



Jeanne Cosby-Rossmann holds bottle buried 25 years ago in the Eliot House courtyard as Cherry Bamberg tries to tease yellowed messages from its mouth. Tingling with anticipation are (from left) Antonio Cosby-Rossmann, Boone Turchi, Bruce Johnson, and Paul Bamberg, all members of the Class of 1963.

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metal wastebasket that sported the seal of Cornell University. In the small hours of night Antonio Rossmann and Myles Walsh buried the time capsule in a secret place. Bruce Johnson acted as lookout and captured the moment on Polaroid film. He later revealed the secret place in a letter to Boone Turchi, the fourth prediction-writer. Turchi promised not to tell anyone, even his sergeant.

The conspirators—part of a twelve-man group that inhabited adjoining suites in Eliot's I and J entries and called itself "The Thundering Herd"—planned to dig up the time capsule at their 25th reunion, which, as Johnson remembers, "seemed laughably distant at the time."

Time passed, as it does, in an *Augenblick*. At 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, June 8, 1988, Johnson arrived at Eliot House with a long-handled shovel. He was soon joined by Herd members Rossmann (now Cosby-Rossmann), Walsh, Turchi, Paul Bamberg, and David Otto. Cosby-Rossmann marched into the House courtyard, stopping at a three-square-foot plot between the dining room and a raised bust of Charles William Eliot. "This is the spot," he announced. "We are publicly declaring it. Myles, let's start digging. You get the first spadeful, because I think you got the last."

Walsh started to dig. "This is better quality topsoil," he mused. Bark mulch and plantings indicated that the area had been landscaped since 1963. Someone voiced the fear that the dig might produce only a remonstrance from the buildings and grounds department. But at 11:52 Walsh's shovel pierced a rusted fragment of wastebasket. At 11:53 he said, "There's the bottle!" Shrieks of joy. Bamberg's wife, Cherry, who was wearing a white skirt, took over the digging. At 11:55 a filthy-looking fragment of nylon sock was extracted. "In perfect condition," said one optimist. Bruce Johnson resumed digging and brought up more sock. At 11:59 he brought up the bottle, dirt-encrusted but intact. Much cheering.

Charles William Eliot resolutely kept his back to the proceedings. Someone asked if there might be a little wine left in the bottle. "Let's hope not," said Bamberg, a Harvard physics teacher

One might even say it's a class that's made friends with the future. Twenty-five years ago, during graduation week, four of its members created a time capsule. They wrote out predictions of various sorts, slipped them into a wine bottle, sealed it, put a nylon sock over it, and secured the bottle in a crushed

and oenologist. "Sixty-three was a terrible year."

After some fumbling attempts to extract the rolls of faded paper, Bamberg forthrightly shattered the bottle. The predictions were read. Walsh would be head of his own company (he is). Bamberg would be the only member of the Herd to be teaching at Harvard (he is), and would win the Nobel Prize in 1985 (he didn't). Cosby-Rossmann would be completely bald in 1988 (he isn't). A notch below Nostradamus, perhaps. But the recovery of the time capsule was a reminder that in life it's the journey, not the arrival, that really matters.

A second capsule has since been prepared and put in a secret place, to be unearthed in the year 2013.

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A final note about fitness. On Tuesday of reunion week Cosby-Rossmann got up at dawn to run from Straus Hall to the Essex County Club, Manchester, where the Class of 1963 would be spending the day. Wearing a Harvard track jersey and a race number (25), he completed the 27-mile journey in four hours, 37 minutes, reaching Essex before busloads of classmates did. It was the 101st marathon-distance effort for the Class of '63's foremost endurance runner.

Cosby-Rossmann was also the organizer of "the first reunion road race in the 352-year history of Harvard," staged at Essex later that day. The Class of

'63's five-kilometer race drew a total of 63 (sic) classmates, spouses, and children. The winner was Eric Kinney, 19, in a time of 17:33. His dad, Chuck Kinney '63, finished 29th. Paul Lehmann, of London, was the swiftest class member, recording a time of 19:19. Bonnie Sherman (21:12) was the first female. Her father, Jim Sherman '63, came in fifth. Margaret Wilkins Noel '64, wife of third-place finisher Gordon Noel '63, was first in the female classmate-partner division. Endurance awards went to Hampton Howell III '63 (36:24) and Mary Sachs (36:25), wife of Arthur Sachs '63, who battled gamely for 62nd place in this epic contest.

New Overseers

Official nominees outran all six petition candidates in this year's election of Overseers.

Winners were announced at the Harvard Alumni Association's annual meeting on the afternoon of Commencement Day. The successful candidates, and their vote totals, were

Hanna Holborn Gray, Ph.D. '57	14,663
Arthur A. Hartman '47	13,214
Arthur L. Liman '54	13,109
Christopher T. Bayley '60, J.D. '66	11,913
Richard A. Smith '46	11,609

Only 20 percent of the electorate voted this year. The ballot count was

33,645, compared with 38,901 in 1987 and 44,320 in 1986. Ballots were sent to some 165,000 alumni in April.

The outcome of the election was a rebuff for Harvard-Radcliffe Alumni/ae Against Apartheid (HRAAA), an organization that for three years has fielded candidates pledged to seek full divestment of all University holdings in companies doing business in South Africa. One HRAAA candidate was elected in 1986 and two in 1987. This year HRAAA endorsed five petition candidates; they reportedly finished seventh, eighth, ninth, eleventh, and twelfth in the balloting.

"It's a battle lost, a setback, but the Overseers election isn't the only thing our organization does," said Dorothee Benz '87, the executive director of HRAAA. "We're going to push ahead next year and keep raising our issues. We'll be around from here on in."

Benz thinks South Africa's press blackout hurt HRAAA's cause: "Because South Africa was not in the news very much this year, it was an uphill battle for anyone organizing on the divestment issue."

The most prominent Overseer candidates polled the most votes in this year's election. Gray is president of the University of Chicago, Hartman is former ambassador to the Soviet Union, and Liman was chief Senate counsel in the Iranscam investigation.

The Board of Overseers has thirty members elected at large by all degree-holding alumni, except those who are officers of the University. The Board meets half a dozen times a year. Its duties include approving the appointments and actions of the seven-man Harvard Corporation, and "counseling, supporting, and visiting" the University and its components.

Six new directors of the Alumni Association were also chosen in this year's election. They are Jerry Beasley '66, Ed.M. '69, of West Virginia; Alan Levenson '57, M.D. '61, M.P.H. '65, of Tucson; David C. Miller Jr. '64 of Washington, D.C.; Regina Montoya, J.D. '78, of Dallas; Nicole Sinek '80, J.D.-M.B.A. '84, of New York City; and Juanita Storey '59, M.A.T. '60, of Cleveland. They will serve three-year terms on an eighteen-member board that meets three times a year.

REUNION GIVING: A CRASHING SUCCESS

Ten of the College's twelve reunion classes set giving records this June.

The 50th and 25th reunion classes both broke the all-time class gift record of \$3.718 million, established last year by the Class of '37.

The Class of '38, boasting an 82 percent participation rate, set a new Harvard record with a gift of \$4.055 million. That is also believed to be an Ivy League record.

The men and women of the Class of '63 gave \$3.86 million, breaking the former all-time record by \$142,000 and achieving a new high in 25th reunion giving. The participation rate for the class, which held the first joint 25th reunion, was 70 percent.

The Classes of '43 and '58 more than doubled previous records for 45th and 30th reunion classes.

The Class of '78 set an Ivy League record by raising \$266,200 for the Harvard-Radcliffe Fund.

Aiming for 40 percent participation and a record total of \$24 million, the Harvard College Fund had "both goals in sight" as its June 30 deadline approached.