



HARVARD-RADCLIFFE CLASS OF 1966

Dear Classmates,

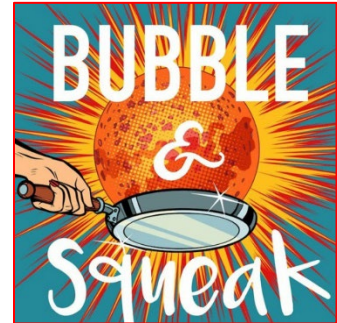
August 2023

Here's our August newsletter! But first, a reminder that our new president, Claudine Gay, gets inaugurated on September 29 and the Freshman class gets convocated on September 4.

Wendy Sanford:

I just received a gem of a short podcast on my book, *These Walls Between Us: A Memoir of Friendship across Race and Class*, from sound artist/climate activist Peterson Toscano. The podcast is part of his inventive series called Bubble and Squeak. In it, I speak briefly about the "why" of my book and read from a key scene. Seems to me to be just right. See what you think!

<https://soundcloud.com/peterson-thomas-toscano/cracked-ajar>



Tom Humphries:

Maybe we should remind classmates to get the RSV vaccine plus flu and Covid updates.

Robert Eddy:

Wife Lynn and I have been enjoying visits this summer from friends and family as they trundle across the continent and stop at our new place in Wisconsin.

Last month I came across the new book *Spy Ship?* by C. D. Andersen (available on Amazon Kindle), a memoir covering the last voyage of the intelligence ship USS BELMONT, which was also my first. It was a curious experience indeed to be reading another person's recollections of a shared experience, and also to find myself along with other shipmates mentioned and described as the narrative unfolded. As one of the few members of our class to serve in the armed forces after graduation as an enlisted man, I was again able to savor the breadth of this eminently worthwhile experience. Later on after that cruise while stationed in Naples, Italy I came across the following graffiti in the washroom of a waterfront bar: "Tough as nails, hard as bricks: Harvard Class of 66!" and I have wondered since which of us might have put that there.

As a beta tester for Duolingo I have been working through the course on Irish, also known as Irish Gaelic. I had stopped working on Irish over five years ago as I found it too difficult; but coming back to it now and overcoming the obstacles of eclipsis and lenition make progress all the more gratifying. And I'm finally doing some work with the Irish grammar book which I had bought 40 years ago in Dublin. Sometimes it does take a while for plans to come to life.

Good wishes to us all as we continue to follow our interests with vigor.

Mike Wholley:

Life here on Lake Norman still has me "livin' the dream!"



Neva Goodwin:

My news is that I'm suffering from long Covid — didn't recognize it as such for several months after my first and only bout with Covid, last October, but it came on like gangbusters when I got a booster in March. Not totally debilitating — I can carry on the basic things in life, including hanging out with my four granddaughters, but any real effort, mental or physical, leaves me exhausted. That includes keeping up with email. I will try a hyperbaric chamber when I get back to Cambridge in October. I've tried a few supplements that have been recommended, including CoQ-10, but don't see any effect. I'd be interested in any experience or information that others may wish to share.

Santiago Leon:

None of the events recounted here paints as being deeply evil any of the Harvard luminaries with whom Epstein had a cosy relationship. However, the relationships described, taken together with the accumulating evidence about admissions policies, are consistent with the general observation that the university at various levels is extremely comfortable with the wealthy individuals whose fortunes are produced by our economic system. By extension, we may infer that the leaders of the university are also comfortable with the economic system which produces those fortunes, and the values that underlie that system.

Cosy relationships between the university and wealthy people have probably always existed at Harvard. Certainly they existed in the 1960's. The difference between then and now is that in those days, the extremes of wealth and poverty were tempered by forces like high tax rates and strong unions and antitrust enforcement that together produced what has been called the Great Compression, a narrowing of the disparity between rich and poor. Today, in contrast, we live with high levels of disparity of income and power. The results include a large number of alienated people and a political system which is so dominated by the top .01 percent that it is incapable of providing responsible leadership in facing the problems of our age, most notably climate change.

<https://news.mit.edu/2020/mit-releases-results-fact-finding-report-jeffrey-epstein-0110>

How Jeffrey Epstein Captivated Harvard- And how the university has yet to give a full accounting. By Michael Massing. From *The Nation*, August 7/14, 2023. (There is a paywall, but the first several articles are free.)

<https://www.thenation.com/article/society/jeffrey-epstein-harvard-summer/>

Excerpt:

As the steady drip of revelations over the past few months shows, Jeffrey Epstein's ties to intellectual, cultural, and financial luminaries were much more extensive than previously known. For years after Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting and procuring a minor for prostitution, he socialized with Bill Gates, Woody Allen, Noam Chomsky, Leon Botstein, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, private equity billionaire Leon Black, LinkedIn cofounder Reid Hoffman, CIA director William Burns, and Lawrence Summers.

According to a recent report in *The Wall Street Journal*, Summers—a former president of Harvard and the current Charles W. Eliot University Professor and director of the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at the Harvard Kennedy School—had more than a dozen meetings scheduled with Epstein from 2013 to 2016. In April 2014, Summers sent Epstein an email seeking “small scale philanthropy advice” regarding his wife, Elisa New, a professor of English at Harvard. “My life will be better if i raise \$1m for Lisa,” he wrote. “Mostly it will go to make a PBS series and for teacher training. Ideas?”

Summers invited Epstein to dinner, and they made plans to meet at a restaurant in the Boston suburb of Brookline. In 2016, a foundation linked to Epstein donated \$110,000 to New's nonprofit, which produced video content about poetry. After Epstein's second arrest, in 2019,

New—deeply regretting the grant—made a contribution in excess of that amount to an organization working against sex trafficking.

The Summers-Epstein relationship opens a window into the interlocking of intellectual and financial elites in our era of bloated capital accumulation. The perks and privileges that the superrich can offer make their company and resources hard to resist. Top universities, in turn, entice the tycoon class with a mix of academic prestige, intellectual stimulation, and social legitimation. And no university has more to offer in this regard than Harvard. The school has come to have a mesmerizing effect on the American public, especially its most mercantile tier, for which it is a honeypot.

[Professor Martin] Nowak began collaborating with Steven Pinker on projects dealing with the evolution of language, and both attended the talks, seminars, and meals that Epstein hosted at Nowak's office. In his book, Nowak quotes a graduate student as joking that "PED" could stand for "party every day." The circle around Epstein in these years included law professor Alan Dershowitz; psychology department chair Stephen Kosslyn; Henry Rosovsky, a longtime economics professor who had served as both the dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and a member of the Harvard Corporation, the University's governing board; David Gergen, a veteran presidential adviser who was then a professor at the Kennedy School; and Summers.

William Neaves:

Photographing wildlife at our mesa-top home in Northwest Texas continues to distract me from less pleasant matters.

On 8/23/2023, a mule deer doe visited with her fawn.



Martha Schoenemann:

Congratulations Tom on the Big Birthday! You may be among the elders of '66. I turn 80 in April of 2024. Of course, we are all "war babies" and we preceded the "baby boomers."



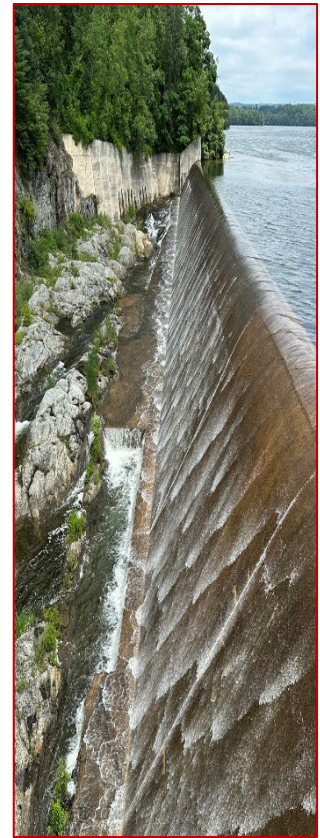
Tom Black:

I've received numerous notes from you all on my birthday, so I'll share with you a picture of the surprise party organized by my wife Nandy and attended by all the adult members of my extended family.

Fred Lowenfels:

This is a "live" photo, but I don't know if it moves in this message. I enjoy the interesting stories from my classmates, and the beautiful photographs you share

My contribution is a lovely waterfall at the dam on the Cross River Reservoir near Katonah, New York. This is a pristine part of the New York City watershed in Westchester County, about 45 miles north of Times Square. Usually, the water level is too low for any spill over. But after a series of torrential rains in July, the water was over the top of the spillway, making a lovely pattern of riffles. After leaving the dam, intrepid hikers can walk along the reservoir's south shore and enjoy the water views. It's hard to believe that this scene exists in a New York City suburb.



In Memoriam:

'66	ra Grossman	12/08/22	Silver Springs, MD
'67	Ronald Davis	11/05/20	
'67	Cheryl Chisholm	6/17/23	Pasadena, CA

There you have it for this month from

Tom Black
co-class secretary

Wherever you go, there you are!