

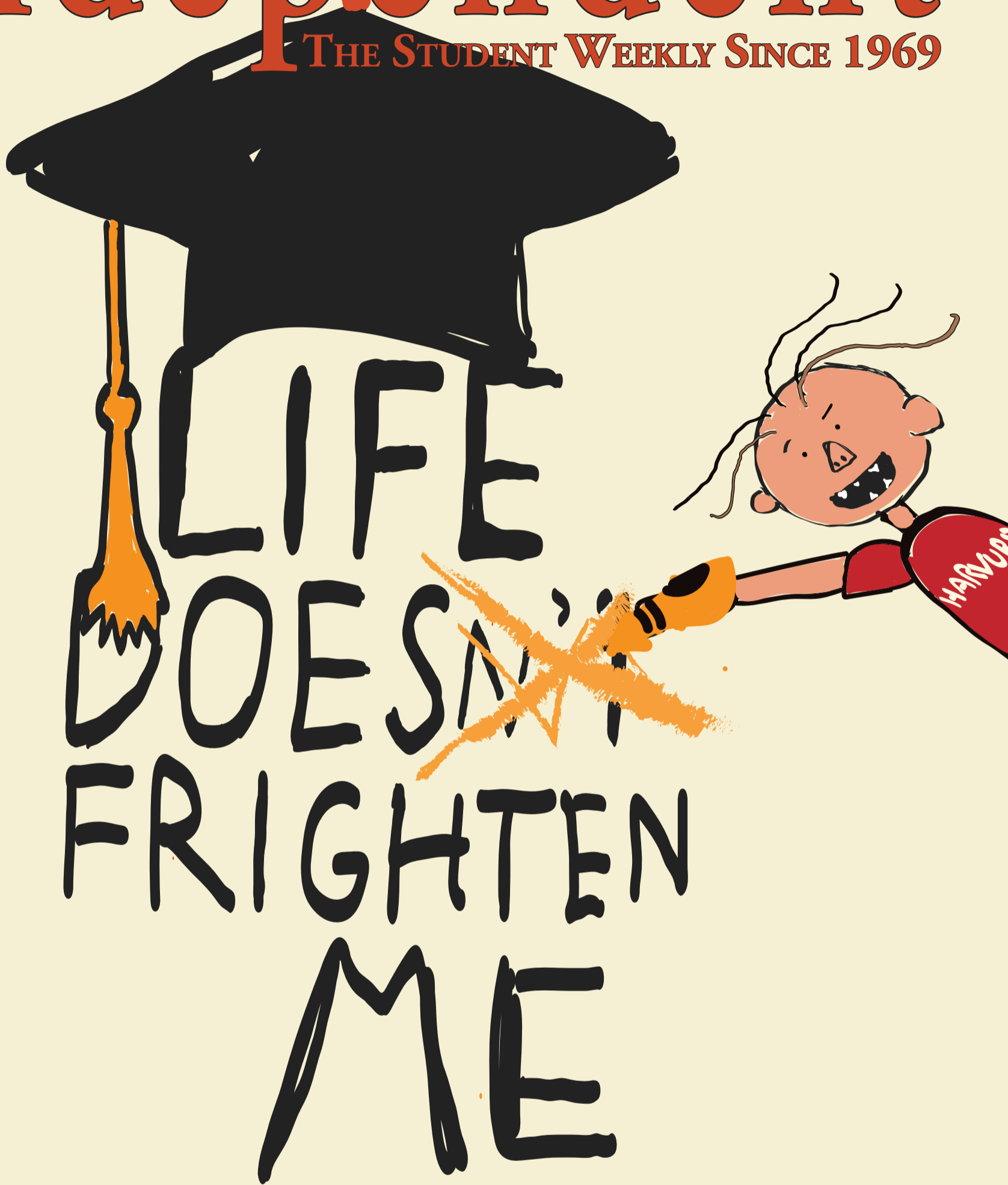
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OF DISILLUSIONED
BEDTIME STORIES

MASTHEAD

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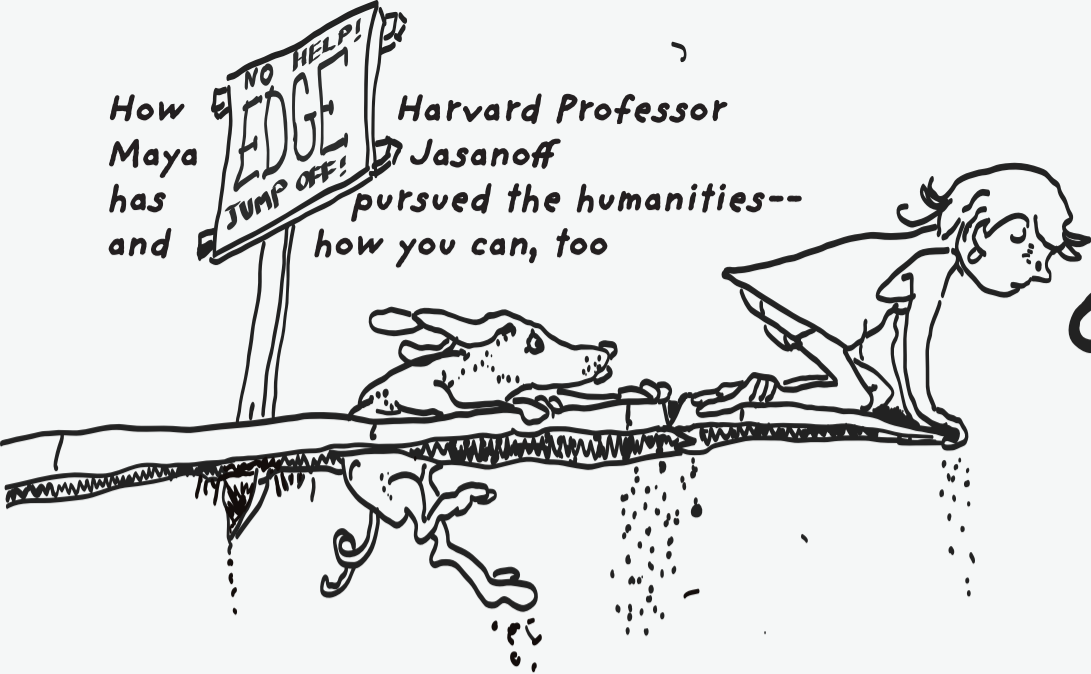
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I'M GONNA LOVE ME

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How Maya has and Harvard Professor Jasanoff pursued the humanities-- and how you can, too



Where the Guidance Ends

BY MARY JULIA KOCH '23

As Professor Maya Jasanoff concluded her senior year at Harvard in 1996, she faced a question dreaded by many college students: what should I do when I graduate?

Living in Adams House and finishing up her history and literature senior thesis, Jasanoff imagined what life after college would entail. “I knew that I had to support myself,” she tells the Independent. “I knew that I liked reading and writing and talking to smart people [...] and I just didn’t see a path” toward becoming a writer after Harvard.

Despite the apparent inaccessibility of pursuing the humanities as a career, Jasanoff ended up doing precisely that. Today, she serves as the Coolidge Professor of History at Harvard, having authored three prize-winning books and published numerous essays in publications including *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*, among other accomplishments. How did Jasanoff achieve such success in a field that was—and still is—less clearly paved than others? And how can we prepare students today to follow similar paths? Jasanoff suggests it wasn’t her undergraduate years at Harvard that fueled her post-college trajectory. “You’re much, much, much more likely to pursue academia, at least in humanities [or] the qualitative social sciences, if you’re getting inspiration from somewhere [other than Harvard itself],” she says.

For Jasanoff, this inspiration came from home. “I am the child of academics,” she says. “My parents were pursuing the life of the mind.” Her mother, Professor Sheila Jasanoff ’64, Ph.D. ’73, J.D. ’76 is the Pforzheimer Professor of Science and Technology Studies at the Harvard Kennedy School. Her father, Professor Jay Jasanoff ’63, Ph.D. ’68 is the Diebold Professor of Indo-European Linguistics and Philology in Harvard’s Department of Linguistics.

Jasanoff felt a “subtle pressure” to follow her parents into academia. “I grew up in an environment that wasn’t privileging earning money,” she says. “I think that made me open to academia very early on.” While the lower salaries and slower growth rates associated with academic careers deter many students from wanting to become professors, this was not the case for Jasanoff: “I understood that the rewards of doing academia were intangible,” she says.

After completing her undergraduate years, Jasanoff earned a fellowship from Harvard to study for a master’s degree at Cambridge, then went to Yale for her Ph.D. While finishing her Ph.D., she found a job opening at the University of Virginia, applied for it and got it—but these sorts of academic opportunities “come around very, very rarely,” Jasanoff says. “I was extremely lucky.” She returned to Harvard in 2015, which she describes as “a total fluke”: “There are thousands of universities. That I went here and ended up here, I think it’s pretty unusual.”

Given the random, unpredictable nature of pursuing a professorship—even for Jasanoff, whose family is embedded in academic life—one might expect colleges to guide students who are interested in such a future. However, Jasanoff finds that Harvard prioritizes certain kinds of leadership and pre-professional skills. Internship availabilities and emails from Harvard’s Office of Career Services (OCS) urge students into industries like finance, technology, and

consulting, while the roadmap for creative and academic pathways is less clear. “I wasn’t even aware of what consulting was until I was a senior. And now I think people know that from before they even come [to Harvard],” Jasanoff says.

What explains the current culture? Many students have leveraged their check-list mentalities into future careers, Jasanoff suggests: “I do see a lot of people feeling lots of pressure to continue in the groove that got them into Harvard in the first place, which was a very goal-oriented path.” Other students have had their college experiences infiltrated by external pressures: “when you go into OCS, or you see everybody running around in their suits, having their interviews, you just sort of jump to other kinds of occupations in your mind,” Jasanoff says.

She also views this phenomenon as a product of societal priorities, in which pragmatism outweighs

“Financial and intellectual rewards must not be conflated, she says: ‘It’s important to try to separate out the acquisition of a very particular status-carrying credential, from thinking about contributions and purpose and goals.’”

imagination and the supposedly relevant trumps the irrelevant. “The value structure that’s set up is one that is much more in favor of doing, making, creating, quote, unquote, leading,” she says. “There’s a huge economic apparatus behind this.” The writing industry, for example, is often accessed through unpaid internships, and its wages have plummeted, despite there being more venues to publish writing than ever. These financial drawbacks discourage students from studying writing in their undergraduate years, leaving its status as a worthwhile post-college pursuit at risk. Meanwhile, fields deemed more practical, like medicine, or more lucrative, like finance, rank higher on the college student’s pedestal of importance.

Jasanoff pushes against these conceptions of relevance and viability. Financial and intellectual rewards must not be conflated, she says: “It’s important to try to separate out the acquisition of a very particular status-carrying credential, from thinking about contributions and purpose and goals.”

In other words, even though writing is typically not as lucrative as investment banking or as tangible as medical research, it is still purposeful and rewarding: “Most people who work in labs are working on something whose immediate payoff, in terms of, let’s say, saving a human life, is actually many steps removed from whatever they’re doing in their lab,” Jasanoff says. “Why do we consider that to be ‘relevant’ in a way that we don’t consider [relevant] the work that somebody is doing that might actually help, for example, bring about solutions to long standing conflicts or more equitable political systems or better options for people

from different backgrounds?”

Jasanoff argues that the humanities *are* useful: solutions to societal problems often require the tools of creativity, deep thinking, and introspection. Studying history, in particular, can broaden our understanding of the present day. “We live in a society at a moment in which there’s a lot of emphasis on both what’s new and on the individual,” says Jasanoff. “It’s really important for people to be aware that that’s not the whole story, that we all operate within contexts that are much bigger than ourselves, and that are themselves the products of histories or lineages that are longer than our own lifespans.”

Jasanoff weaves this idea throughout her highly-popular lecture courses at Harvard: HIST 1024: The British Empire, and Gen Ed 1014: Ancestry. Her story-like teaching style portrays history as an ongoing narrative with enduring ramifications rather than as a catalog of isolated events. “Going to lecture is almost like watching a documentary,” one student wrote in the 2019 Harvard Q Guide after taking *The British Empire*. “She really brings the subject matter to life,” wrote another. As evidenced by the popularity of her courses, Jasanoff highlights the pertinence of studying history and seeks to refresh its position on the pedestal of intellectual importance at Harvard.

However, students’ enthusiasm for an undergraduate history course does not necessarily translate into their future career pursuits. “It seems to be a real shame that we create this institution that’s just chock-a-block with people who are talented in so many different ways, and then we kind of spit them out the other end as one of six things,” Jasanoff says. What happens to the deep thinker, who brilliantly dissects the meaning of a novel? Or the shy dissenter, who prefers expressing their opinions in essays rather than in classroom debates? Will they be pressured out of their passions after college, forced to work with numbers instead of thought, feelings, and words?

Professors like Jasanoff aim to salvage history and the humanities at large from the pit of so-called irrelevance, but these types of studies are still under attack. “It would be great if our society could find ways to valorize certain kinds of professions,” says Jasanoff. “How about teaching, right off the bat, which is very poorly compensated.”

Harvard itself could play a more active role: “The College could do something to help people who wish to pursue certain paths where they don’t have independent means or they’re not already plugged in, just to help them make their way,” says Jasanoff. If creative-minded students were more guided to chase their passions after college, perhaps the question, what should I do when I graduate? wouldn’t feel so daunting—and students’ answers would begin to diversify.

Mary Julia Koch '23 (mkoch@college.harvard.edu) is the Editor-in-Chief of the Independent.

Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A DREAM?



Ilija Wan's story about following your passion and addressing hardship with ingenuity

BY GOGO TAUBMAN '24

The coronavirus pandemic brought abrupt changes in routines and livelihoods all around the world. Yet, some individuals displayed resilience while adapting to a changing world with passion and creativity. Ilija Wan '23-24 is a particularly good example of someone in the Harvard community who approached the toils of the pandemic with ingenuity.

After Harvard's campus shut down in March of 2020, Wan found himself taking online classes at his home in Miami and quickly realized that online school was not for him. As his freshman spring came to a close, he struggled to imagine continuing a learning platform that looked completely different from the in-person learning experience he had grown to love before being forced off campus. Before the pandemic, the idea of taking a gap year had never crossed Wan's mind. Wan said that his immigrant family "didn't understand what a gap year was" before he described it to them as "taking a little break from school" to explore other interests. This was a prospect he started to consider as it looked less and less like Harvard would reopen for in person classes in the fall.

The choice to take a gap year was made easier by Wan's longstanding interest in real estate. "From a young age, I was always intrigued by buildings and real estate," Wan said. During Harvard's winter break in his freshman year, Wan decided to pursue his childhood dream and took an intensive, week-long real estate license course followed by the Florida state licensing exam. Then, this past July, he realized his distant goal of selling houses could become a full-time career.

This discovery arose when Wan had the opportunity to help his mother sell a house. Temporarily joining a family friend's small brokerage firm to complete the job, Wan quickly sold his first house at the age of eighteen. Just days after he felt the success and satisfaction of selling a home, Harvard College announced that most sophomores would not return to campus for the 2020-2021 school year. Wan decided to take the year off from school to pursue real estate.

In early August, Wan was offered a job by a well-connected, successful agent at Compass, a real estate brokerage that specializes in selling high-margin, luxury homes in upscale markets. The agent, who specializes in selling high-end condominiums in Miami Beach's thriving housing market, swiftly took Wan under her wing as one of her most prized employees.

How must it feel to have such a serious job at nineteen years old? While many of Wan's peers are stuck in their homes all day for Zoom school, his day-to-day life looks drastically different, and much more 'adult.' "When I put on my suit and drive to a condo

"When I put on my suit and drive to a condo and walk in, everyone treats you like an adult and you feel like an adult," said Wan. "I really think, wow, I really flashed forward with my life by a couple of years."

and walk in, everyone treats you like an adult and you feel like an adult," said Wan. "I really think, wow, I really flashed forward with my life by a couple of years."

After this upcoming summer, Wan plans a return to normal college life, a stark contrast to his current situation. As expected, he realizes that this will be a major adjustment. "I got the experience of obviously having a real income for a year, which is amazing," Wan said. "It will be weird coming to college and not having that large amount of income coming in, just being a college student who wonders, 'should I eat out today or go to the dining hall?'"

Wan still plans to work in real estate in some capacity for the rest of his time at Harvard. With residential real estate, he explained, you can keep your real estate license indefinitely as long as you associate it with a broker. "I already spoke to my boss and she agreed that I can keep it with her indefinitely until I decide to move it," said Wan. "Which

basically means if anyone at Harvard says, for example, 'my Dad wants to move to Miami,' or their family friend wants to buy somewhere in Palm Beach, I can say, 'Oh, I'm a realtor. I know the best people in Miami and I can set you up.'" Wan does not need to visit the properties in-person, but can still get a referral fee, which is usually 10% of the agent's commission.

While describing his plans for the future beyond Harvard, Wan said that while he will continue to pursue a concentration in applied mathematics and economics as he planned before the pandemic, his career vision has changed. He always saw himself going into finance, likely investment banking, and though he still plans to enter this industry for a few years after college, his long-term goals have shifted: "I've really fallen in love with [real estate], where I dream of becoming a big developer, making hotels and condos, building these staple pieces you see in a skyline that have my name on them," Wan said. "The whole process of development, designing the building, the interior, the exterior, who are you going to sell it to, what are the restaurants going to be like, and who are you employing, it just creates so much economic growth and so much for a community." With this goal of becoming a commercial real estate developer, Wan perfectly melds his passions for residential real estate and finance.

Wan's success story is a product of dexterity and determination, revealing how an individual can derive opportunities even in times of distress. It's a reminder that those dreams we keep in the back of our minds can come into fruition in unexpected ways, and at unexpected times—and in this case, with huge rewards.

Gogo Taubman '24 (gtaubman@college.harvard.edu) recommends that readers looking to purchase a home in Miami should definitely contact Ilija Wan.

Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23

IF YOU GIVE A STUDENT A DEGREE

How a HBS graduate
channeled her
education into a
successful career
BY GRACE VON OISTE, '24



How can you set yourself up for a successful career after graduating college? According to Harvard Business School (HBS) graduate Allie Egan, the key is to never “close any doors.” At a talk hosted by *FIG.*, Harvard’s undergraduate fashion magazine, Egan discussed her nonlinear trajectory to becoming the CEO of the clothing line Cynthia Rowley and founder of the skincare brand Veracity. She began her path to success like many other college students: unsure of exactly what career she wanted to pursue.

When she started her time at the University of Virginia (UVA), Egan thought she was either going to become a senator or geneticist and did not see herself exploring other academic paths. However, this soon changed when she found herself intrigued by foreign relations and decided to major in foreign affairs at the McIntire School of Commerce. Upon graduating, Egan said she wanted to do something “fun and challenging where [she] would learn a lot.” Consequently, Egan took a position in investment banking and soon found herself captivated by consumer deals. After some time she wanted to “put her money where her mouth [was]” and become more than a financial advisor, so she started interviewing with private equity firms. Egan later took a position at L. Catterton, a private equity firm, where she worked as a consumer retail investor. During her time at the firm, Egan watched as CEOs of companies like Restoration Hardware revolutionized their business models and saw increasing growth and success.

Energized by the idea of transforming businesses, Egan applied and was accepted to HBS. During her time at HBS, she received a general management education, where she learned the fundamentals of marketing and the ins and outs of business management. On the side, Egan worked for businesses like Alice and Olivia and Glossier, trying to improve brands by working on their social media strategy.

After graduating from HBS, Egan was ready for a promising career. She went to work in product and digital marketing at Estee Lauder’s companies Clinique, Origins, and La Mer. While Egan enjoyed this work, she “had a passion for smaller, high-growth businesses with visions and tangible results,” she explained to her audience. Through her work, Egan was introduced to Cynthia Rowley, a prominent American fashion designer. The two hit it off as Rowley was looking to take her epon-

ymous business “from a traditional wholesale and licensing model to a direct consumer business with a robust website and a comprehensive digital marketing strategy and campaign,” Egan said. She was eager to become an integral part of the company, as she had found what she had been looking for in her career: a tangible end goal. Egan became the CEO of Cynthia Rowley, and helped the company build a robust surf and swim business by expanding and diversifying its inventory.

However, during her time at the company, Egan began to experience a personal setback. For the first time in her life, her skin drastically

“Once young people have some experience in a particular industry, they can harness those skill sets and pivot to different industries—as she did in her transition from private equity to founding a cosmetics business.”

changed as she began to experience dry and flakey patches. Despite trying countless remedies, Egan could not pinpoint the source of this debilitating change. Over three years after the onset of the issue, Egan found out, through fertility-related testing, that she was suffering from Hashimoto’s disease, an autoimmune disease that causes an overactive thyroid and an imbalance of hormones. Egan recalled asking herself at this time, “The skin is the largest organ in the body, why aren’t we treating it better?”

Unsatisfied with the existing options for skincare, Egan decided to found Veracity, which uses at-home skin tests to design specialized skincare products. These at-home skin tests detect hormone levels and provide product and lifestyle recommendations in order to re-balance hormones. Egan described her company as “scientifically clean,” and explained that she works with a colleague who has a PhD in hormone health to develop skin care products. Egan has constructed a medical advisory of nutritionists, OBGYNs, and more specialized medical professionals to ensure

that her skin care products honor the medicine behind hormones and that the products are adaptable and personalized for all skin types. For example, when asked if she enjoys the autonomy of not having a cofounder, Egan explained that while she likes having the freedom to execute her own vision, she knows that she is “not all of her customers” and what skin remedies work for her lifestyle do not necessarily work for everyone else. Thus, it is essential for Egan to have a board of professional advisors to create skin care products that work for everyone.

During her talk, Egan reminded her audience of the importance of self-care. Balancing life and work is not always easy, she said, especially as a new mother: “When I am doing something I want to be very present. I try to separate life and work. For example, I try to not go on my phone when I am with my son.” Egan regularly reserves time to clear her head from work-related thoughts and cherish the little things—she loves her cashmere slippers and sweat sets.

What is Egan’s advice to an undergraduate student? When asked if someone needs experience in finance to build a successful company, Egan suggested that once young people have some experience in a particular industry, they can harness those skill sets and pivot to different industries—as she did in her transition from private equity to founding a cosmetics business. College students should open their minds to various opportunities, learn as much as they can from them, and “not close any doors right away,” Egan said. “We all sit here and think, what do we wanna be when we grow up?” Don’t worry so much that your current job has to be your dream job,” she said. A common attitude amongst college students is that they have to land their dream job immediately upon graduating. But according to Egan, this is not the case at all. Her story suggests that everyone starts somewhere, and with determination and passion, success is not far away.

Grace Von Oiste '24 (gvonoiste@college.harvard.edu) is a Staff Writer for the Independent.

Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23

THE BUSINESS TYCOONS

*Why are so many students
choosing Economics--
and does it really matter?*

BY MARBELLA MARLO '24

The relationship between Harvard and Economics is as old as time. Names such as Bill Gates, Raj Chetty, Tom Cotton, and Abhijit Banerjee all studied Economics at Harvard, and continue to use the experiences and knowledge they gained here to pursue noteworthy careers and experiences. The College's Department of Economics continues to rank among the top in the world, simply due to the diverse and staggeringly qualified number of professors who consistently empower its students. The Economics concentration at Harvard umbrellas the fields of social science, addressing questions about the social world with data and logic, and employing mathematical and statistical tools as an aid for analysis. Essentially a feeder for future workers in the private sector or for-profit firms, the Economics concentration at Harvard has developed into an overwhelmingly desirable program and one that graduates about 1/3 of students per year. The most popular paths after graduation for Economics concentrators include consulting, finance, market research, risk analysis, and social enterprise.

Consulting specifically draws a sweeping amount of students as it doesn't cater to one particular field. The more commonly known "general strategy" firms that traditionally take Harvard students, such as the Big Three, (McKinsey & Company, Boston Consulting Group, and Bain & Company), include an extensive portfolio of industries, such as healthcare, government, and technology. The diversity of potential clients is what appeals to many students. "Coming to Harvard, I wasn't 100% sure what I wanted to do," says Mimi Tarrant '21 and future business analyst at McKinsey. "The attraction with consulting is that it is very multifaceted and diverse in the work that you're doing and the projects that you're working on." Other benefits include the plethora of opportunities that consulting firms present, such as access to the worlds of private equity, asset management, entrepreneurship, as well as developing a foundation of experience for business school.

While it is true that entering consulting does not necessarily pigeonhole you into a particular field, the industry allures employees to stay long-term due to its incredible starting and base salaries. For undergraduate students, each of the Big Three firms offer new hires a \$5k signing bonus, in addition to base salaries no less than \$107k, according to a salary report conducted by the coaching firm Management Consulted. It's no

secret that consulting and financial analysis rank among the highest paying jobs for recently graduated students, yet this financial precedence is precisely what leads many to believe that these students' interest is rooted in reasons far beyond a passion and genuine appreciation for the work they are doing.

The all too-known question thrown at students who attend schools like Harvard, of whether their academic or extracurricular aspirations stem from genuine interest or the pursuit of financial security noticeably divulges with careers in finance. Unlike college students specializing in pre-medical or pre-law studies, where generally speaking, their ultimate positions as doctors, attorneys, or anything that requires further years of schooling, a job as an analyst or financial consultant straight out of undergrad yields a respectable income almost immediately. Because there virtually is no further test to weed out the individuals who lack the attributes to succeed in the field (such as MCAT, LSAT, etc) it is relatively difficult to assess the true depth of the individuals' resilience and enthusiasm. Jack Stone '19 concentrated in Economics and says, "the ma-



majority of Harvard Economic students do it because they are interested in business and have no interest in Economics itself." Now an associate consultant at Bain & Company, Stone, like Tarrant, chose the field of consulting because of the opportunity it provides as a profession that doesn't require immediate specialization to one specific domain.

Tarrant and Stone share similar stories in their path to landing a job in a major consulting firm. Starting in the summer before their Junior year, both students explain the research and networking to potential connections they did to prepare for recruiting season. Junior fall, for prospective consulting analysts, encompasses an overwhelming amount of interviewing, coffee-chats, applications, and deadlines. Luckily, Harvard has a strong base of resources for curious students, even having Harvard specific recruiters come from each consulting firm. Tarrant, in recognizing her success in the recruiting process, discloses her opinion on Harvard's biased emphasis on particular undergraduate studies. "Harvard is very much geared up for

finance and consulting recruitment," she says. "One of the drawbacks of [the school] is that it is not prepared to recruit for other jobs [...] Although I was lucky in that process, I recognize that they do need to diversify what firms that they recruit for and change the culture around recruiting on campus."

In addition to consulting, many students in previous or current Economics concentrations pursue careers in private equity, investment banking, or entrepreneurship. Yet because the skill sets and general premise between these occupations aren't that different, the reasons for prioritizing a certain path over the other isn't binding. For Renee Ferguson '23, a current gap-semester student interning at an investment banking firm, the initial draw for concentrating in Economics as well as pursuing a career in investment banking was "a lack of anything else that I really wanted to do," she if I was super passionate about something else, than I would probably pursue that." The combination of a being a field that generally doesn't require immediate commitment to countless years of additional schooling, as well as a providing promising starting salary evidently contributes to the concentration and subsequent fields' level of attraction.

To circle back to the question of whether or not Harvard students pursue their concentrations or fields of interests out of appreciation or out of financial necessity, the visible trend is that few students choose their pathway out of pure passion. But because the Economics concentration and related careers are so popular, determining the root of a student's interest might not be as significant as previously mentioned.

Does it really matter why a student wants a particular job if they do the work and requirements necessary to succeed?

Many students might say yes, and argue that any motivation independent of true ardor is shallow, unsubstantial, and meaningless. Yet the contrary perspective suggests that not everyone has a passion or specialization for a niche subject, and that the ultimate result of financial security justifies the means it takes to reach it.

Marbella Marlo '24 (mmarlo@college.harvard.edu) writes Forum for the Independent.

Graphics by Marina Zoullas '23

BY CARLI
COOPERSTEIN '24

Man in the Orange Crocs and His Berryline Shop

HOW BERRYLINE BECAME AN
INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE IN
HARVARD SQUARE, AND WHAT
ITS SUCCESS TEACHES US

Matthew Wallace was on track to become a professor or work at a biotechnology company after studying biochemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His father was a scientist, and he figured he would become one, too. But while pursuing his post-doctoral studies at MIT, Wallace conceptualized a yogurt shop that would connect Harvard students to a larger community—a business that “could really cater to students,” he says. Wallace and his best friend, who studied at Harvard, were inspired by a cookie and ice cream shop called Diddy Riese in Westwood, California, near UCLA, where they both went to graduate school. “This low-key joint attracted mobs of students,” Wallace says. “It’s both a place you took your parents to and a place you went with your friends.” He and his friend emulated this spirit on the East Coast and founded BerryLine, New England’s first tart yogurt chain. Thirteen years later, BerryLine has developed into a Harvard Square staple, a place where both Harvard students and Cambridge locals meet for an original frozen yogurt topped with house-made mochi and Oreo cheesecake.

I recently became BerryLine’s newest employee. Stepping behind the counter, I’ve learned of the importance of customer interaction to foster community amidst the disconnected atmosphere of the pandemic. Joining the BerryLine team has immersed me into the community outside of Harvard as a student-employee. With two locations in Cambridge, one on Arrow Street and the other on Massachusetts Avenue, BerryLine functions as a small business writ large; although there are only two employees on each shift and the shops themselves have a small, homey feel, the volume of customers we serve each day, particularly on warmer days, speaks to BerryLine’s far-reaching appeal.

Wallace takes pride in the company’s strong sense of community. He can most often be found in the shop’s Mass Ave basement making homemade toppings in his signature orange Crocs, but he has fostered a BerryLine community that extends well beyond the behind-the-scenes. “Any time I have a doubt about BerryLine, business, the pandemic, I think about those instances when folks in the community come in and tell me about those wonderful stories they have about BerryLine,” says Wallace. “We’ve had folks get engaged, folks who first met here.” With endless topping and flavor combinations, BerryLine caters to all audiences—families, friends, and even firefighters, a group of whom come in almost every night!

Fostering a feeling of connectedness around a shared love of tart yogurt may seem unexpected, but since its opening in 2007, BerryLine has adopted a number of fun ways to engage with local customers. One example is its longstanding tradition of punch cards: for every ten frozen yogurt-shaped stamps on a BerryLine punch card, customers earn a free ice cream or yogurt of their choice to honor their commitment to the shop. As customers acquire stamps each visit, the excitement builds for the next

visit as they reach the coveted final swirl. Another BerryLine tradition is giving out free tart frozen yogurt to every dog that comes in the shop, featured on our *@dogsofberryline* Instagram account. Watching the dogs devour this special treat on a hot day always draws a crowd of “aww”-ing onlookers.

During the pandemic, Wallace has learned to cater to the same crowds without exposing guests to COVID-19. Since reopening in April 2021, BerryLine has operated on a single-customer basis, serving only one party at a time while the line snakes out the door on busy days. The interior of the stores are usually a lively space filled with customers on barstools; these days they remain largely empty. However, we’ve recently expanded to accept more online orders through our website or through DoorDash, UberEats, and Postmates. “We happen to have a business that is already geared towards takeout,” says Wallace. “A lot of

“It’s like one of those life lessons—you have that thought as a five-year-old, ten-year-old, twenty-year-old, of where your career is heading, and you just don’t know what’s around the corner,” he says...what you study isn’t always indicative of your future.”

restaurants didn’t benefit from that, they didn’t have the ability to shut down all the seating but still serve customers. We were able to do that, and so in that way we were very lucky.” Like any small business, the pandemic has caused a decline in revenue, but Wallace says, “It honestly could have been a lot worse.” In large part, BerryLine’s resilience during the pandemic can be attributed to its devoted customer base.

Aside from its proximity to Harvard’s campus, BerryLine has developed a community that overlaps with Harvard’s in many ways. Arrow Street shop is a well-known meeting spot for professors looking to sweeten up their day after long hours at work. Even *Pulitzer Prize*-winning Professor Stephen Greenblatt could often be found pre-pandemic with BerryLine in hand, and hopes to return once in-person classes resume in the fall! Harvard students can’t get enough of the shop, either; in addition to hiring many Harvard students as employees over the past thirteen years, BerryLine has become a favorite spot for Peer Advising Fellows (PAFs) introducing new first-years

to the area and inaugurating their Harvard experience.

Consequently, BerryLine has become a locus for connection across classes at Harvard. When customers arrive in Harvard gear or accidentally take out their Harvard ID rather than their debit card, I start up a conversation. I’ve met so many classmates that I wouldn’t have otherwise gotten the chance to connect with due to the pandemic’s constraints on socializing. Being able to connect with other first-years from behind the glass case and rows of decadent toppings certainly beats bonding from behind the Zoom camera! I’m also pleasantly surprised by the number of friends who stop in to say hi while I’m on shift—a reminder of the unexpected connections that can be made even during a time of limited interaction.

One customer stands out from the rest. Harvard student Haeyun Lee ’21 has made it her mission to buy BerryLine’s frozen yogurt every day before she graduates, documenting her daily confections on Instagram (*@haeyunatberryline*). “I believe it is the duty of a good friend to introduce their friends to BerryLine,” Lee says. “It’s been fun to see them become big fans as well.” She is an integral part of the BerryLine community on both the consumer and administrative sides; her passion speaks to the affinity felt between both sides of the counter. “Because I’ve been coming everyday, I’ve been trying to get to know the names of everyone who works there, and some of them have started following my account!” Lee says. She has even taken on publicity roles, designing BerryLine t-shirts and merchandise which we hope to feature in our stores soon. Wallace recently gifted Lee with a \$100 gift card to sponsor her daily froyo fix and reward her loyalty.

The story of BerryLine illuminates the unpredictable nature of career paths. A frozen yogurt business was not Wallace’s original plan—he went from working in research labs to cooking in the Mass Ave kitchen—but it became a central aspect of his life. “It’s like one of those life lessons—you have that thought as a five-year-old, ten-year-old, twenty-year-old, of where your career is heading, and you just don’t know what’s around the corner,” he says. Wallace suggests that what you study isn’t always indicative of your future. For Harvard students, this lesson is particularly salient; we are often shoved into a one-sided conception of what our career must look like. In reality, all the stress of finals, summer internships, thesis papers, and concentration requirements melt away when you’re pursuing something you truly love—even if it’s independent of your academic pursuits.

Carli Cooperstein '24 (*carlicoooperstein@college.harvard.edu*) always opts for the homemade Oreo cheesecake topping.

Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23

Oh, the Places You Could Go!

Despite “having options,” Harvard students tend to make the same choices after graduation

BY OLIVER ADLER '24



ptions. People always say that after college, you have options. At Harvard, however, it seems that students choose to pursue a narrower range of paths than the world offers. At the end of each academic year, Harvard's Office of Career Services (OCS) asks graduating students to take the Harvard College Senior Survey. The statistics from 2019, the most recent that the OCS released data, tell a story that differs from one of infinite options.

According to the 2019 Senior Survey, which asked the entire senior class of roughly 1500 students to respond, 16% of students said they planned to attend graduate or professional school in the fall after graduation. 13% said they would be working in financial services, 12% in technology or engineering, 10% in consulting, and another 10% in a government, military service, or nonprofit capacity. Altogether, this data suggests that over 60% of graduating seniors chose one of five paths after graduation. These are, of course, fairly broad fields. Not to mention, attending graduate school does not rule out the possibility of later working in any one of the other previously listed fields. Nonetheless, the 2019 Senior Survey suggests that Harvard students tend not to go into medicine or education, among other fields, and they instead prefer the realms of finance, technology, and consulting.

In some areas, the results from the 2019 Senior Survey are fairly representative of the past decade's worth of responses to OCS's Senior Survey. In 2012, the first year from which data is available, 11% of students reported that they would be working in financial services, and another 11% planned to work in consulting in the fall after graduation. Statistics from the 2015 survey tell the same story: for the same categories of financial services and consulting, the numbers are 13% and 10%, respectively.

However, it appears the percentage of students entering technology and engineering fields over the past decade has increased. In 2012, 5% of seniors reported that they would be working in this field after graduation. In 2013, 2014, and 2015, that percentage rose to 6%, 9%, and 11%, respectively. Since 2015, technology and engineering has remained a field in which about 10% of graduating seniors intend to work in the fall after graduation. Government, military, nonprofit, and non-governmental organization work also appears to have risen over time: in 2012, 5% of respondents said they would be working in these fields, whereas 6% and 7% said the same in 2015 and 2017.

“Over the past decade, Harvard's graduating seniors have become more and more concentrated into a few career areas, suggesting that maybe there should be an asterisk next to options. Maybe people should say that after college, you actually only have a few potential career paths.”

Over the past decade, Harvard's graduating seniors have become more and more concentrated into a few career areas, suggesting that maybe there should be an asterisk next to options. Maybe people should say that after college, you actually only have a few potential career paths. Or maybe people should say that you have a wide range of options, but you'll likely only choose from a handful of the most popular ones.

Why do so many students end up in just a few fields? The financial incentive is clear; the most lucrative professions seemingly are the most coveted. In an ideal world, Harvard graduates would use the economic and social priv-

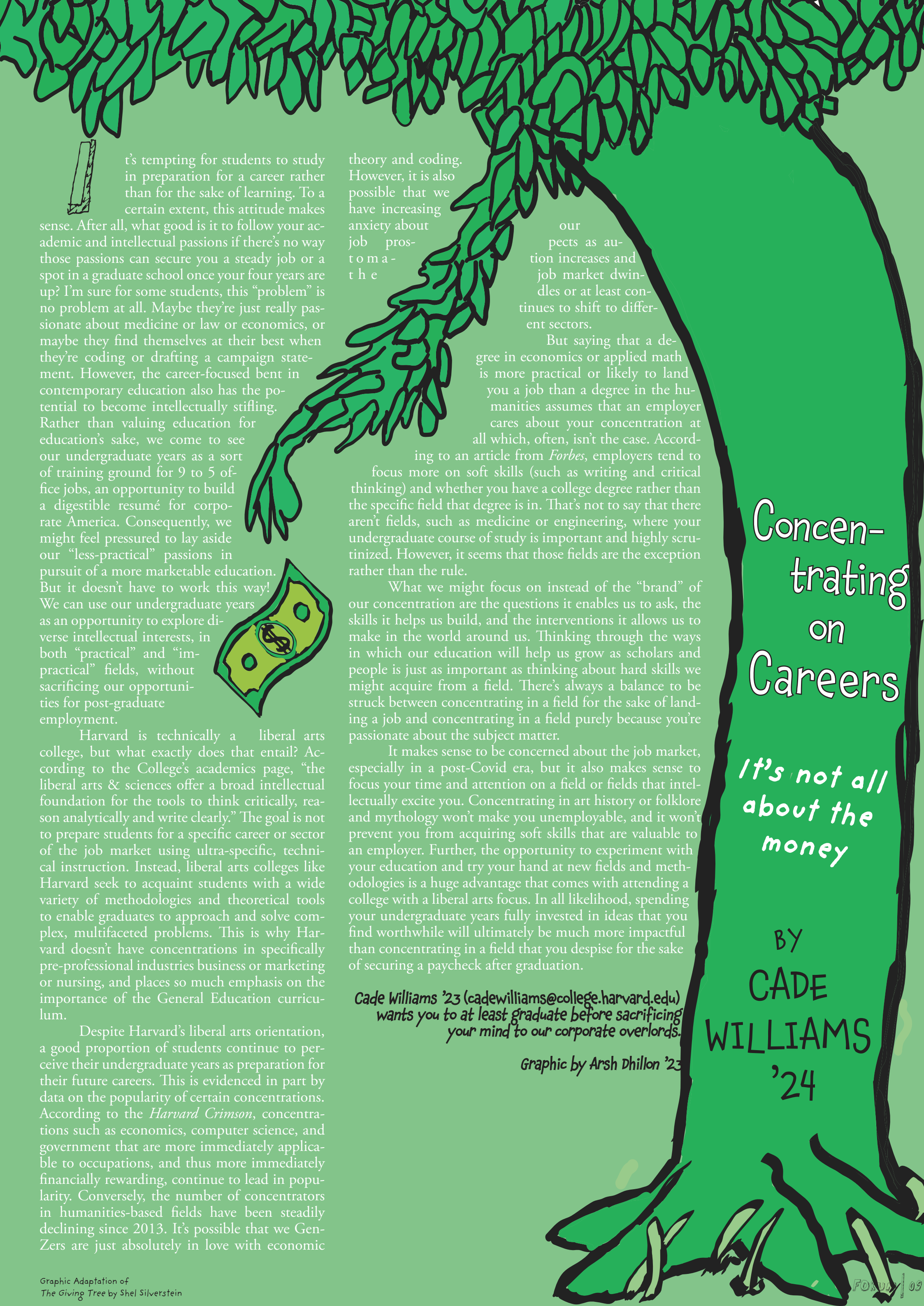
ileges earned from high-paying jobs in, say, finance, to turn around and help communities in need through nonprofit work or support for political candidates who could better their communities. The results from the 2019 Senior Survey suggest that a portion of Harvard students are already doing this work: with 10% of respondents planning to work in a government, military, or nonprofit capacity, some students are looking to directly serve their communities. An additional 10% of respondents indicated they would spend the following fall working in the healthcare industry or volunteering.

What does life at Harvard suggest about life after college? Another word that people use in this discussion is connections. Some people already come to Harvard with them; many form them while they're here. In any case, they're necessary for the world outside of college, a world for which college should prepare you. OCS reported that 79% of graduating seniors in 2019 had interned for at least one of their three summers before graduating. A microcosm of the workforce after graduation, internships reflect a pressing problem: there are only so many positions available. Still, just about 4 out of 5 survey respondents had an internship by the time they graduated.

Connections often make internships possible, and open doors to future jobs after graduation. These opportunities help students expand their pallets and explore new areas of interest and ultimately make positive changes in the world. Options do exist—both today and tomorrow.

Oliver Adler '24 (oliveradler@college.harvard.edu) wants to work as the taste-tester for a candy company after graduation.

Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23



It's tempting for students to study in preparation for a career rather than for the sake of learning. To a certain extent, this attitude makes sense. After all, what good is it to follow your academic and intellectual passions if there's no way those passions can secure you a steady job or a spot in a graduate school once your four years are up? I'm sure for some students, this "problem" is no problem at all. Maybe they're just really passionate about medicine or law or economics, or maybe they find themselves at their best when they're coding or drafting a campaign statement. However, the career-focused bent in contemporary education also has the potential to become intellectually stifling. Rather than valuing education for education's sake, we come to see our undergraduate years as a sort of training ground for 9 to 5 office jobs, an opportunity to build a digestible resumé for corporate America. Consequently, we might feel pressured to lay aside our "less-practical" passions in pursuit of a more marketable education. But it doesn't have to work this way! We can use our undergraduate years as an opportunity to explore diverse intellectual interests, in both "practical" and "impractical" fields, without sacrificing our opportunities for post-graduate employment.

Harvard is technically a liberal arts college, but what exactly does that entail? According to the College's academics page, "the liberal arts & sciences offer a broad intellectual foundation for the tools to think critically, reason analytically and write clearly." The goal is not to prepare students for a specific career or sector of the job market using ultra-specific, technical instruction. Instead, liberal arts colleges like Harvard seek to acquaint students with a wide variety of methodologies and theoretical tools to enable graduates to approach and solve complex, multifaceted problems. This is why Harvard doesn't have concentrations in specifically pre-professional industries business or marketing or nursing, and places so much emphasis on the importance of the General Education curriculum.

Despite Harvard's liberal arts orientation, a good proportion of students continue to perceive their undergraduate years as preparation for their future careers. This is evidenced in part by data on the popularity of certain concentrations. According to the *Harvard Crimson*, concentrations such as economics, computer science, and government that are more immediately applicable to occupations, and thus more immediately financially rewarding, continue to lead in popularity. Conversely, the number of concentrators in humanities-based fields have been steadily declining since 2013. It's possible that we Gen-Zers are just absolutely in love with economic

theory and coding. However, it is also possible that we have increasing anxiety about job prospects as automation increases and job market dwindles or at least continues to shift to different sectors.

But saying that a degree in economics or applied math is more practical or likely to land you a job than a degree in the humanities assumes that an employer cares about your concentration at all which, often, isn't the case. According to an article from *Forbes*, employers tend to focus more on soft skills (such as writing and critical thinking) and whether you have a college degree rather than the specific field that degree is in. That's not to say that there aren't fields, such as medicine or engineering, where your undergraduate course of study is important and highly scrutinized. However, it seems that those fields are the exception rather than the rule.

What we might focus on instead of the "brand" of our concentration are the questions it enables us to ask, the skills it helps us build, and the interventions it allows us to make in the world around us. Thinking through the ways in which our education will help us grow as scholars and people is just as important as thinking about hard skills we might acquire from a field. There's always a balance to be struck between concentrating in a field for the sake of landing a job and concentrating in a field purely because you're passionate about the subject matter.

It makes sense to be concerned about the job market, especially in a post-Covid era, but it also makes sense to focus your time and attention on a field or fields that intellectually excite you. Concentrating in art history or folklore and mythology won't make you unemployable, and it won't prevent you from acquiring soft skills that are valuable to an employer. Further, the opportunity to experiment with your education and try your hand at new fields and methodologies is a huge advantage that comes with attending a college with a liberal arts focus. In all likelihood, spending your undergraduate years fully invested in ideas that you find worthwhile will ultimately be much more impactful than concentrating in a field that you despise for the sake of securing a paycheck after graduation.

Cade Williams '23 (cadewilliams@college.harvard.edu) wants you to at least graduate before sacrificing your mind to our corporate overlords.

Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23

Concentrating on Careers

It's not all about the money

BY
CADE
WILLIAMS
'24

Two world-famous Harvard graduates-turned-chefs, 50 years apart

BY NOAH TAVARES '24

Molotov Cocktails and Omelettes

Harvard offers 50 concentrations, yet food or cuisine or cooking do not make an appearance in any of their titles. However, some alumni have leveraged their Harvard educations to enter careers in cooking. The *Independent* spoke to a trailblazer of modern American cuisine, Chef Jeremiah Tower '66, GSD '69, and famous internet food entertainer, Nick Digiovanni '19, to learn how Harvard impacted their journeys into the world of cuisine.

"The food at Adams House was shit," said Tower. "So I cooked in my closet in junior year at Adams House. I would cook truffle omelettes and drink great wines." While the quality of the food at Adams hasn't changed much since 1965, American cuisine has grown significantly. Jeremiah Tower's revolutionary cooking at restaurants like Chez Panisse in Oakland and Stars in San Francisco is a massive reason why. By elevating the bounty of the American breadbasket with a classical French ethos, Tower has helped lead a charge that influenced the flavor profile of most domestic haute cuisine today. Instead of attempting to totally transform ingredients, Tower elevated each ingredient's inner sparkle. At Harvard, he studied architecture, but he went on to have one of the most storied careers of any American chef.

Nick Digiovanni, on the other hand, can probably be found somewhere on your phone right now. He started his culinary career by becoming the youngest-ever MasterChef finalist. Digiovanni now boasts almost 6 million followers on TikTok, and is currently the youngest college-educated person on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list in Food and Drink. At Harvard, Digiovanni created his own concentration in "Food & Climate" because he wanted to do something he loved that was also practical. Unlike Tower's experience at Harvard, Digiovanni's cooking was not relegated to the closet. In fact, he com-

pleted his degree while cooking for a local restaurant.

A seemingly reluctant trailblazer, Digiovanni wanted to address how Harvard didn't help students explore the uncertainty of life. Describing how he felt at the beginning of college, he said, "I was just completely lost. I didn't think there was enough guidance, freshman year especially, to help kids figure out what they actually want to do. Everyone comes into school, and is like, 'I'm going to be pre-med or go into economics,' and they just do it because all their friends are doing it. It makes it really difficult to narrow down on what you want to do."

Meanwhile, Tower reflected on his time at Harvard with enthusiasm. "We shut down Harvard," he said while recounting a story of rebellion in 1969. "My most exciting memory of that period was when I gave a dinner for a whole bunch of revolutionaries from the Students for a Democratic Society. We drank champagne and when the champagne was empty we filled them up with gasoline, made Molotov cocktails, and threw them at the architecture building. I didn't realize you can't make molotov cocktails out of champagne bottles; they bounce. That was my architecture career."

Despite the limited discussion at Harvard of pursuing nontraditional careers after college, Tower and Digiovanni found spaces to pursue their passions for food. Digiovanni was thrust into the spotlight directly after graduation when he became a finalist on MasterChef. But he believes his fame was launched not by the television screen, but by the iPhone screen: "TikTok is what started it all for me," he said. "That's what gave me the ability to control where I brought my whole fan base. Suddenly having this massive base of almost 6 million people, just having that power and having so many people trust you for good advice—that's pretty cool." Now, only after graduating Harvard, Digiovanni is fielding offers to be America's next man in the kitchen, following the footsteps of culinary icons like Gordon Ramsay and Bobby Flay.

Tower, on the other hand, took a little longer to get his bearings. While dreaming of making underwater buildings in Hawaii and living in San Francisco,

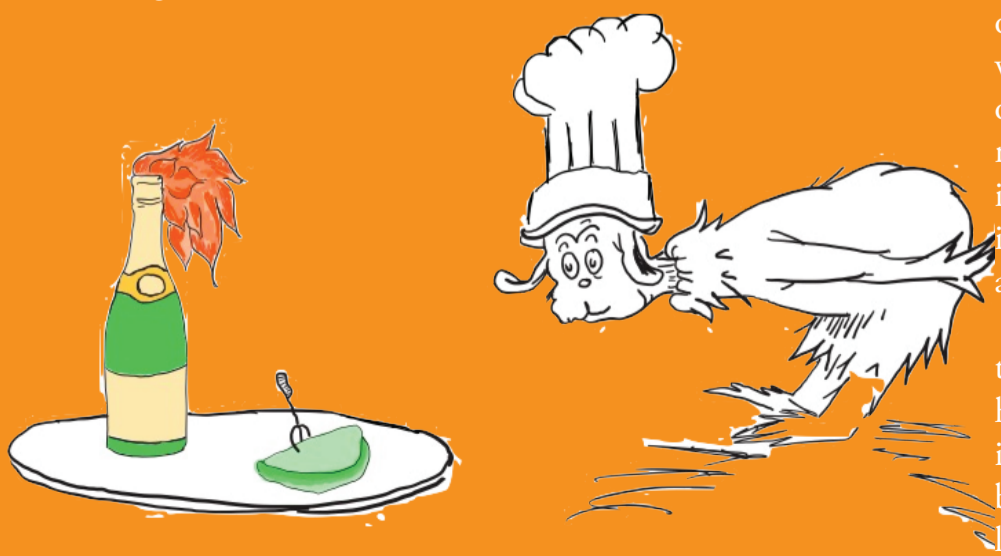
Tower found himself "peeling potatoes. [My friends] were all driving Porsches and I was, you know, getting paid \$400 a month," he said. "I realized I couldn't get a job as an architect. And so I was actually totally free. That ever-chaotic chance moment came along, and when I grabbed it, I was the chef at Chez Panisse." Entirely out of the chaos, Tower walked into a kitchen, demanded an interview, "added some salt and cream to the soup," and started his journey.

Digiovanni and Tower offered advice for readers contemplating whether to pursue a culinary career. Tower simply suggested reading; in fact, the aspect of his Harvard education that he uses most today today include, "knowing how to research, knowing how to read. My advice to people working for me or trying to work for me is go read cook books." Digiovanni's advice was to remember the breadth of the restaurant industry. "It's such a massive industry," he said. "You can go into hospitality, hotels, or running a bakery or a restaurant." The industry even appeals to those interested in computer science: Digiovanni explained that "you can go into the technological stuff—companies, like Toast, that help restaurants run their infrastructure."

The tales of these two chefs, half a century apart, highlight the impact of one's mindset at Harvard on their life after Harvard. Both Digiovanni and Tower had a final piece of advice for students: if you're curious, cook! And if you ever find yourself in your closet cooking omelettes, don't forget to whip the eggs at the last second.

Noah Tavares '24 (noahtavares@college.harvard.edu) prefers to eat.

Graphics by Yasmine Bazos '24



No, Ryan!

tips & tricks to nail your interview!



No being late

punctuality is essential! set several alarms if it's an early interview, or try waking up early the day before to acclimate yourself. scout out the location (or zoom link) of the interview so you know where you're going!

No looking underdressed

dress for success! harvard ocs recommends wearing a dark suit, but you have more flexibility if you're interviewing for a creative job. wear something that makes you feel good!



No boring questions

make an impression by asking something unique! if you have multiple interviewers, try to come up with different questions for each, and make them specific to their respective roles at the company. creativity is your friend



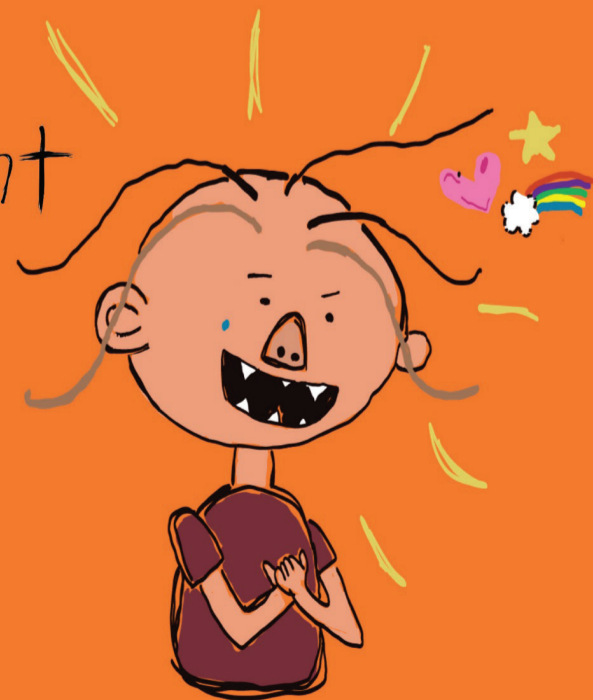
No coming unprepared



do preliminary research! know what you're talking about! check out their website and look them up on linkedin (as long as you're on private mode)

No not being confident

give off good vibes. if you believe in yourself, they will too.



No ethical labor under capitalism



I'm Gonna Love Me

by Abigail
Koerner '21

This love story begins
Just over a decade ago
When I was no longer a child
And I was beginning to truly grow

When I saw who she was
And fed her, bathed her, kept her
She's older now
But I will never forget her

Past-self and me—and yes, we are a we!
Have been on a very long journey
Searching and fighting for who we will be
A battle for existence withstood by me and past-she

I cry for her sometimes
Although they should be happy tears
I cry for her struggle
We will forever share the same fears

I cry for forgiveness
Even as I thank my sweet fates
For on this long road to loving life
My destiny was not always well paved

Life's waves crashed around us
Foaming with great joy and deep pain
In this chaos of life, calm saved the day
It is proven, in fact, that we bend; we don't break

And in this current moment
We pause in time to breathe
Who would I be if she hadn't let me feel free?
I carry her home with wisdom only meant for me

True love is painful
And in this cruel world it hurts
I can't go back in time
But I can love past-her's hard work

I accept self-love's challenge
To love fearlessly through it all
For without her I'd be nothing
And without me, she'd be so small



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BUT
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Ash Chillon
Mary Julia Koch