John Lewis

to be safe to learn." Women are marching for "their optimal empowerment and to finally and completely upend a toxic culture that has existed for far too long. They want freedom from the tyranny of silence and the crime of zero accountability around sexual violence, harassment, and misogyny." And "Black folk are still marching...of late, just to insist that black lives matter. They are seeking freedom from the scourge of racial bias in criminal justice and throughout American life."

In the spirit of the day, and of their own day, fiftieth-reunion members of the Radcliffe class of 1968, who graduated wearing armbands to protest the Vietnam War (and to mourn the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr., whom the students had chosen as their Class Day speaker, and Robert F. Kennedy '48 during their senior spring semester), wore new ones tailored for 2018 by Peggy Kemeny '68, M.D. A lot of them signed a statement declaring:

Fifty years ago, we, the women of Radcliffe College, stood at our commencement to declare our opposition to the course the country was on and to affirm our dedication to achieving equality, justice, and dignity for all people.

Fifty years later, those goals have not been achieved and are receding ever further under the policies of the current administration. We stand again in protest to rededicate ourselves to achieving the world we envisioned then.

Our activism and that of our generation made a difference fifty years ago. We now pledge ourselves to resist the catastrophic threats to our planet and to the institutions of our constitutional democracy. We commit our resources and energy to this struggle.

Faust, a 1968 graduate (Bryn Mawr), associated herself with those formative times in her Baccalaureate address (and achieved another Harvard presidential first on Thursday afternoon, referring to Jimi Hendrix and a possibly different meaning of the line, "Are you experienced?"). Speaking after Lewis on Thursday afternoon—it was her valedictory—Faust came "back to hope—the hope implicit in our efforts to model a different way for humans to live and work together, the hope in the ideas and discoveries that are the currency we trade in, the hope in the bright futures of those who graduate today."

• A way forward from 2018? Accordingly, she might have been encouraged by the morning talk by Graduate English orator Pete Davis '12, J.D. '18—a public-interest activist who managed to drive Law School ad-

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Women Leaders

As President Faust concludes her Harvard service, two other women leaders figured prominently in Commencement week. Governor Gina Raimondo '93 was chief marshal for the College twenty-fifth reunion class; the Rhode Island Rhodes Scholar spoke at the luncheon spread in Widener. Recalling the morning and her undergraduate experience, she said, "I was just filled with gratitude." She explained:

Gina Raimondo

"[I]t was a real sacrifice for my family to send me here. My dad…worked two jobs in order to be able to allow my sister, brother, and me to go to college. He worked all day in a manufacturing firm back in the day when we manufactured a lot of jewelry in Rhode Island, and he would come home, eat dinner, and go out at night, work another job. I remember…when I got into Harvard. My mom sat me down and said, 'Gina, if you want to do this, we'll find a way.'…And she said to me, 'When you get there, there will be a lot of kids who have a lot more than you do.…There is going to be a lot of kids around you who have a lot more resources. They go on vacations and do things. And you're going to have to work… during term and summer.' And she was right, there were a lot of kids here who had a lot more than me. But you know what? There was a place for me at Harvard.…And I found my way. And it was hard, and I did have to work. But I was supported, at every step of the way."

On Friday, Radcliffe's medalist was Hillary Rodham Clinton—former U.S. senator and secretary of state, and 2016 Democratic presidential candidate. Conveying a message to the students amid the anxieties of today, she described a visit to Cairo in 2011, after Hosni Mubarak was forced to step down:

"I met with a large group of the students who had led the Tahrir Square demonstrations, and I asked them, 'So, what is next for you?' And they looked at me like, 'What a ridiculous question—we've done what we came to do. We got rid of Mubarak.' And I said, 'What do you think happens next?' And they said, 'We're going to have a democracy. We're going to move quickly into a better future.' I said, 'Are any of you planning to run for office in this new democracy?' (No.) 'Are any of you planning to start political parties to compete?' (No.) 'So you've built up all this social capital driven by social media, but you're not ready to take the next step. There are only two organized groups other than the Mubarak regime: the Muslim Brotherhood and the army. So if you don't help to fill the void, it's going to be a contest between the Muslim Brotherhood and the army.' And—indeed—that's what happened."

Hillary Rodham Clinton

STEPHANIE MITCHELL/HPAC

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