madeleine Schwartz '12, a former Ledecky Undergraduate Fellow at Harvard Magazine, *was art editor of the* Advocate *from 2010 to 2011. She is assistant editor of* The New York Review of Books.

News Briefs

College Admissions Challenges

In late June, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the limited use of race in admissions decisions, ruling in its second pass at *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin* that properly constrained processes for reviewing applicants pass constitutional muster. Harvard had filed a brief in support of upholding the Texas procedures. (Read an analysis at **harvardmag.com/fishercase-16**.)

This is the third time the court has ruled on public institutions' consideration of race in admissions (following the 1978 *Bakke* and 2003 *Grutter* decisions). These rulings would seem to establish, nationwide, the principles underlying consideration of applicants' *broad* qualifications, going beyond single metrics such as grade-point average or standardized-test scores. But some analysts think the issues remain subject to further legal challenge. Writing for *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Mark G. Yudof (former president of the University of California and the University of Minnesota, and chancellor of the University of Texas at Austin) and Rachel F. Moran (dean emerita at UCLA School of Law) observed that "the patchwork of state approaches to affirmative action will persist, and every program of college admissions that treats race as a factor will be judged on its particular facts. Like [Justice] Powell before him [in *Bakke*], Justice Kennedy has left the courthouse door open to future litigation, even at the University of Texas" in his *Fisher* decision. Given an *Inside Higher Education*-Gallup poll finding soon after that ruling (majorities opposed *any* consideration of gender, race or ethnicity, or legacy status in admissions)—such challenges seem likely.

At least one such action—the 2014 Project on Fair Representation/Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) lawsuit alleging that Harvard discriminates against Asian

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Americans—continues. (Background on the case appears at **harvardmag.com/sffa-16**.) That suit, filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964—therefore applicable to a private entity—asserts that "the proper judicial response" is "the outright prohibition of racial preferences in university admissions—period." Activity associated with the suit had been deferred pending the *Fisher* decision; it has now resumed.

The SFFA case claims that *Bakke* was wrongly decided (an argument likely weakened after *Fisher*); that even if *Bakke* is the law, Harvard violates it by considering race too heavily in undergraduate admissions; and that the College imposes an illegal quota on Asian-American applicants. SFFA filed a similar action against the University of North Carolina.

A protracted period of discovery likely lies ahead. Making the second and third claims will depend on securing access to aggregate admissions data, and perhaps to individual records; Harvard will surely object strongly to the latter, given that applicants expected their information to remain confidential. The University may also challenge SFFA's standing to press its claims, since it has not, so far, identified claimants who've applied for admission or intend to. In case the lawsuit proceeds to trial, Harvard's legal team now includes both Seth P. Waxman, former U.S. solicitor general, an appellate expert, and Corporation senior fellow, William F. Lee, a distinguished trial lawyer (and the University's highest-ranking Asian-American governing official).

Elsewhere, the Asian American Coalition for Education asked the departments of education and justice on May 23 to investigate alleged discrimination at Brown, Dartmouth, and Yale—and require Ivy League colleges to cease engaging in admissions practices that it maintains are discriminatory. The institutions "apply racist stereotypes and racial bias in their 'holistic' evaluation of Asian-American candidates" and "maintain a racial balance of Asian-American enrollment at an artificially low level, imposing an unlawful quota," according to the complaint. It was countered by a statement from Asian Americans Advancing Justice in support of the institutions' admissions practices. A similar federal complaint against Harvard was dismissed, in light of the SFFA lawsuit entailing the same issues. Princeton's admissions practices, also subject to this kind of administrative challenge, were upheld upon federal review.

Delving into Faculty Diversity

NEAR THE END of a year of student protests about diversity on many campuses, Yale's new Faculty of Arts and Sciences Senate (Harvard has no analogous body) released a significant report on faculty diversity and inclusivity. It found that after progress in diversifying faculty ranks from 1999 to 2007, Yale suffered a "lost decade" under the pressure of financial constraint—with particularly severe effects on the retention of underrepresented minority and junior faculty members. The report made 19 recommendations, ranging from a clear institutional commitment to fostering faculty and curricular diversity, to disseminating better data and performance metrics, and targeting Yale's $25-million fund to match departmental diversity initiatives. Survey research revealed much higher levels of dissatisfaction among faculty members who are women or underrepresented minorities. That finding is consistent with "climate" surveys conducted at Harvard and elsewhere (see "How the Faculty Feels," September-October 2014, page 21)—reflecting family-care demands, burdens of committee and other academic service, and relatively small peer cohorts.

Achieving sustained gains in diversity has proven difficult during a period of restrained growth. Data compiled by Harvard's senior vice provost for faculty development and diversity show that the tenured ranks have become steadily, if sometimes modestly, more diverse from academic year 2006 through 2016—but that in the junior (tenure-track) ranks, the underrepresented minority share has risen only one percentage point (to 11 percent) during that period. —J.S.R.

New Fellows

The magazine's Berta Greenwald Ledecky Undergraduate Fellows for the 2016-2017 academic year will be Matthew Browne '17 and Lily Scherlis '18. The fellows join the editorial staff and contribute to the magazine during the year, writing the "Undergraduate" column and reporting for both the print publication and harvardmagazine.com, among other responsibilities.

Browne, of West Point, New York, and Adams House, is a senior concentrating in social studies. He is a staff writer for *The Harvard Advocate* and a member of the Signet Society. After summers previously spent doing research in a biology laboratory and working for a real-estate tech startup, Browne spent this past summer writing freelance articles for various publications and conducting research for a senior thesis about music festivals.

Scherlis, who hails from Pittsburgh, is a junior pursuing a joint concentration in comparative literature and visual and environmental studies. She is a staff writer for *The Harvard Advocate* and a member of *The Harvard Lampoon*'s art staff. Before arriving at Harvard, she spent a year at art school in Greece. This past summer, Scherlis received an Artist Development Fellowship from Harvard's Office for the Arts to focus on her painting and writing, and worked as a research assistant at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

The fellowships are supported by Jonathan J. Ledecky '79, M.B.A. '83, and named in honor of his mother. For updates on past Ledecky Fellows and links to their work, see harvardmagazine.com/donate/ledecky-fellowships.

Photograph by Stu Rosner

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