

THE HARVARD
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**ALL THINGS
SCARY**



Inside: Lawsuits, Love, and Late-Night Scares

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The Indy is trick or treating!

Cover design by
Isabelle Blair '21

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As Harvard College's weekly undergraduate newsmagazine, the Harvard Independent provides in-depth, critical coverage of issues and events of interest to the Harvard College community. The Independent has no political affiliation, instead offering diverse commentary on news, arts, sports, and student life.

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News Briefs

By SEGAN HELLE

Students Take to the Stand at the Harvard Affirmative Action Trial

Last Monday, October 29, eight Harvard students and alumni testified in support of Harvard at the University's admissions trial in the hopes of providing perspectives on why diversity, and the admissions measures taken to achieve it, is important to those who have gone through Harvard's campus. The current and former students who were called to testify were meant to reflect Asian-American, African-American, and Latino student experiences at Harvard and represent the over 100 minority student and alumni groups that have signed on to back Harvard's legal defense.

Students were asked to share experiences about their lives leading up to Harvard, as well as their experiences living and learning at the University. Common themes were shared between different student testimonies including experiences facing racialized harassment throughout adolescence, the comfort and support provided by College cultural organizations, and the need for more diversity on campus to help minority students avoid feeling isolated or tokenized while navigating higher institutions.

No students testified on account of the organization who brought the lawsuit against Harvard, Students for Fair Admission (SFFA), citing fears that students who came out of anonymity and spoke out against Harvard would face harassment or retaliation.

Student testimony was only allowed after a lengthy legal fight that ended on October 3 of this year. Attorneys for SFFA tried to block the University from bringing student and alumni experiences into the courtroom, claiming that their testimonies would be irrelevant since they are removed from the admissions process. U.S. District Court Judge Allison D. Burroughs, who has been presiding over the case sided with Harvard and the students and alumni who petitioned to be heard.

The lawsuit began in 2014 when right-wing activist Edward Blum and his organization, Students for Fair Admission (SFFA), charged Harvard with discriminating against Asian-Americans in their admissions process. The case finally went to trial on October 15 of this year. The trial is now viewed as not only a case against Harvard's admission processes, but a case that challenges the legality of affirmative action policies at institutions of higher education across the country. A decision is projected to be delivered by Judge Burroughs this Friday.

Title IX Suit Filed Against Harvard Alleging Discrimination

On October 15, a lawsuit was filed by a male student alleging that Harvard discriminated against him on the basis of his race and gender. The lawsuit brings into question an investigation conducted by Harvard's Office for Dispute Resolution (ODR) that took place in April 2017, in which a female undergraduate student accused the male student of sexual misconduct after a party they had both attended.

The plaintiff alleges that the University discriminated against him because he identifies as an "African-American male," arguing that the Title IX investigation conducted against him showed bias towards the female accuser and allowed for testimony from witnesses who made racially charged comments. The suit also alleges that ODR Director William D. McCants rejected two joint requests from both the male and female in question for informal resolution processes, which would have allowed both parties to settle the conflict on their own terms.

The suit names the University, the President and Fellows of Harvard College, the Board of Overseers, and the ODR Title IX investigator Brigid Harrington as defendants. The University is also currently facing three open individual federal investigations regarding its compliance with Title IX law, with the first investigation beginning in 2014.

Segan Helle '20 (shelle@college.harvard.edu) writes for the News section, with special interest in campus administration and politics. Helle will provide updates as the Affirmative Action court case unfolds.

Underneath the Sheets

Harvard Sex Week

By TUSHAR DWIVEDI

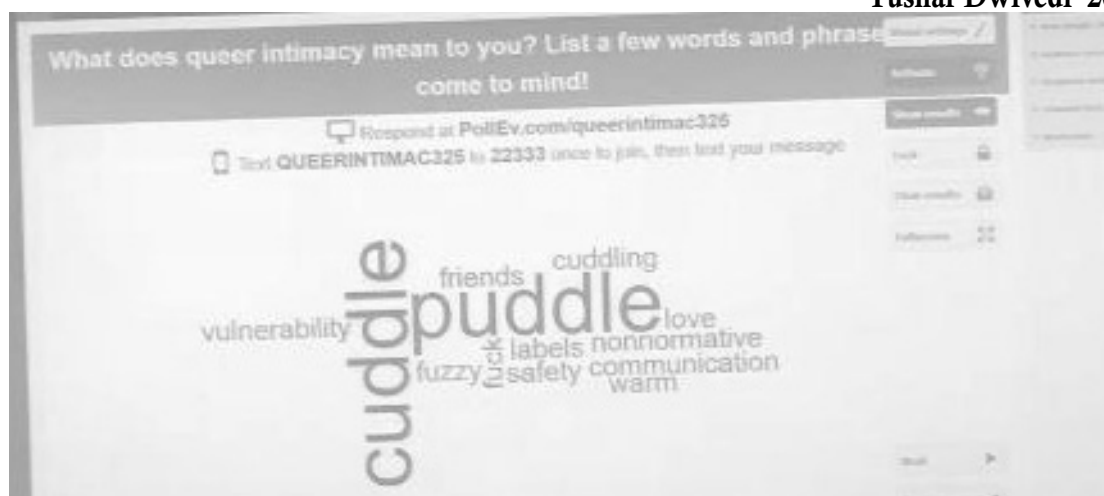
Tushar Dwivedi '20

At any given moment, numerous student organization-hosted and sponsored events can be found across campus. Few however, hold both the simultaneous intrigue, allure, and intimacy that comes with “Sex Week” at Harvard. In the small, yet packed room in Sever, roughly 10 panelists and a moderator gathered to answer questions regarding the topic of “Queer Intimacies,” presenting to a diverse group of audience members.

Run by SHEATH (Sexual Health Education and Advocacy Throughout Harvard), Harvard Sex Week exists with the stated goal of provoking thought, commentary, and action regarding relevant sex and sexuality based topics. What makes Sex Week so appealing to students is the fact that programming is designed by students in particular, without restriction.

Questions asked by the moderator came from students seated amongst the crowd, sending in questions anonymous, and the resulting discussion ranged from highly personal questions such as “What does intimacy look like (including Non-Sexual and Non-Queer Intimacy) for you?” to more foundational, educational questions such as: “Can you describe what love languages look like?”

Responses to each these questions were highly personal, and the key success of the event was not only the ability to educate students in attendance, but in the creation of a space that allowed open, safe dialogue. As Ming Wu (class of 2021), a panelist at the event, mentions, “In terms of community, it’s really affirming to be in sex-positive spaces, especially in this case since it’s a queer-centered sex-positive space.” The core function of Sex Week is not just to provide an entertaining, yet educational space for



attendees, but also as an outlet for speakers and panelists as well.

In organizing events, board members from Harvard Sex Week reach out to relevant student organizations, Harvard Offices, etc. in order to put together the best possible combination of events. In Ming’s case, “sex week organizers reached out to [the QuOffice] office to ask if we wanted to cohost an event, and we suggested the topic of queer intimacies.” For Ming, “as an intern on the Campus Education team,” this meant the chance to “plan the event, recruit panelists, etc.”

Queer Intimacies, occurring Tuesday, October 30th, took place on the second day of sex week; events run through the week and the weekend, with events alternating between mid-afternoon slots after most classes have ended to late night times around 8pm. The result is an impressive 13 different sessions, each hosted by unique panelists, that take place over halloween week at Harvard. Committed to the cause, Sex Week isn’t the only time during which organizers put together such intriguing and exciting events. Sex Weekend, in the Spring, typically takes place in mid-April,

and represents a shorter, condensed form of Sex Week intended to continue and maintain conversations regarding relevant topics.

Meanwhile, relationships with both corporate entities as well as Harvard affiliated organizations help create the large scale nature of the event. Sporting over 25 corporate sponsors, including companies such as JOPEN, LELO, OhMiBod, and OMGYES, among many others, the result is often a series of fun giveaways and prizes that remain the talk of campus in the days leading up to and after Sex Week. On the other hand, relationships with 13 Harvard organizations, including groups such as the Harvard College Women’s Center, Office of Sexual Assault Prevention & Response, indigo, the Undergraduate Counsel, etc. ensure that a diverse range of perspectives and ideas are brought to each of the discussions. The result is not only a highly diverse range of speakers, but also of topics and presentation formats that continue to draw high volumes of Harvard students.

Tushar Dwivedi '20 (tushar_dwivedi@college.harvard.edu) is looking forward to the remainder of the Fall lineup of events.

The Roommate Agreement

The second installment of a spooky serial

By ALAYA AYALA

Growing up, I'd never been one to put much stock into the supernatural. I stopped believing in things like fairy tales and Santa Claus when I was about five years old. One day, I must have asked too many questions and pushed my mom a little too far. That was the day that she broke down and told me I shouldn't believe in things that I can't prove.

She probably thought she was saving herself time, sparing herself the trouble of having to deal with the fanciful musings of one child when she had several other little mouths to feed. What she didn't realize was that I'd become cynical far before my peers did. I'd learn to assume that everything anyone told me was wrong until I could prove that it was right. I'd become shrewd and close-lipped when it came to my opinions, choosing to deal with facts and logic because at least those could never be disputed. I'd learn to not believe what was right in front of my eyes unless it could be explained.

I'd grow up to be unable to fathom the fantastic or the strange.

Take right now, for instance. The girl standing before me was probably the most horrifying thing I'd ever seen. Her face was twisted into a mask of rage, her snarl so pronounced that I had to wonder if her mouth had ever smiled before. Her eyes were bloodshot, seeming to glow crimson

in the light of the moon at my back. Her hair was matted, probably from the wind outside that was now making papers fly around our common room.

I'd read about monsters before. They were ugly, evil creatures that sought to destroy and consume. If I had to pick a word for Reina right now, that would be it. Somehow, she had grown into a figure that was more, greater, and worse than human. I'd been building up my terror of her for so long that I had no choice but to cave to the irrational and cower.

All over a stupid agreement.

It didn't seem like it could ever be stupid to her though. Every fiber of her being encapsulated her towering anger and disappointment. I could see it in the grimace-etched lines of her face, and that was the most terrifying thing. Usually, her face was smooth and uncaring, betraying no hint of her emotions, of what she was capable of.

With Reina, it was all or nothing. I really preferred when it was nothing.

"You broke your promise," she ground out, stalking closer to me. Her voice was everywhere, surrounding me, driving a wedge into my skull. How could anyone's voice be so soft and so grating at once?

She stepped closer.

"You swore to me you'd always be on time."

She was right, she was always right. I was always the wrong one, the weak one, the irresponsible one. If something went wrong in this suite, it was because of me, never her. The very thought sent a nervous lance of pain shooting up the back of my skull. Across from me, Reina shook her head, glaring at me in disgust. She reached up with her hand to rake her fingers through her tangled mop of hair, tugging the knots loose. I realized with a start that I had already wound my own hair through my fingers, pulling nervously at the ends to release some of the tension creeping under my scalp.

"I'm sorry." I said to her.

"I'm sorry," she snapped, her voice cruelly mimicking my own quavering tones.

I backed away from her then, seeing the new danger in her expression at me having the audacity to speak. I turned and ran for my bedroom, stumbling in my haste, my need to get away from her.

She dogged my steps, running to keep up with me. It was with relief that I slammed my door shut behind me, sinking down to the floor with my back pressed against the

The Roommate Agreement, continued.

wood.

“*You can’t get away from me!*” she shrieked, the volume of her voice only making my headache worse. I heard a single loud bang as she hit something, and then nothing. I didn’t dare look up from my own lap for a moment, choosing to keep my head bowed against the waves of anger that I could still feel radiating through the door.

But then.

“Did you really think that would work?”

I lept up with a shriek, my gaze

frantically darting around the room. Her voice had come from inside the room with me, her angry growl so close that it made the hair on the back of my neck stand up.

Full of trepidation, I moved away from my door, making my way to the center of the room. There was a scuffling noise and I spun around, and there she was, at the door. She was smiling now, but there wasn’t any joy in her expression, only the cold amusement of somebody who knows that they’ve trapped their prey.

“You’ve got me forever,” she said, “or did you forget?”

With a shudder I shook my head, looking at the floor and moving closer to her. I knew that was what she wanted, after all. When I got close enough I lifted one trembling hand as she did the same, wincing at the the freezing touch of the glass that separated me. From her.

Alaya Ayala '21 (alaya_ayala@college.harvard.edu) is happy to be ending October the way she started it.



Francesca Cornero '19

What's REALLY Horrifying at Harvard

Things go bump in the night on Ivy-League campuses, too

By ALAYA AYALA

1. *The Night*: A period of time during which the sun does not shine upon Harvard.

Upon being a student for little more than a year at Harvard, I have observed a truly terrifying trend at the school. It would seem that for some reason, Harvard students feel the need to guard themselves against the night. You can see this in the way they stay up until the early hours of the morning, often sitting in groups together as they fortify themselves against the darkness with food from Brain Break.

What do these students fear? Do their Teaching Fellows transform into horrible fiends at night? Do the ghosts of students who failed their Finals wander the halls when the sun goes down? Is there a curse that befalls the students who go to bed before two in the morning, preventing them from ever waking up again? What is so horrible about nighttime that Harvard students feel the need to stay awake through it and guard themselves? We may never know the true horrors that could await us if we went to bed at a reasonable hour.

2. *Grad Students*: Creatures to be found occasionally in Harvard Yard and other locations on Campus. Often seen sitting stoically in cafes and at the back of lecture halls.

These otherworldly beings seem to have transcended the mundane necessities of the human experience. Observing them will lead you to notice that Grad Students somehow never eat, or sleep, and can go hours without moving from the same spot. Such behavior is completely unnatural, yet somehow, these terrifyingly mysterious creatures survive.

One has to wonder how they do it. What is the magical liquid that they use to sustain themselves whilst they are in their periods of unnatural stillness? Is it a potion, ambrosia,

or poison of some kind? How is it that Grad Students complete the immense tasks they are often given? The uncaring observer may think their herculean efforts boil down to run-of-the-mill tenacity and hard-workmanship. The careful observer will know better, and probably credit Grad Students with the superhuman, paranormal capabilities that they so obviously have access to.

3. *Freshman Year Roommates*: Frightening creatures, they do not get less tricky with time. You may find that they remain fickle and scary throughout all four years of college.

Your four years at Harvard begin with you being randomly assigned to live with strangers for a year. You may think you can trust them, you may think they will let you do your thing while they do theirs. You may find yourself completely wrong. Roommates are known for making strange sounds in the dead of night, keeping you awake and wondering what horrors could possibly be taking place in the other room. Roommates are also notoriously fickle and tricky creatures. You may wake up one morning to find your living space completely destroyed at the hands of a drunken roommate or may find that some of your most beloved belongings have seemingly disappeared when your back was turned, only to have them mysteriously reappear on your bed without a word a few months later.

Roommates will either be your best friends or your worst enemies. Unfortunately, you will not know who to put your trust in until it's too late.

I have encountered one truly terrifying documentation of the lengths that roommates will go to unsettle you. It reads, "When I went to sleep the door was closed. But when I woke up it was open. I do not live

alone." Alyssa Bravin '20.

Clearly, this account proves that Roommates know no bounds when it comes to invading your life and taking what they want for themselves. Anyone reading this article is warned to beware of these tricky, devilish creatures.

4. *Concentrations*: At other, normal schools for other, not beastly college students, this phenomenon is known as a "major".

Harvard is known for being strange, even compared to other Ivy League Institutions. Perhaps something that truly sets it apart is its upsetting tendency to name things differently from other colleges. The institution likes to tout its flair for the dramatic and no other action displays this more than that of naming "majors," "concentrations." Freshmen and Sophomores alike fear the word, the Freshmen because they do not understand it, and the Sophomores because they don't either, yet they are still forced to choose one halfway through their second year.

Concentrations are appalling because they take over your entire life. When you are forced to align yourself with this malignant machination for study, you will find that it completely dominates your mind and soul, while leaving your poor, beleaguered body to deal with the consequences. Avoid concentrations while you can, they are a form of brainwashing and soul-selling that few can escape from unscathed.

Alaya Ayala '21 (alaya_ayala@college.harvard.edu) likes to fancy herself brave when she writes about these ghastly Harvard Happenings.

Jo Roberts

Featured Artist

By ROSIE COLLIER

Jo Roberts is not confined by a medium. The freshman from Washington, D.C. explores materials and styles in her art freely and with marked skill. Fluidly translating her preferred subject of portraiture from graphite to acrylic to photography, Jo's artistic abilities extend from the two-dimensional into musical composition, costume design, and theatrical direction.

Jo has been drawing since the early age of five, encouraged by her parents with sketchbooks and what she considers to be feigned praise. Whatever the case, she stuck to it, and her work improved and became more complex over time, as she incorporated stylistic influences and experimented with new media. "I started doing cartoons in middle school. It was a new style I discovered and it looked fun, and the only way to get



good at something is to work at it, so I drew a lot of those."

Asked about her influences, Jo lights up and says, almost reverently, "Hayao Miyazaki! I have his movies right here!" Rifling through her in-dorm DVD collection, Jo describes how her childhood passion for Miyazaki films developed not from an interest in the plot, but a mystical admiration for the artistic styling, specifically in the portrayal of lighting in dark spaces.

But sketching is just one of Jo's many creative outlets. She calls digital and film photography her preferred means of creating portraits. Having been instructed in both in high school, she drew on the influence of fashion photographers such as Richard Avedon and Annie Leibovitz, the latter for whom she interned last summer. Working with one of the masters in her field at high-intensity shoots, Jo's take away was that "professional photography is not all fun and games. A lot of things can go wrong, and it's about learning to work on your feet and solve issues as they come."

13-hour days did not dampen Jo's love of photography, and she continues to work

primarily in that medium, shooting on a Canon 80D for digital and a Canon Rebel S for film. However, the next step for this eager and talented artist comes as a surprise. Jo intends a pre-med concentration in neuropsychology, though she will likely pursue a secondary in VES. Her career ambition is to work for Weta Studios in New



The Work of the Week: Jo Roberts, continued.

Zealand as an FX artist.

Asked about her high school arts experience, Jo admits that she did not go to a particularly creative institution, but prides her teachers on supporting her growth nonetheless. During photography classes, she would often listen in on drawing and painting lectures going on next-door and follow along with the instructions. Her only other formal drawing education comes from YouTube videos, making her work all the more impressive.

Special effects makeup, apparel design, and direction are just a couple more casual items on a list of Jo's talents. Nonchalantly displaying a red and blue lithograph from her sketchbook, Jo describes seeing printmaking materials online and deciding to create her own. "I bought a block of linoleum and an X-Acto knife and then drew a design free-

See the last piece on the back page of this week's issue!

hand on the linoleum, then carved out the negative space." As unconventional as she is inventive, Jo is a savvy and energetic artist whose potential is not constrained by lack of creativity or desire to experiment. I can't even imagine what she'll do next, but I'm excited to see it.

Rosie Collier '22 (rosecollier@college.harvard.edu) is excited to see more of Jo Roberts' work in the future.

about the artist

Jo Roberts is a freshman living in Grays Hall. Jo went to school in Washington, DC before coming to Harvard, where she plans to follow a pre-med track while taking art on the side. Her Instagram (@jomakesart) showcases her recent creations across media. Jo is also a lyricist and musician who is currently teaching herself guitar. She hopes to continue directing and designing costumes for theatrical productions during her time at Harvard.



INDY ARTS

Everything is in the Air

It's all in the air
Fumes, body, soul

Your breath stagnates
the atmospheres of people
Your body disintegrates
in particles of dust

Your soul pollutes
the heavenly skies

And yet you breathe

And yet you grow

And yet you die

Whatever comes to be
Innovation and profanity
Through clean air you can see

Through nothingness apparent
We are going blind
Seeing white clouds of hazard
Mistaken for cold breaths in winter

Whatever comes to be
Process or energy
Through clean air we still see

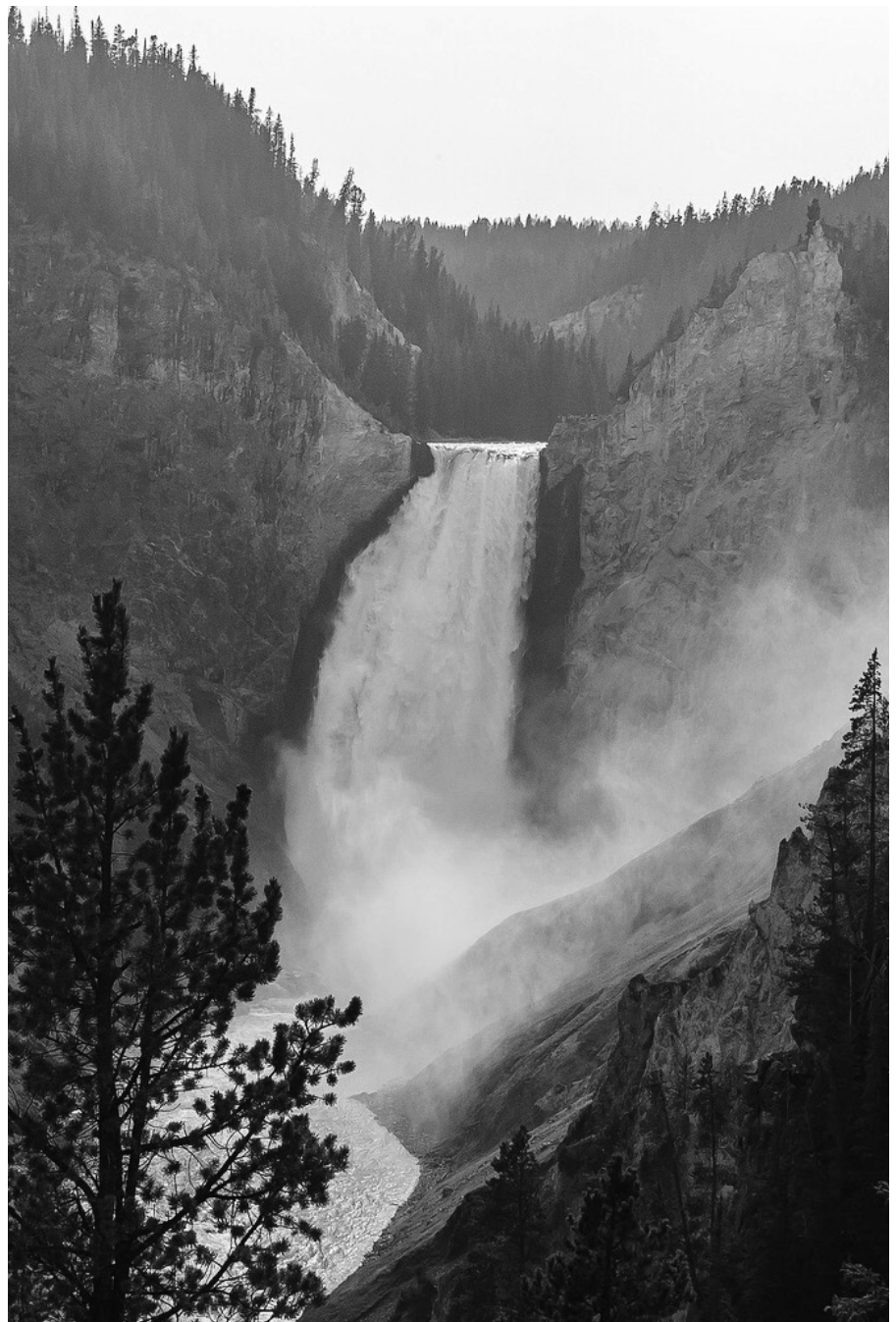
Air atop air in concentric cycles
An amalgam of heated dirt
To be injected with sulfurous remains
Of a civilization long gone

Whatever comes to be
Radiation and vanity
Through clean air we won't see

A poetical study of what we breathe

By ANA LUIZA NICOLAE

Ana Luiza Nicolae '22 (analuiza_nicolae@college.harvard.edu) is breathing steady and studying the world around her.



Francesca Cornero '19

INDY SPORTS

Sports Briefs

By GRAHAM WALTER

5th Ivy Title for Women's Field Hockey

The Harvard Field hockey team clinched its fifth Ivy League title in their 6-0 victory over Dartmouth, keeping their Ivy League record at 6 wins and 0 losses. This ensures their spot in the NCAA tournament; the team is 15 and 1 on the year and will play their final game of the season against Columbia.

Dartmouth was outpaced from the very beginning as it did not take long for the Crimson to get on the board. Casey Allen made a fantastic effort off a rebounded penalty corner. Not long after, Maddie Earle made another great goal off the assist from Hannah Pearce.

Heading into the second half, Harvard's defense did not allow for the Big Green offense to do much work. Dartmouth had a total of 2 shots in total which let the Harvard offense to put in another 4 goals by Casey Allen, Olivia Allin, Maddie Earle, and Bente van Vlijmen respectively. That is not to detract from goalkeeper Ellie Shahbo who has allowed only three goals over the past 7 games she has started.

The Harvard Crimson have now defeated 21 of their last 22 Ivy League opponents and are getting ready for Columbia, 12 noon on Saturday November 3rd. The event will be held at Berylson Field.

Harvard Football Falls to Dartmouth

This past Saturday the Harvard Crimson football team travelled to Memorial Field, going head to head against the first place Dartmouth team. After a late comeback from Harvard in last year's brawl, Dartmouth was focusing on making fewer defensive mistakes that cost them a 25-22 loss.

Fortunately for Dartmouth, their defense made the difference with a 62 yard fumble recovery TD by D. J. Terry in the first quarter. The Big Green would go up 21 to 0 by the end of the first half after another TD by quarterback Jared Gerbino, his second of the day. Dartmouth put the ball in the air only 11 times, opting to keep the ball on the ground, which is their strong suit.

Harvard only started to answer with seven minutes left in the third - Sophomore Aaron Shampkin came through to put the team on the board and was followed by quarterback Tom Stewart and kicker Jake McIntyre's efforts to put Harvard within a touchdown. Unfortunately for Harvard, the Big Green had time on their side and kept their record clean of a loss.

Stewart completed 24 of 42 passes on the day for a total of 270 yards. Harvard ran for an additional 76 yards on 11 carries including Stewart's rushing TD late in the fourth. All in all, despite the advantage in total yards and first downs, the four Harvard turnovers killed the momentum.

Harvard (3-4, 1-3) will play at home versus Columbia (4-3, 1-3) on November 3rd.

Men's Water Polo Continues Winning Streak

The men's Harvard water polo team took on two opponents this weekend, facing Iona and St. Francis, taking home two wins and extending their win-streak to four. The team is 11 - 4 on the year and are ranked 10 in the nation, with its only losses coming against strong opponents.

Harvard is two games away from playing in the Northeast Water Polo Conference (NEWPC) starting on November 16th. The Crimson, despite not qualifying for an NCAA tournament in the previous four decades, has been to the last two men's national champions, taking home first place last year.

Their biggest competitors in the NEWPC, namely St. Francis, Princeton, and Brown have proven to be difficult. However, that is not to say they have slowed the Crimson down. Despite the 11-9 loss against Brown, Harvard is 4 of 5 in matchups against these opponents on the year and have made a strong argument for their position as strongest in the East. The talent of Coach Minnis has pushed Harvard to championships even when they were not the top team in their conference; now that they are seated high, the NEWPC will present an exciting slate of matchups.

Harvard will play for revenge against Brown on November 3rd (away game) and then at MIT the next day. After a two week break they will play for it all at the NEWPC championships in Providence, Rhode Island.

Graham Walter '21 (grahamwalter@college.harvard.edu) looks forward to another exciting slate of events.

the independent



Work of the Week

By JO ROBERTS