Yesterday’s News
From the pages of the Harvard Alumni Bulletin and Harvard Magazine

1918 Between July 1 and August 12, the Harvard Reserve Officers’ Training Corps prepares almost 600 men (about half undergraduates) for military service.

1938 At the fifth annual joint outing of the Harvard and Yale Clubs of New York City, at the Rockaway Hunting Club, Cedarhurst, Long Island, Harvard wins the baseball game 4-0, loses the golf match 427 to Yale’s 409, and wins the tennis competition five matches to none.

1943 The Harvard Advocate’s president announces that lack of finances and manpower make its forthcoming issue the last “for the duration,” though the organization will continue its “social function.”

1953 Assistant professor of anatomy Helen Dean Markham, suspended in June by the Corporation on suspicion of being a Communist, has her suspension lifted on August 31, but the Corporation states that she will not be rehired when her current appointment ends on June 30, 1954. The School of Public Health has air-freighted a library of “more than 300 texts and reference works on public health and preventive medicine” to the first school of public health to be established in South Korea.

1968 President Pusey refuses to allow the Boston Patriots to play regularly in Harvard Stadium because “professional football [cannot be] introduced into an academic environment without…exerting a disruptive and disturbing influence…”

1973 Two major construction projects keep the Yard bustling: the demolition of Hunt Hall to make room for the future Canaday Hall, and the excavation of the site for Pusey Library.

1998 On July 4, the day Henry David Thoreau, A.B. 1837, matriculated at Walden Pond, 100 naturalists—including the day’s other honoree, Pellegrino University Research Professor E.O. Wilson—descend on Concord and Lincoln, Massachusetts, in what is labeled “the world’s first 1,000-species Biodiversity Day.” The 24-hour event turns up a species total tentatively set at 1,620.

After the 2016 election, Deborah Anker remembers, HIRC was overwhelmed by a spike in interest in its work among law students and the wider Harvard community. President Trump had promised to immediately rescind DACA, a group including about 65 Harvard undergraduates. The clinic hired a staff attorney, Jason Corral, in January 2017 to represent members of the University community; soon after, a number of additional Trump administration executive orders affected various Harvard students and staff members: the ban on travel from seven majority-Muslim countries (HIRC wrote an amicus brief challenging that order), the repeal of DACA (now under challenge in courts), and the revocation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 400,000 immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Nepal, and, most recently, Honduras (see harvardmag.com/daca-tps-18). Corral declines to say how many Harvard affiliates will be affected by the repeal, because the University has no way of knowing precisely, but adds, “TPS is a huge issue here.”

If the repeal proceeds without challenge, Corral says, HIRC may consider building asylum arguments for TPS holders. To qualify for asylum, refugees must show that they have been persecuted based on race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a “particular social group.” (HIRC is widely known for Anker’s work in helping establish women fleeing domestic violence as a “particular social group” eligible for asylum.) “What about the fact that someone has lived in the U.S. for 20 years?” Corral asks. “The way that they talk now, or their perceived wealth or culture or politics that they developed while living in the U.S.—that can create a particular social group such that they’re likely to be targeted in their country of citizenship.”

At the same time, many more law students are interested in practicing and expanding the bounds of im-