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EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the November issue, the article, "The Few. The Proud. The (Harvard???) Marines," quoted Professor Amy C. Edmondson as saying that "nine out of 10" students who haven't served in the military typically are unprepared to get a discussion started in class "if I call on a person...cold." It should have read "nine out of 10 will be prepared." The article also described former CH-53 helicopter pilot Carroll Lane as having been deployed in Iraq; he served in the Western Pacific. *Proceedings* regrets the errors.

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The Few. The Proud. The (Harvard???) Marines

(See A. Pine, pp. 40-44, November 2007 *Proceedings*)

Owen West—Mr. Pine is mistaken when he writes that NROTC midshipmen are "as much at home at Harvard" as graduate students who served in the Marines. By focusing on business and political science graduate programs, bunkers of relative conservatism on campus, Mr. Pine missed the real story: the Harvard faculty's successful 40-year battle against undergraduate military participation.

I arrived at Harvard almost 20 years after ROTC's 1969 expulsion. We had to take a bus to MIT for military science classes that were often more rigorous than our Harvard courses. No credit was given. In 1988 there was so much anti-ROTC sentiment that a group of alumni founded the Advocates for Harvard ROTC to shore up our cause. In 1990 the Faculty Council voted to sever all remaining ties to ROTC in two years and some professors suggested Harvard students be banned from participation altogether. In 1991 my roommate, who was also in ROTC, was asked to leave a classroom because he wore his uniform. In 1994

President Neil Rudenstine stopped paying the nominal fee Harvard sent to MIT to cover classroom overhead. It was a backdoor effort to wipe out ROTC, thwarted only by alumni who today pay MIT themselves. In 1996 the undergraduate council attempted to ban the ROTC commissioning ceremony from Harvard Yard.

My class commissioned ten Marine lieutenants, still the most to come out of Harvard since the 1960s. Nine selected combat arms, and the other became the communications officer for 1st Force Reconnaissance Company. On graduation day, neither outgoing president Derek Bok nor incoming president Rudenstine attended our commissioning ceremony. In 20 years, Bok refused to attend even one commissioning.

While we knew the professors and administrators were loath to be seen with us, we did look forward to a ceremony on the steps of Memorial Church, built in memory of the Harvard men who had died in battle. At the last minute we were

forced into a dingy basement classroom by a forecast of rain, notwithstanding the Tercentenary Theatre's overhead tent covering. When we emerged as Marines, the sun was shining brightly. None of us will ever forget that treatment.

President Larry Summers buoyed Harvard's tiny undergraduate military com-



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munity by attending every commissioning ceremony during his tenure, something that rankled Harvard's faculty. Professor Ernest May acknowledged this anger in the article but dismissed it as a product of "relics of the 70s." That's hard to believe. This year, interim presi-

dent Bok and incoming president Drew Faust did not attend the commissioning ceremony.

The sympathetic fascination with Harvard is astounding given its steadfast refusal to allow any ROTC activity on campus and the faculty's clear disdain of military service. The next time *Proceedings* calls an illumination mission with stage lights instead of a steady glare, it should choose a more worthy paramour.

Getting It Right at Navy

(See H. Ullman, p. 8, November 2007 *Proceedings*)

Rear Admiral George R. Worthington, U.S. Navy (Retired)—Harlan Ullman wrote an incisive verbal biopsy on the cancer radical Islam infects us with today. But how to train for the war will remain a Navy challenge as long as the war on terrorism itself. Ullman laments that "the course of instruction at the Academy had not digested the impact of the changed