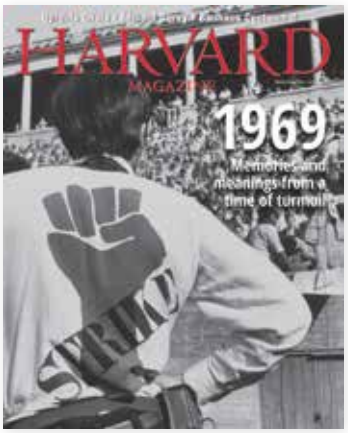
# Cambridge 02138

*Opioids, the Bauhaus, legacy admissions*

**1969, ECHOING**




As an activist in the Harvard Strike of 1969 and the SDS speaker at the 1969 Commencement ceremony, I welcome the retrospective in the March-April issue ("Echoes of 1969," page 52). However, the article trivializes the events of April 1969 in important ways. Some recollections focus on unimportant details from the authors' lives, such as Fox News commentator Chris Wallace bragging about "making a great over-the-shoulder catch" in a touch football game the day the strike began. Others focus on unimportant consequences of the strike, such as abolishing the rule requiring male students to wear coats and ties to dinner, mentioned by Richard Hyland.

Mostly absent from the recollections is the real reason the strike occurred: the brutal war in Vietnam that killed 58,000 Americans; 1.1 million North Vietnamese rebels; 250,000 South Vietnamese soldiers; and 2 million civilians. Harvard provided crucial support for this war: with military officers trained by ROTC; as a recruiting ground for companies like Dow Chemical; and with political operatives like Henry Kissinger.

Against all odds, the people of Vietnam ultimately vanquished the armies of the most powerful nation on earth, ending the war. The Harvard Strike was an important event that undermined the will and the ability of the U.S. government to continue that war. That is why the strike happened, and that is why it is important.

Much has changed. Vietnam is no longer the enemy. But we struggle with a president who promises to block all Muslims from entering the country, and to erect a 2,000-mile wall across our southern border. The fight for a just, inclusive, and democratic society must continue. As we pass the torch, we call upon the students and faculty at Harvard today to show the same dedication, courage, and commitment that was shown by the participants in the 1969 strike.

Bruce C. Allen '69
*Beachwood, Ohio*

During the 1969 occupation of University Hall, one of my professors, Nathan Glazer, stood nearby quietly surveying the scene. A respected member of New York's liberal intelligentsia, he and others were now being labeled the "Old Left," while a younger generation, including members of SDS, Democratic Socialists, the Progressive Labor Party, and others were neologized as the "New Left."

Both factions generally sought a redistribution of society's resources to eliminate the extremes of wealth and poverty in America. But they were polarized along fault lines predicated on how that goal should be achieved. Among some New Lefties, securing power by force was now justifiable, so distrusting were they of conventional democratic institutions and processes. But for Old Lefties, such a premise was a nonstarter.

Accordingly, Glazer approached a small cluster of radicals, panic in his voice, his hands shaking.

"Don't you see what you're doing?" he implored. "This is exactly how Hitler created the Third Reich! He convinced Germans

HARVARD
MAGAZINE

"Y-you're playing right into the hands of the right wing, the fascists in this country."

that democratic processes were regressive. He glorified force...and discrimination... and...suppression."

A few students cheered Glazer while others tried to shout him into silence. But he would not yield.

"Y-you're playing right into the hands of the right wing, the fascists, in this country," he stammered. "They can use the occupation to justify vilifying people who support progressive social policies."

The drama I witnessed that day cut to the very core of the democratic experience. No matter how urgent or how defensible one's goals may be, process—in the final analysis—is far more important than product. How fortunate I was to have witnessed Glazer's display of intellectual courage, a lesson that has remained with me throughout my scholarly career.

Dennis E. Gale, M.Ed. '69
*Professor Emeritus, Rutgers; Lecturer, Stanford*
*Burlingame, California*

Thank goodness for Mark Helprin, a lonely voice. For the record I received my B.A. in 1968 and was at the B School, the one area of the University which emphatically did not support the shutdown.

What followed has been 50 years of a subtly orchestrated, culturally enforced, restriction of free thinking (presented by the Orwellian name of Free Thinking), along with a tightening of the mandated image of the properly reeducated and spiffed-up life as a good citizen, which functions as the major purpose of Harvard. I wonder: how many graduates and Harvard minions have even noticed this? Has a person with dirt on her hands or an imperfectly done tie ever appeared in a Harvard publication? I have frequently been amused when the classmates whose notes in anniversary reports most skillfully exuded secular righteousness end up called on one carpet or another for ethical infractions.

Harvard imposes its own model for the correct living of a life. How dare they? Sterility is at its core. To avoid it I should have stuck to math and physics or gone to MIT. All in all I learned better things from uneducated dudes I served with in Vietnam and ordinary folks putting together their highly individual lives. Life isn't like the Stepfordish image promulgated by Harvard and astonishingly accepted by so many thousands strong in brainpower but weak in will and independent thinking. This article sums my argument for never recommending Harvard to the bright kids I continue to work with (professor, now tennis pro). When asked where I went to school I say, "Harvard, but it didn't take."

James Sloan '65, B '70
*River Forest, Ill.*

Professor Hyland is correct that "Most of these [post-bust and occupation] changes would have happened anyway." Indeed, some of them occurred before the occupation and the bust. Many of my freshman classmates in the fall of 1968 wore dashikis to the Freshman Union for their meals, and the coat-and-tie dress code disappeared before the spring semester. Enforcement of parietal rules had disappeared at least from Stoughton North by the same time. As for the structural changes enumerated by Professor Hyland that actually did occur after the occupation and bust, the argument that the occupation "contributed...a sense of urgency" seems a wistful attempt to appear as an actor on history's stage.

Thomas Pippert '72, J.D. '75
*New York City*

To add to your series of compelling reflections on 1969, I had my own unique experience. I was in the final stages of my doctoral dissertation at Harvard ("The Latvian Communist Party Under Soviet Rule") in January 1969 when I became a reporter for United Press International in Boston. On the night of April 9, 1969, UPI received a tip that the police would forcibly re-

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move the demonstrators from University Hall early the next morning, and I was assigned to cover the bust. So there I was at 5 A.M., standing on the steps of Widener Library—where I had spent hundreds of hours doing research and writing—documenting the invasion of Harvard Yard by hundreds of helmeted police with their billy clubs. And a bloody "invasion" it was, still one of the most searing memories of my life. Many of the police took full advantage of the long-awaited "opportunity" to pummel the privileged students whom they had always resented. It was a sickening sight. After University Hall was cleared and the students were arrested, I raced back to the UPI bureau and filed my story, which landed on the front page of dozens of newspapers around the country later that day and the next morning.

I took part in the ensuing strike with my two-year-old-son Rick. He was featured on the cover of one of the strike bulletins wearing the ubiquitous "Strike" T-shirt with clenched fist, identical to the one on the cover of your magazine. At the ensuing graduation I joined hundreds of others in wearing a black arm-

7 WARE STREET

## "No more pencils, no more books…"

EVEN IN elementary school, one suspects, the incursion of technology—tablets, laptops, smartphones—has now rendered all but obsolete students' venerable end-of-year ditty: "No more pencils/no more books/no more teachers' dirty looks…."

In the College context, however, a different, and unsettling, notion brings the old lyric to mind. At year-end, *The Harvard Crimson* helpfully published "Ten Stories That Shaped 2018." It had been "a momentous year" for the University: as it "welcomed its twenty-ninth president Lawrence S. Bacow, it struggled with numerous challenges including lawsuits alleging discrimination, accusations of sexual harassment levied at prominent affiliates, and an 'unprecedented' endowment tax." Accordingly, the paper examined the stories that "most defined 2018":

- the Students for Fair Admissions lawsuit alleging discrimination against Asian-American applicants to the College;
- "#MeToo Hits Harvard";
- the inception of the Bacow presidency;
- social-group opposition to the new sanctions on single-gender organizations;
- University diversity initiatives;
- graduate-student unionization;
- the arrest of a black student and allegations of police brutality;
- the $9.6-billion Harvard Campaign;
- "academic probation" for Harvard College Faith and Action following the group's pressure on a leader to resign over her same-sex date; and
- Title IX issues.

As any AP statistics student knows, 10 stories is not a large sample. But the selections no doubt reflect both the editors' news judgment and revealed preferences of readers, including the online, global audience for all things Harvard. Certainly the community itself has a legitimate interest in its new leader, its norms and conduct toward its members, and weighty challenges pressing in on the University from the society beyond.

But one is struck by the nearly total absence of anything *academic*: the teaching, learning, and research that presumably explain Harvard's very existence—and students' rationale for being here. For example, this was the year in which a long-serving dean of undergraduate education handed off his responsibilities to a successor, and she, in turn, shouldered the task of making the entire General Education curriculum ready for students this coming fall. In the past, undergraduates have, with reason, criticized this required part of their curriculum, and they presumably have a stake in how the new one turns out. On a finer scale, they have an interest in how their concentrations are refining courses, tweaking pedagogies, and bringing nascent University intellectual initiatives that cross disciplines and departments (i.e., data science, quantitative biology, and so on) into their own learnin'.

The *Crimson* touched on many of these issues during the year, of course, but none apparently were top-10 concerns. In a way, this is unsurprising. Although one encounters intensely academic, intellectual students at Harvard, most of them have many other things going on most of the time. Howard Gardner's research on contemporary campuses (see page 31) is only the latest to find that few students list courses, the curriculum, teaching, or other academic priorities as most on their minds. After all, one of the most famous academic tropes of all time is the late University of California president Clark Kerr's definition of administrators' chief problems as "sex for the students, athletics for the alumni, and parking for the faculty."

And the latter group's own deliberations have been rather unacademic as well. Faculty of Arts and Sciences monthly meetings are no more representative of the work of 700-plus professors than the *Crimson*'s list is a comprehensive guide to the work of the University. But during the past half-dozen semesters, it is fair to say that far more time was spent discussing regulation of those unrecognized single-gender social organizations, and matters like re-synching class schedules to accommodate classes in Allston once the engineering and applied sciences complex opens in the fall of 2020, than has been devoted to teaching and learning. The parameters for advanced standing (see page 28), and the implications for the foreign-language requirement, stand out almost as an anomaly in recent memory. If the professors—who teach and do the research—and their leaders are choosing to set the agenda that way, is it any wonder that the students, who after all are merely passing through, aren't getting the message about its mission very clearly?

A recent conversation about the composition of the faculty with senior vice provost Judith D. Singer ended up in an unexpected place (see page 25). She noted that research universities like Harvard are the seedbed for the faculties of the future: the people who make discoveries of fundamental importance and educate leaders who will have a huge impact on society. She also observed that it is by no means certain that students pursuing the surging STEM fields will opt for academic careers (especially given the salaries immediately available in industry and finance). Attracting *some*, she thought, might depend on professors better conveying both the values of their disciplines and the rewards available to those who invest themselves in the life of the mind.

Beyond that long-term payoff, the professors also might find that students become more invested in their work together, *right now*. It will take more than that to make a future *Crimson* top-stories list, but Singer's idea bears on the larger issue of making teaching, learning, and discovery continuously more central to all the community's conversations. —JOHN S. ROSENBERG, *Editor*

band over our robes, and to my surprise my photo appeared in a *Newsweek* spread on campus protests across America.

I have lived near Cambridge ever since, so on occasion I walk through Harvard Yard. And I am always carried back to that moment—standing on the steps of Widener, watching the Soviet-like invasion and violence. It may have been a mini-version of the Soviet ouster of Dubček in Czechoslovakia eight months earlier, but the parallels have always lived with me.

Michael Widmer, Ph.D. '69
*Belmont, Mass.*

We, initiators of and participants in the occupation of University Hall in 1969, and supporters of the demands of the ensuing strike, were happy to see the magazine explore the events of April 1969. However, we were disappointed that the retrospective captured neither our nor the Harvard administration's motivations and actions. We believe the events were important enough to justify a more thorough approach.

The occupation of University Hall was the culmination of years of thinking, petitioning, planning, and canvassing. The war in Vietnam, racism, and Harvard's destructive incursion into neighboring working class communities—all these and more were the subject of intense discussions in classrooms, hallways, dorm rooms, and on the street. We mounted multiple campaigns to no avail. Student government organizations voted to abolish ROTC, and the faculty voted to withdraw academic credit for ROTC, and both were ignored by the Corporation and senior administrators. This reality led us to make what might be considered a last-resort move—escalating to militant civil disobedience. We knew the risks. Harvard had already meted out hundreds of probations, suspensions, and losses of scholarship for, among other things, the Dow Chemical recruitment demonstration.

In 1969, Harvard thought it knew best about everything and escalated to repression almost immediately. The administration suggested that challenging its authority threatened the very foundations of civilized society. Some punishments escalated to permanent expulsions and, a couple of years later, to incarceration. Yes, two University Hall occupants were charged with assault—an "assault" that consisted of gently escorting Dean Watson out, as per his request to signal that he disagreed with us. Ironically, he initially pressed charges against one student, who was convicted, and then, when one of the actual escorts came forward to correct an injustice, changed his testimony to ensure they were convicted and jailed. (They served nine months.) Watson later apologized privately and helped one of them get into law school despite the criminal record.

Knowing this, your readers may better understand Robert Hall's recollection, which captures Harvard's attitude: believing that black students were planning a Widener Library search-and-destroy mission. Racism, sexism, and authoritarianism are accurate words to describe the character of most of Harvard's leadership in 1969. There were only three women on the faculty, reproductive services were illegal, the university provided no child-care services, and most women working on campus were in dead-end, poverty-level positions. Given that reality, the retrospective's first sentence mystifies us. "In the late 1960's American society seemed in crisis." America was in crisis.

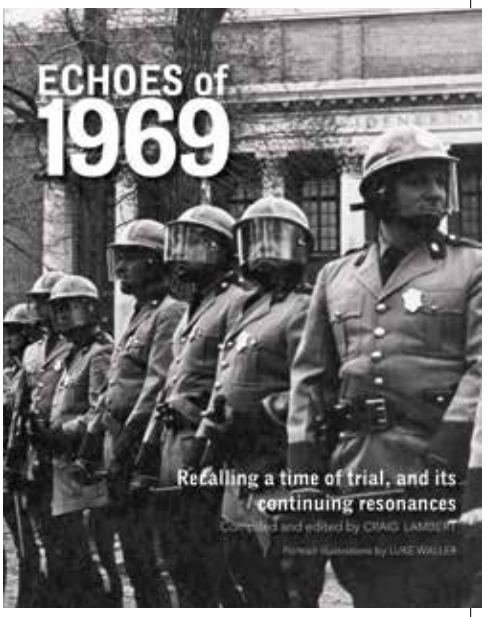
Harvard's leadership was serious about keeping ROTC and not creating an Afro American Studies program. We and college activists across the country were equally serious about eliminating ROTC, reasoning that its loss would deprive the armed services of its primary source of junior officers, which would significantly impede the prosecution of an immoral and criminal war. We want your readers to understand that we weren't frivolous and were largely, though not always completely, successful at planning and maintaining an orderly presence.

We cannot help but wonder how Harvard will respond to the increasing activism among today's students? Today President Bacow continues Drew Faust's insistence that the endowment is not an appropriate instrument for social change. According to a *Crimson* poll, most of the faculty feel differently. This is hopeful, but it didn't help in 1969, and it may not in 2019 as long as the administration refuses to use the university's vast resources to respond to such critical issues as climate change.

The magazine's retrospective diminishes the possibility of learning from history, and of nourishing civil public discourse. If Harvard doesn't embrace history's complexity and candid discussions of the issues before us, it is doomed to be on the wrong side of history again.

E. John Pennington '67 and 56 others
*(A complete list of signers appears online.)*

**HM Visit harvardmag.com for more passionate correspondence about April 1969, and other matters.**




As an SDS member and University Hall alum: Beautifully written by all participants and obviously deeply felt. As it was at the time. There is a lot of meaning in this piece, not just elegy. Congratulations.

Delia O'Connor '70
*Newburyport, Mass.*

The fist-centered cover of the March-April magazine reminded me that not all of us students supported the strike that April.

An 18-year-old freshman 50 years ago, I saw a campus dominated by SDS-generated unrest. I could not enter or exit the Yard that year without being handed a leaflet protesting something. The evening after the "bust" at University Hall, I heard fellow Pennypacker classmates, upon their release from jail, shouting expletives laden with invective for President Pusey. I think it was the next morning when an SDS member barged into our chemistry lecture hall, demanding to read a statement announcing the strike. After he left, our professor, an elderly gentleman with a European accent, calmly said that he had not experienced anything like that since the day Brownshirts invaded his classroom in the 1930s.

Later, I attended the large meeting in Harvard Stadium, sitting in a spot near the

closed end. I remember being surprised to see the teaching fellow for my American history class section leading the meeting. It may have been Dr. Buhl, one of those participants editor Craig Lambert selected to reflect on those events. Buhl wrote that the meeting did "fulfill the moderate hopes" to "bring the Harvard community together toward a fairly quick de-escalation of the crisis and a return to normalcy," for not long afterward, classes resumed, things settling down by May.

After exams, I took a leave of absence to do an active-duty stint in the Marine Corps. By the time I returned to Harvard in 1972, the mood on campus was far different, the ROTC program banned, the war ending soon, the draft functioning under a seemingly fairer lottery system. It was as if the strike of 1969 and the fiery riots and university shutdown following the invasion of Cambodia in the spring of 1970 had never occurred. There were no leaflets, no signs of SDS. The Yard was a strangely quiet place.

David Cornish '72
*Milton, Mass.*

As one of the editors of "The Choices We Made: Class of '67 Responses to the Vietnam War," for our fiftieth reunion, I read all of the excellent "Echoes of 1969" essays with great interest; and I also was left with a clear sense of wishing that I had known "Jet" Thomas.

Tim Hatfield '67, Ed.M. '69
*Winona, Minn.*

On page 57, Chris Wallace remembers signing off an April 9, 1969, news report from the Middlesex County jail to Harvard's radio station, WHRB, with the line, "This is Chris Wallace in custody."

For the record, the same phrasing was immortalized five years earlier by John Chancellor, NBC reporter, as he was dragged from the floor of the 1964 Republican National Convention: "This is John Chancellor, somewhere in custody."

Robert A. Brown, Ph.D. '71
*Green Valley, Ariz.*

### OPIOIDS

To bring the dilemma of opioid addiction "home" ("The Opioids Emergency," March-April, page 36), I attribute my husband's suicide in 2018 in considerable part to this relatively new fear of prescribing opioids.

In the early 2000s Tom suffered, not unlike Kate Nicholson in your article ("The Persistence of Pain," *(please turn to page 86)*

page 41), from severe back pain for several years. He worked while lying on his back (he was a transportation consultant) and didn't drive. He was prescribed high doses of opioids and other strong meds to manage the pain. With help from a physical therapist and others, he began to get better. He gradually weaned himself from the opioids (he never got a high, but did experience physical dependence). A former rock climber, he became an avid and expert cyclist, and we traveled widely for many years.

In late 2017, Tom once again began to experience severe hip and back pain. He saw a primary caregiver who first prescribed 30 pills of "low dose" hydrocodone and subsequently gave Tom 15 more pills, saying that was ALL, as he, the caregiver, had worked in an ER and knew about addiction. Tom then went to a pain management specialist who humiliated him, saying, cynically, "I'll give you three pills to help you through the MRI because at least there will be someone there if you collapse." At home over the next several weeks Tom became depressed and anxious, with very little access to the medications which had essentially saved him before. He died last March.

I hope, as we work to quell this public health crisis, that physicians are trained to treat the individual patients who can successfully benefit from opioid medications or newly developed alternatives.

Nancy Dyar, M.A.T '67, Ph.D
*Oakland, Calif.*

I was very disappointed by the article. Certainly since 2000 the over-availability of prescription opioids made them attractive to addicts seeking a heroin-like high. There have always been questions, however, about the overlap between those addicts and chronic pain patients. Typical is a study in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* which found that 78 percent of OxyContin addicts had not obtained their drugs via prescription. Longitudinal studies have also repeatedly shown surprisingly low risks for opioid addiction among chronic pain sufferers. And a recent study in JAMA Open Network showed that further restricting opioid prescriptions will not substantially affect the death rate in Massachusetts —unsurprisingly, since 90 percent of overdoses are now fentanyl-related.

What is indisputable is that even current restrictions on legally prescribed opioids are harming genuinely ill patients for whom these drugs remain the best solution and last resort. Studies have shown both sickle-cell patients and diabetics with neuropathic pain being undertreated and criminalized due to the opioid panic. A survey of more than 3,000 pain patients found that 70 percent reported increased pain and a lowered quality of life as a result of having their prescriptions cut off or restricted. A recent op-ed in *JAMA* noted that the opioid "alternatives" have little effect on many pain disorders, but dangerous side-effects; cited the research showing that the majority of pain patients do not misuse opioids; and called for an end to the media's irresponsible use of the term "opioid epidemic."

Unfortunately, legitimate concern over fentanyl-driven overdoses is creating a parallel crisis, that of genuinely ill patients who are being undertreated and criminalized through no fault of their own. It seems to me that theirs is a story worth reporting.

Tara Kelly '91
*Gloucester, Mass.*

Many people take opioids because they want the high. By all accounts, the high is an intense pleasure. "The Opioids Emergency" says nothing about this. Not one word. Surely the doctors interviewed for the article know that lots of people want the high. The doctors evidently regard that as inconsequential. With such a narrow focus, they are not likely to solve the problem.

Jack Harllee '63
*Washington, D.C.*

### BAUHAUS

The vintage photograph of a typical dorm room in the Gropius Graduate School complex ("What A Human Should Be," on the Bauhaus and Harvard, March-April, page 44; see below) reminds me vividly of my two years in just such a room in 1967-69: Richards Hall 301. A little-known fact I discovered at that time is that the rooms were the same size, 10 feet by 15 feet, as the cell at St. Denis of Abbot Suger—the "inventor" of the French Gothic style; and, closer to home, also the same size as the interior of Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond, where his philosophical ruminations were born. There must be some connection here....

Daniel D. Reiff '63, Ph.D. '70
*Kenmore, N.Y.*

### SAMUEL STOUFFER

The "vita" on Sam Stouffer (March-April, page 50) brought back welcome graduate-school memories. Sam's work on *The American Soldier*, important as it was, represented only a fragment of his contribution both to demography and survey research. Absent from the article was a reference to his landmark McCarthy-era statement, *Communism, Conformity, and Civil Liberties,* published in 1955.

In his later years he was one of the early pioneers in research on the connection between educational achievement and social status that became one of the chief concerns in the sociology of education over the next half-century. His work also contributed to social action. He developed the point system for establishing priorities governing the order in which soldiers returned to the States following World War II—not to mention coining the phrase "Move Up To Schlitz," based on his studies of social status, as it pertained to beer drinking.

Funniest memory: I sat next to Sam at a lecture that B.F. Skinner gave on teaching machines (one of the sillier educational hobby horses at the time). Sam sat there shaking his head: "Burrhus [what the *B* stands for] has the highest I.Q. of anyone I've ever met. Too bad he can't use his head."

I suspect you could fill a whole magazine with Sam Stouffer stories.

Robert Dreeben, Ph.D. '62
*Evanston, IL*

### THE ECONOMY UNFETTERED

"the new monopoly" and the quoted explanations of professor Jason Furman (March-April, page 11) are a monument to

political correctness, but an affront to sound reasoning. Let us count the ways:

The premise that American workers are being victimized by a monopsony is belied by the historically low rates of unemployment, below 4 percent at this writing. It also fails to take into account what is happening to workers' standard of living and wealth, as opposed to their share of an income distribution, which I suggest has substantially improved in recent years more often than not. Indeed, even granting the assertion that market concentration has increased in three-quarters of American industries since 2000 hardly establishes the existence of a monopsony or even of a material increase.

The article also fails to take into account the situation described later in this issue, namely "The Opioids Emergency." Persons afflicted with this addiction—which clearly calls for a strong response on many fronts—are not the ones being impacted by changing market structure.

On a more technical level, the references to noncompete agreements as contributing to the purported imbalance of market power ignore several fundamental considerations. As a business lawyer, frequently advising clients on such agreements, I feel compelled to respond. First, even if nearly a quarter of the population is covered by such agreements, many—perhaps a majority—apply to senior management (sometimes in connection with the sale of a business), who, by the author's hypothesis, are the ones falling behind, while others probably are only non-solicitation agreements applicable to customers and employees, but not keeping people from working in their field.

Second, all such agreements have finite duration, usually no more than a year and often only three to six months. They are simply not a permanent impediment to economic advancement.

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Finally, many persons covered by such agreements are implicitly or explicitly paid for their forbearance from competition. Furman is correct that there are too many cases involving hourly employees where such agreements serve no useful purpose and should be prohibited, but to attribute large-scale macroeconomic implications to them is a gross overstatement.

Before we pursue drastic structural changes in our economy, we need to ensure that there is actually a sound rationale for doing so.

Martin B. Robins, J.D. '80
*Barrington Hills, Ill.*

## HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

I am a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and a Unitarian Universalist minister, now retired. I loved the article featuring the work of David Garza '86 ("The Good Fight," March-April, page 71). I am a faithful reader, and Garza's story represents a world I know far better than the one most frequently highlighted in this magazine, which, from my perspective, skews to the accomplishments of rich white alums (mostly male).

While I appreciate the remarkable endeavors and accomplishments of so many alums, it is rare to read about the remarkable endeavors and accomplishments of someone like Garza whose mission—to open doors of opportunity, to enrich lives, and enhance human progress—can be seen and experienced at the Henry Street Settlement in Manhattan's Lower East Side. More like this, please! And thanks to David Garza.

Rev. Katie Lee Crane, M.Div. '97
*West Roxbury, Mass.*

## LEGACY ADMISSIONS

In response to a class fundraising solicitation, I must advise you that for some time now I have ceased making any gifts to Harvard College...and will continue in that course of action as long as Harvard continues to provide an admissions preference to legacy applicants or applicants whose parents have contributed substantial amounts to Harvard.

The reason for my action is not complex. I believe that the current Harvard admissions preferences serve primarily to reinforce the gap between the most and least well-to-do members of our society, to the detriment of the nation as a whole.

Harvard profits handsomely from the beneficiaries of its preferential admissions policies, and will not notice or much care about losing my comparatively tiny contributions. My views of sound social policy, however, are better served by transferring my contributions to organizations that are seeking to reduce the income/influence gap in our society, rather than perpetuating it as do the Harvard preferential admissions policies.

Stephen B. Goldberg '54, LL.B. '59
*Chicago*

## FAN MAIL

Reading obituaries would seem to be an unusual way to uplift one's spirits, but reading them in *Harvard Magazine* does that for me regularly. The world can be such a dour and depressing place these days, with examples everywhere of decent values being compromised and diminished. But it's uplifting to read many or most of the obituaries in the magazine.

So many of the men's and women's lives summarized there are heartening examples of good and productive and honest lives led by fine people who have placed service above self, and who typically try to do the right thing throughout their lives. It's a breath of fresh air to see how many served the public good, quietly and steadily. So many of them constituted the warp and woof of a healthy democratic social fabric.

And these profiles are also a pleasure to read from a reading standpoint alone, beautifully edited as they are by Deborah Smullyan. It is often said that *The New York Times* has the best written and most interesting obituaries in the world. That is because those saying it don't know of this terrific section of *Harvard Magazine*, which in that respect matches the *Times* in quality.

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## ERRATA

The first paragraph of Spencer Lee Lenfield's review of a biography of Edward Gorey ("The Memorable Eccentric," March-April, page 68), refers to *cross-hatching*. The correct term in this instance is *hatching*.

And we inadvertently demoted puzzle-maker Paolo Pasco ("Remaking the Grid," March-April, page 63), identifying him as a member of the class of 2023, which has not yet been admitted. A freshman this academic year, he is a member of the class of 2022.