

Issue 09

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# HARVARD independent

THE STUDENT WEEKLY SINCE 1969



*what's so profound about the ordinary*

# MASTHEAD

September 23, 2021

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# BOBAPUNK

VISIT BOSTON BOBA TEA STOP BEFORE IT CLOSES IN NOVEMBER

BY MICHAEL KIELSTRA '22

**B**y September 4, 2014, Douglas Cho had already established himself in the Boston punk music scene. Sometimes going by the *nom de guerre* Doug Free, he played in bands such as The Rival Mob, Free Spirit, and Give. His task at 7:10 PM that evening, however, was far less anti-establishment: to go before the Board of Zoning Appeal (BZA) for the City of Cambridge and apply for a permit to continue to operate his newly-purchased boba shop.

Alia Farah, shift supervisor at the Boston Tea Stop, said that the storefront had opened in 2003, as an outlet of a large bubble tea chain. Around 2008, the chain pulled out of Harvard Square, becoming a wholesale distributor of boba, syrup, and other bubble tea supplies. The store changed its name to the Boston Tea Stop (and, ironically, no longer sources its boba from that particular wholesaler). Mr. Cho was working there at the time, and, in 2014, purchased the business from its previous owner.

By this time, the Boston Tea Stop had already attracted a major local following. Mr. Cho's attorney at the BZA meeting, James Jacobs, produced "15 letters of support, mostly from customers," and Justin DeTore, who played in The Rival Mob alongside Mr. Cho, testified that "There's a lot of affection between the customers and the Boston Tea Stop." The shop's reputation reached as far as Nicaragua: when testifier Ricky Hartman had volunteered there with the Peace Corps, he said, "several volunteers from the Boston area knew of the store immediately and recognized my shirt and that type of thing." The permit was granted without much further trouble. With Mr. Cho at the helm, the Boston Tea Stop transformed into what it is today: an eclectic shrine to punk and boba, with signs painted by a local sign shop in return for, as well as payment, "vegan treats." (The sign shop's

Instagram post even credits Cho as Doug Free.) In 2015, Cho was granted a further permit to operate arcade machines in his shop, and the band posters, album covers, high school pennants, and framed *New York Times* front page showing the headline "Men Walk On Moon" on the wall were joined by antique Tetris and Street Fighter II cabinets. Before COVID-19, the shop had indoor seating, but, since social distancing became the rule, these seats have been filled by figures, from Cho's collection, of everyone from Boba Fett to Bart Simpson.

Atmosphere, however, carries a shop only so far. The Boston Tea Stop's major strength, as it should be, is its menu. Although Farah admits that working at the shop as she does, she often gets bored of any given drink, "it's easy to switch it up when the menu is this extensive." Beyond the classic black, taro, or Thai milk, the shop offers over twenty infusion flavors, hot teas, and blended smoothies. "I love the Thai milk tea," says Farah. "That's kind of my old reliable; I always come back to it. It has a lot of caffeine, it's a great pick-me-up and you can add flavors to it, like coconut or vanilla. I wouldn't recommend anything too extravagant: it gets a little too sweet."

The combination of all of this has proved a winning formula with some students. Liz Hoveland '22, who confessed to being "a HUGE fan" and goes to the shop two to four times a month, says, "the atmosphere is really cute and wholesome, but not tacky," and praised the wide variety of flavors and affordable prices. Sammantha Garcia '22 says simply, "Boston Tea Stop is cute."

The fandom extends beyond students as well. Farah says that "I have a lot of fans [of Cho] coming here, [saying] 'oh my god, I listen to your boss's music,' and they look at all his stuff, take pictures, it's really nice and heartwarming." During the 2014 BZA meeting, Cho said that he had tourists from Hawaii,

California, and Australia in one week. Others are not so keen. Chung Yi See '22 mentions poor customer service and says that the tea tastes "overly sugary/syrupy" and "[doesn't] have any real tea taste." She says that Kung Fu Tea is superior in this regard and tastes more like Singaporean bubble tea. From personal experience, I agree that milk and syrup do predominate in the taste. Not all their menu options are as good as the others: Alex Grayson '22 did not recommend the drink which she described as "a smoothie with boba." A love for Boston Tea is certainly not universal.

In the end, the business's fans have not been enough to keep it open. Harvard Square's rising commercial rents are a well-discussed problem, and Kung Fu Tea markets more aggressively to students than the Boston Tea Stop ever has. The pandemic also hit the business hard. "A lot of our regulars moved away after COVID-19; we don't really see a lot come back," Farah says. More than that, though, "times have changed, [business has] gotten way slower, it's definitely not as interesting as used to be." After almost twenty years in business in one form or another, the Boston Tea Stop is getting old, and management is thinking about moving on.

The store will close in November, and while Farah says there are potential plans in the works to change location, she is unsure if these will come to anything. The passing of the Boston Tea Stop does not mean there is nowhere to get boba in Harvard Square. It does, however, mark the end of one of the more unique places to get it. Go while you can. My drink order is a black milk tea, extra bubbles.

**Michael Kielstra '22 (pmkielstra@college.harvard.edu) discovered boba in college and has never looked back.**

**Graphics by Arsh Dhillon '23**

# BRACKET

THE GAME WINNERS AMONGST HARVARD STUDENT ATHLETES

BY WILL GOLDSMITH '24

The competitive spirit of Harvard athletes extends far beyond playing fields. Many athletes in the Harvard community are as adept at such dancing and beer pong as they are at scoring goals in field hockey. The shotgunning prowess of some student athletes is similarly striking.

Athletes abide by rules concerning the times in which it is appropriate for them to let loose and party during the academic year. Most teams refer to this time as a “dry period.” Some teams prohibit partying altogether during their seasons

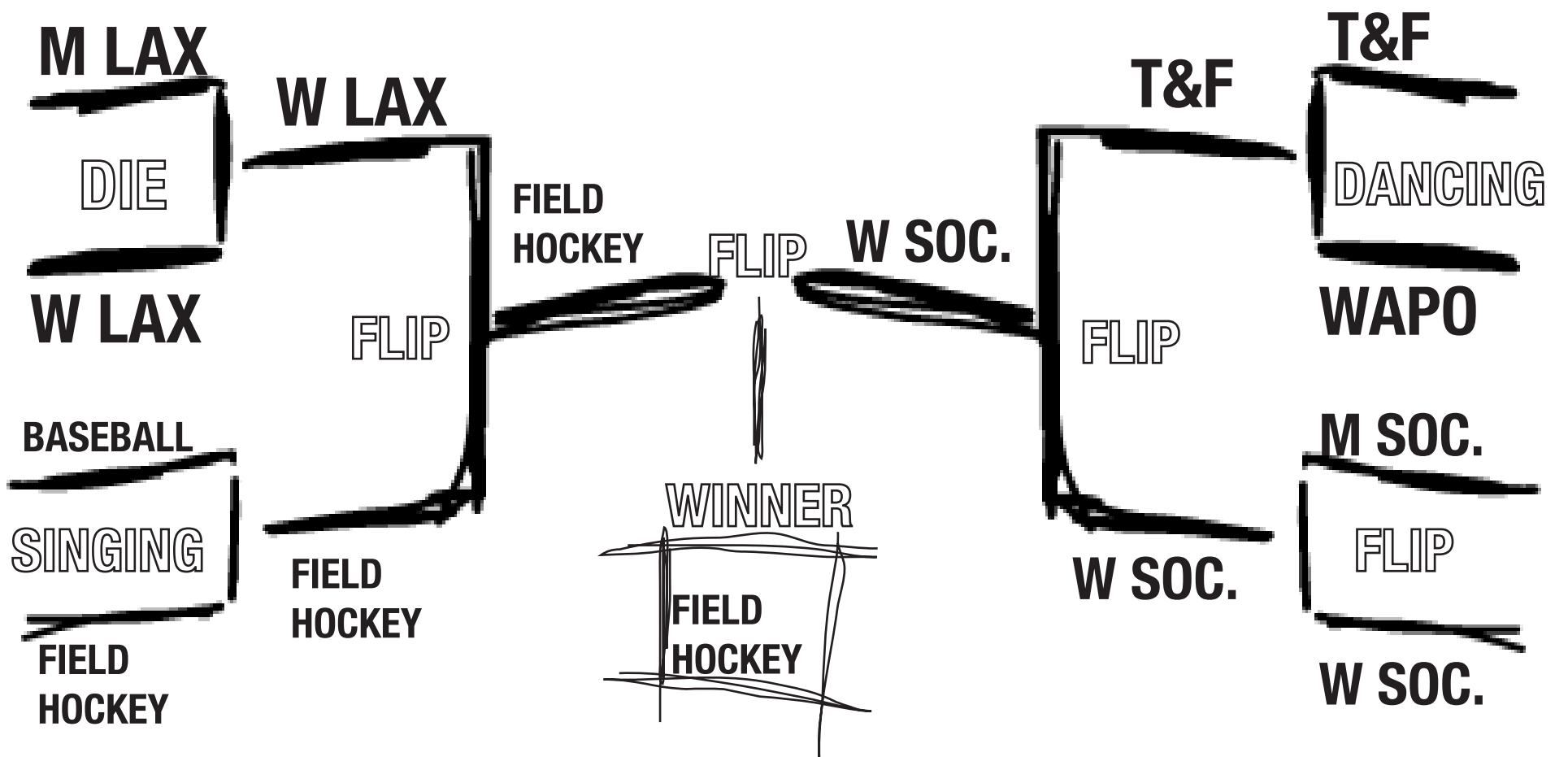
of competition. Yet such prohibitions need not — and have not — doused the lively spirit of athletes across the athletic spectrum. Perhaps even more importantly, such prohibitions have not prompted any significant deterioration in the drinking game capabilities of Crimson athletes.

The drinking game capabilities of Harvard student athletes are truly extraordinary. But such drinking-game acumen is also rivalled by athletes’ singing abilities.

The Field Hockey team has a particular reputation for their athletes’ singing ability, and among greats, there is a con-

sensus standout. “Kolbe Keating is the best singer on Field Hockey,” said sophomore player Avery Donahue. Donahue continued, “She is Shakira’s long lost twin.” Owing to Keating’s exceptional voice, among others, we on the Independent expect Field Hockey to defeat the men of Crimson baseball in any sing-off.

Sound dancing serves as an even better indicator of athletic ability than singing. Of course, a substantial amount of coordination and nimbleness is required in any effective dance routine. Fortunately for the Cambridge community, effective



dance routines abound on athletic teams at Harvard.

Perhaps because of the wide range of athletic abilities that team members boast, including the flexibility of the pole vaulters and the stamina of the distance runners, the Track and Field team has the widest and best array of dancers. Even among a large and varied crew, there is a favorite.

“Lance Ward is our best dancer,” said sophomore team member Jaeschel Acheampong. He continued, “If you watch him do his ‘Lance Dance,’ you will bear witness to some of the greatest moves ever put on by any Harvard Track & Field member.” Ward’s unique moves will surely give Track and Field the edge over Wom-

en’s Water Polo in any dance competition.

Student-athletes on the Women’s Soccer team noted similarities between the conduct of their peers on the field and the traits such peers reflect during intense competitions like flip cup. “Anna knows how to work productively with her teammates and how to lead a team to victory. She’s our best flip cup player, hands down,” said sophomore player Taylor Fasnacht. Such leadership has propelled Women’s Soccer to the top of the *Independent’s* sport team flip cup rankings.

In the end, Harvard’s student-athletes have proven once again that their competitive spirit has benefitted them. Winston Churchill once remarked that he had taken more from alcohol than alcohol

had ever taken from him. The same can certainly be said about athletes who utilize their athletic abilities to defeat their opponents during drinking games in Cambridge. The rest of the Ivy League ought to take note.

**Will Goldsmith '24 (willgoldsmith@college.harvard.edu) doesn't play sports.**

**Bracket by Arsh Dhillon '23**

# BURRITO

JEFE'S

VS

FELIPE'S

BY HANNAH FRAZER '25 AND ALEXANDRA FRIEDLANDER '25

It's 12 AM on a bustling Friday night. Whether you just stepped out of Lamont Library or the basement of a fraternity, your stomach uproars in protest. Starving, you amble around the streets in Cambridge looking for some form of sustenance that calls your name. You stand with a group of people who split into two groups: Jefe's and Felipe's.

It's only your first week on campus and you don't know in which direction to go. Ironically, this is the biggest test you've had all semester. Jefe's or Felipe's? Which one will satisfy your biggest cravings?

No need to worry: The *Harvard Independent* is here to help you make an informed decision about your burrito consumption in Harvard Square.

Felipe's Taqueria was founded in 2004 with the values of "ARRIBA: Attentive, Resourceful, Respectful, Interactive, Busy, Accountable," its website says. El Jefe's, on the other hand, is newer to Harvard's campus.

According to *The Harvard Crimson*, John Schall founded the restaurant in 2015 to "create a higher quality dining experience by using fresh ingredients." Thus, the rivalry of the best burrito stop in the Square was born. Since then, both restaurants have been serving Cambridge's hungriest students late into the night.

Now let's get a breakdown of what's truly important: the ingredients that go into each burrito. "I get rice, guac, lettuce, salsa verde..." says Pedro '23 of his typical order at Felipe's. Emily Dobrant '24 describes her visits to Jefe's: "I usually get

a burrito, Mexican rice, black beans, chiroso, mango salsa, lettuce, sometimes guac, lettuce, hot sauce..." She says her fondness of Mexican rice and black beans is unmatched. The *Independent* asked Jefe's for a comment on their burrito service, but they declined to respond.

Yi Long '23 prefers the manner in which Felipe's prepares its super burrito. "The customization is nice at Felipe's, and everything looks fresh because they're making it in front of you," he says.

When determining which late night

Hungrier students may ponder the amount of time it takes to get their burritos. The hours of operation of both establishments are crucial: Jefe's stretches much later in the night, closing at 4 AM seven days a week, whereas Felipe's only runs until 1 AM on the weekends, losing a crucial three hours of service. "The wait time at Jefe's is worth it," says Arjun Purohit '25. "Felipe's is also a vibe, but when I went to Jefe's it was right before orientation so all the students in Cambridge were there and it was a whole thing..."

A poll from the *Independent's* Instagram story provides further

insight into the late-night burrito rivalry. Based on responses primarily from Harvard first-years, Jefe's wins the competition with 54% of the vote, compared to Felipe's 46%.

The rivalry between Jefe's and Felipe's will likely be a battle for years to come.

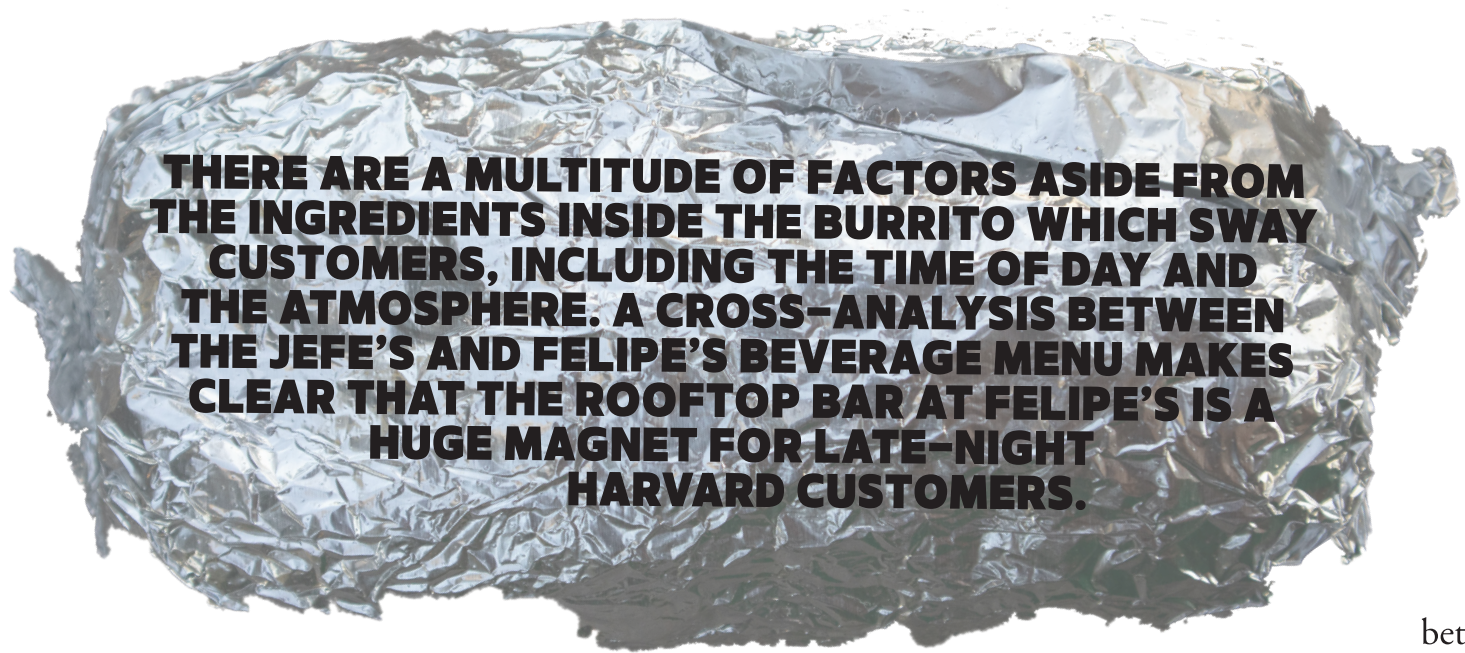
The next time you're walking the streets of Cam-

bridge without a clue where to go, reference this article and weigh what each student likes about the different establishments. But no matter where you spend your time and money to fill your stomach at 12 AM, you really can't go wrong in Harvard Square.

**Hannah Frazer '25 (hannahfrazer@college.harvard.edu) is Team Jefe's.**

**Alexandra Friedlander '25 (afriedlander@college.harvard.edu) is Team Felipe's.**

**Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23**



**THERE ARE A MULTITUDE OF FACTORS ASIDE FROM THE INGREDIENTS INSIDE THE BURRITO WHICH SWAY CUSTOMERS, INCLUDING THE TIME OF DAY AND THE ATMOSPHERE. A CROSS-ANALYSIS BETWEEN THE JEFE'S AND FELIPE'S BEVERAGE MENU MAKES CLEAR THAT THE ROOFTOP BAR AT FELIPE'S IS A HUGE MAGNET FOR LATE-NIGHT HARVARD CUSTOMERS.**

# C H A I R S

TO SIT OR NOT TO SIT

BY MATTHEW DOCTOROFF '25

We sit. We sit in classrooms or lecture halls, as professors educate. We sit in libraries, common rooms, or media centers studying for upcoming exams or reading, what seems to be, an endless number of pages. We sit in dining halls fueling ourselves for the rest of the day. And, when we relax, we are likely seated, hanging out around the T.V. or in the Yard with friends.

Since the majority of Harvard students' time is spent sitting, students should know which chairs on campus are the best. A good chair fulfills three categories: comfort, environment, and ergonomics. If a chair can satisfy one of those requirements, it deserves to be sat in. Many of the chairs around campus—both well-known and hidden—check off one of those boxes. If you need a new spot to relax or study, follow this list of Harvard's top ten chairs.

## 10. Funky Cabot Chair

The bottom of our list is an alien-looking chair found in Cabot Library. Its appearance is the main reason it made the ranking. The chair lives in a lonely corner of Cabot and is deficient for doing work, although the ear cushions make for a great head rest. If you have some free time, and want to check out Harvard's funkiest chair, stop by the Science Center.

## 9. Harvard Yard Chairs

The chairs in Harvard Yard and the surrounding areas are infamous for their prices. First appearing in the Yard in 2009, they came from the Fermob Luxembourg Collection and are rumored to cost more than \$350 per seat. This cost is supposedly justified by their environmentally-friendly construction. However, it is difficult to do work in them and their locations are random. But the color scheme of these chairs adds an artistic aesthetic to the Yard, and they are all smooth, sturdy, and have a simple style.

## 8. Lamont Fourth Floor

On the fourth floor of Lamont Library lies a hidden seating gem: a modern gray chair with a foot rest. "It's a nice view and it's a peaceful place to read," a Harvard graduate student said. The fourth floor of Lamont looks and feels different from the rest of the building: it smells fresh, the design is more modern, and the windows provide a view of Harvard Square. If you ever want some alone time to flip through the latest issue of the *Independent*, this is the spot.

## 7. Straus Common Room Couch

It's not a chair, but it deserves recognition. Though these couches match the formal design of the Straus Common Room, you can sink right into them and relax on the leather surface for hours. Large masses often hang around these couches, playing cards and discussing outlandish theories with friends late into the night.

## 6. The Dorm Chair

This may be a contentious choice, but it is undoubtedly a classic: the first-year dorm room desk chair. The cushion color is a bland attempt at crimson, reminiscent of a worn-down elementary school carpet. Nonetheless, this chair serves its purpose. Upon sitting, students are greeted with a firm cushion that will keep them stable for many hours of studying. The back rest is mediocre, but when one leans back, the best attribute of the chair becomes evident: One can put backwards pressure until they reach eight degrees of elevation, where a heightened portion of the legs block someone from falling and hitting their head. It is satisfying to recline without having to worry about potentially injuring yourself. For those reasons, I think the desk chair rightfully



sits at #6.

## 5. Red Lawn Chairs

The red wooden lawn chairs outside of the Science Center are in a prime location. While the rustling and bustling of the area takes place, students can grab a bite to eat and slip into these seats. Each chair has a divot in between the second and third strip, which makes for a perfect spot to place yourself. "The angle of the back is very preferable and the distance from the ground is perfect," says Jax Adler '25. "I'd sit in this chair for a while and not even realize." But procrastinators, be warned: the relaxed design of these chairs and their stimulating surroundings do not encourage the most productive studying.

## 4. Menschel Hall

In terms of lecture halls, Menschel Hall at the Harvard Art Museums is the best for seating. There is plenty of space to jot down notes from these wide orange seats, and the leg room makes you feel like you're sitting in first-class. "When you are in the class you never feel like people are encroaching on your space. It almost feels like you are at a movie theater with the large cushions," said Jacob Gilligan '25. "You can also get a solid view from any angle of the room and the acoustics are great."

## 3. Lamont Room 240 Swivel Chairs

Yes, it's an extremely random spot. But these neon green swivel chairs make it worth checking out. They can roll around the room or provide a nice seat to conquer your p-sets, with help from the attached rotating desk. Though this classroom is not the most visually enticing, the swivel seats offer an active and uplifting learning environment. If you ever need a spot to study and some great chairs to plop down on, the often-vacant Room 240 in Lamont Library is waiting for you.

## 2. Harvard Aeron Chairs

The ergonomics of this chair are out-of-this-world. Found all over Lamont Library, the Reference Services room in Widener, and in a similar style at the Science Center, the black Aeron chair is perfect for studying. The wired material enforces great posture while also allowing you to lean back and unwind. Its height is adjustable and its swivel allows for greater movement. With such support and flexibility, you can always find a comfortable sitting position in this chair—it truly has the whole package. If you ever need to grind out homework for countless hours, this is the chair to do it in.

## 1. Harvard Commons Lounge Chair

Coming in at first place is the shuttle-shaped orange lounge chair found on the second floor of Harvard Commons in the Smith Center. Though it may not be enjoyed as often as the other chairs, it is extraordinarily comfortable. In addition to the padded cushions and armrests, "the incline of the back is perfect," said Jonah Abrams '25. This is the best spot on campus to relax; every student and faculty member on campus should experience this chair.

Given the amount of time students spend sitting, finding a chair that suits our seating needs is essential. Many people know Harvard for its academics, diverse student body, and great post-graduate opportunities, but in many ways, it's the chairs that undergird the College's outstanding reputation. All of the ten chairs above should be chair-ished for years to come.

**Matthew Doctoroff '25 (matthewdoctoroff@college.harvard.edu) is a bit too passionate about chairs.**

**Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23**

# COMPETENCY

A LOOK AT HARVARD'S MOST POPULAR COMPS

BY MARBELLA MARLO '24

**A**h, yes. Comp season. The part of the semester that re-awakens most clubs and reminds us all which email lists we signed up for. Whether the process of applying to a Harvard club lasts the entire semester or just a few weeks, it can be a daunting task. The word *comp* itself stands for *competency*, and the purpose of the requirements and often tedious tasks is to prove just that. Yet oftentimes this isn't truly the case. Hear from the members of Harvard's most popular clubs to see how their comp processes fared against the rumors spread about them.

## Crimson Key Society (CKS)

Let's start things out with Harvard's premier community service organization: Crimson Key. No less than a hundred student organizations at the College are classified as public service, including Phillips Brooks House, Project Access, Harvard College Social Enterprise Association. What separates Crimson Key from the rest of these groups is its specialization in hosting Harvard tours and welcoming first-year students and their families to campus. Current member Daniyal Sachee '23 explains that its extensive comp process selects their renowned Harvard tour guides.

The first round consists of a short written application, group interview, and a roughly three minute memorized tour stop of any campus building. The first round of the process "lacks much direction and guidance in terms of expectations," says Sachee. One of the hardest parts of preparing a tour of Harvard is preparing yourself for the questions you can't actually prepare for. As part of the mock tour process, Crimson Key members will ask compers questions about the College, including its final clubs, admissions process, and other discrete subjects that can put the tour guide on the spot. In the second round of the application process, each CKS comper is assigned a current member to assist with the creation and memorization of an hour-long memorized tour stop.

Once a comper is admitted, their time commitment to the club peaks during the first-year move-in week and whenever tours are needed.

Overall, Sachee isn't shy to express his satisfaction and pride to be a member of Crimson Key, and promises that being a member is in fact worth the comp.

## Harvard College Consulting Group (HCCG)

On a perhaps more extreme scale is the Harvard College Consulting Group, a student-run non-profit organization that works with real-world companies on real-world issues. They're most known for solving strategic prob-

lems for clients such as Snapchat, Reebok, Louis Vuitton, and American Cancer Society, and the requirements to join such a high-profile program don't fail to impress, either.

"During the comp process, I dedicated a lot of my time and wasn't really sleeping," says one HCCG member. "I was working, for around six hours a day, on making a deck to solve the problems outlined by the interviewers."

HCCG is known for its competitive acceptance rate—less than 10% of applicants are admitted, which has both benefits and drawbacks. In a community like Harvard, where many students are accustomed to being the top at their sport, class, or extracurricular, failure is a novelty.

"Too many people have never seen failure, which is why I'm not sure if the level of extreme competition is necessarily a bad thing," says this HCCG member. "The point of a successful consulting group is that you want it to be qualified and tight-knit."

Yet this

member also recognizes the negative aspects of such competitiveness. "The competition is to the point that it makes HCCG out to be a club that's only available to students who have previous work experience or who come from prep schools that give them a finance background, which is false," they say.

Once a comper is admitted, their weekly requirements do not decrease as much as they do in Crimson Key. HCCG members are expected to commit around ten hours a week on meeting with their case teams and calling clients. But for the social connections gained, the HCCG member admits that joining the club was worth it.

## Harvard FIG

Harvard's only fashion magazine runs a shorter and less time-expensive comp that allows aspiring members to hit the ground running. The comp consists of three weeks of one-hour meetings where compers can come up with ideas for editorials, write small pieces, and do photoshoots. "The whole goal of the comping process of FIG is to introduce compers to what making a magazine, writing and thinking about fashion, and dialoguing with the industry can look like," says Sarah Lightbody '22, current Editor in Chief of FIG. "Compers immediately get the chance to contribute to the magazine and make lasting impacts on the organization."

## Harvard Undergraduate Law Review (HULR)

The Harvard Undergraduate Law Review offers an ever more concise comp process: those

interested in joining need only fill out a Google form with their legal interests and submit a writing sample. Once the HULR board goes through each applicant and approves qualified writers and advocates of legislative study, new members are required to write two short articles and then can start writing for the Review. Unlike other clubs, the time commitment is simply dependent on how much each writer wants to participate. HULR writer Lucas Gazianis '24 expresses his appreciation for this individualized contribution approach. "What I like most about HULR is that I can write on my own terms. Having flexibility to address whatever issue is pressing or that speaks to me is really important," he says.

## The Harvard Investment Association (HIA)

At the Harvard Investment Association, the College's oldest finance organization, comping is "designed to be super accessible for every student," says co-chair Steve Cox '23. The club guides students through a number of employer networking events, job postings, and a student mentorship program, with the aim of helping students navigate the finance world.

Compers must attend hour-long meetings each week and present a stock pitch at the end of the process, usually around Thanksgiving Break. Cox hopes to advertise HIA to more first-year students considering its reliability as an introduction to the world of finance. The entire executive board of HIA is made of members who came to Harvard without investing experience, which reveals the club's ability to develop students into finance experts.

At Harvard, it's generally understood that gaining admission to a club justifies the means to get there. Whether students must write articles and stockpitches, manage meeting attendances, or sell advertisements, comping a club can sometimes feel like taking a fifth class. This often weeds out the truly committed compers from those who got a little too excited at the club fair. But Harvard offers unlimited opportunities for students to find their ideal extracurricular outlets. Whether you want to push yourself beyond class requirements and test your talents against your peers, or are just looking to learn a new skill and meet new people, there's a club and a comp for everyone on campus.

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

**Graphic by Arsh Dhillon '23**

**COMPING A CLUB CAN SOMETIMES FEEL LIKE TAKING A FIFTH CLASS. THIS OFTEN WEEDS OUT THE TRULY COMMITTED COMPERS FROM THOSE WHO GOT A LITTLE TOO EXCITED AT THE CLUB FAIR.**

# ALL THE THINGS I KEEP IN MY POCKET THAT REMIND ME

BY ARSN/ZILLON '23

# OF YOU



# ALL THE SHIT I KEEP LEAVING ON MY DESK

BY PIPER TINGLEAF '24





# IN UNIFORM

*WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO PRACTICE?*

PHOTOS BY GOGO TAUBMAN '24,

ILLUSTRATIONS BY GOGO TAUBMAN '24, KATE TUNNELL '24, BECCA ACKERMAN '25



# COURSES

MUST-TAKE CLASSES, ACCORDING TO THE INDY

BY INDY STAFF '22-24

## **E** NGLISH CLR: Introduction to Screenwriting, taught by Musa Syeed

“Musa, a screenwriter and filmmaker who’s been to Sundance multiple times, teaches this class in the fall. I took it in the fall of 2020 and did not realize how much I learned about writing and life, in general, until afterwards. I had to apply for it in August—introducing myself in a letter to Musa. I wrote about a wooden duck, and he loved it. My classmates, who are now all close friends, similarly introduced themselves in creative, random ways.

This small class (less than fifteen students) focused on writing short scripts for film, met once a week for three hours, and during our time together, one of us would present our short and assign a narrator and actors. After the script was read, the class would dissect it and send letters to one another, giving their full, honest opinions. Whether you are a writer or interested in film or just want to learn more about storytelling and life, this class is for you. It’s far too cool to be put into the Q Guide box.” —Arsh Dhillon '23

## **GOV 1295: Comparative Politics in Latin America, taught by Steven Levitsky**

“Even if you haven’t taken a comparative politics class or a class on Latin American politics, I promise you will love this. I had taken neither, but I can’t recommend Gov 1295 enough. I took the class last spring online, and obviously it’s even better in person. If Levitsky managed to be engaging and fun over Zoom, I can assure you his classes will not leave you snoozing in the back row of the lecture hall. You cover Latin American politics, focusing on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela, from the 1930s through present day. There is quite a bit of reading, but it’s worth it. Thank me later.” —Eleanor Fitzgibbons '23

## **Gen Ed 1031: Finding Our Way, taught by John Huth**

“For sheer wow power, it’s hard to beat Gen Ed 1031. It covers navigation using pretty much anything but a GPS: maps, compasses, stars, ocean currents, counting your paces, and so forth. John Huth, the professor, is a physicist by trade, but natural navigation is his passion. The whole course is an object lesson in the power of treating pro-

fessors as people and letting them teach what they want, rather than forcing them to stick to a fixed syllabus. Both the material and the professor are fascinating.

Nobody who answered the question on “How strongly would you recommend this course to your peers” gave an answer lower than 5/5 (Recommend with Enthusiasm).” —Michael Kielstra '22

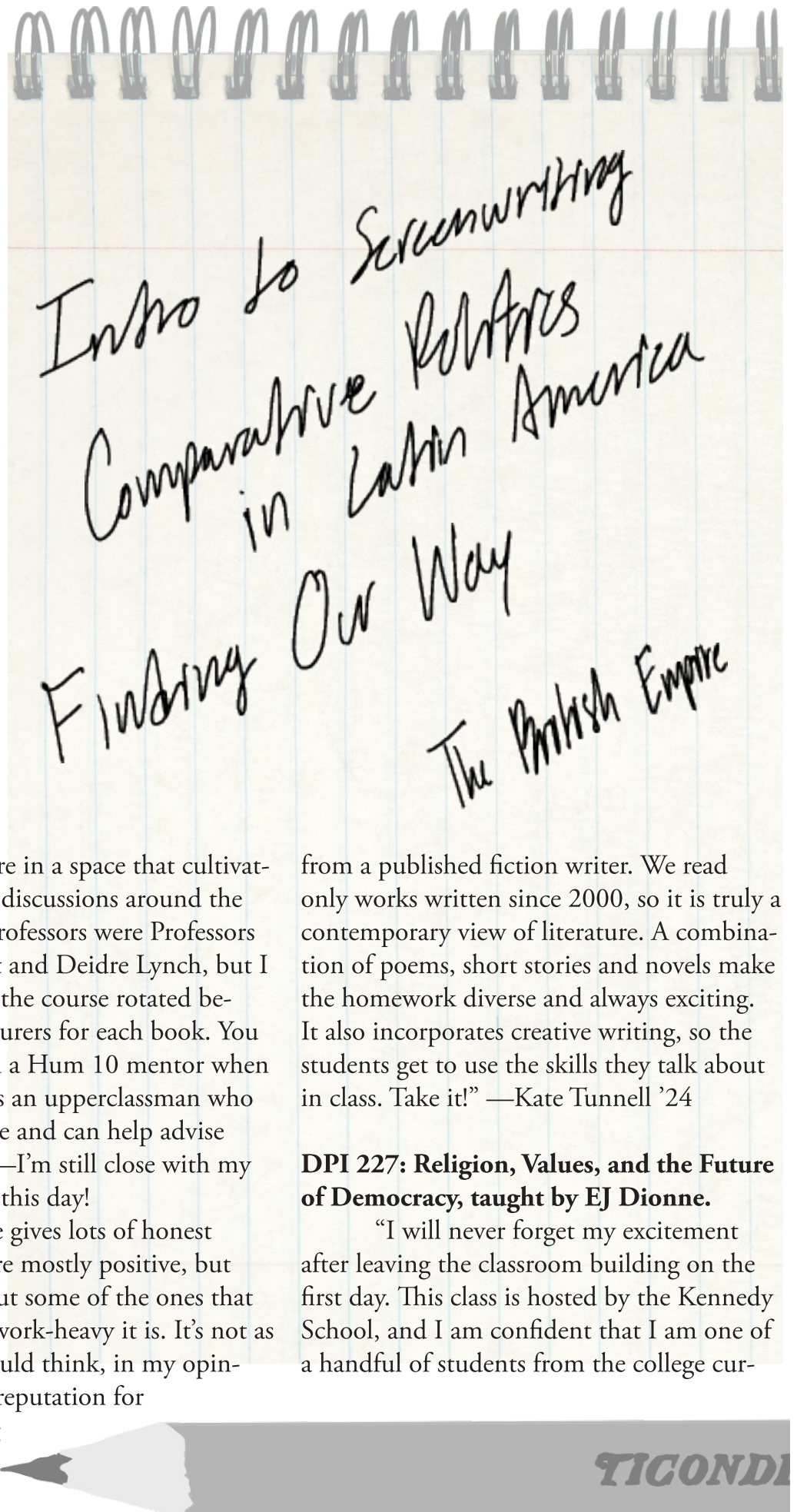
## **Hum10A/B: A Humanities Colloquium: From Homer to Valeria Luiselli**

“I took both sections of the class during my first year, and I loved devoting time to literature in a space that cultivated such interesting discussions around the texts. My section professors were Professors Stephen Greenblatt and Deidre Lynch, but I really enjoyed how the course rotated between different lecturers for each book. You also get paired with a Hum 10 mentor when you enroll, which is an upperclassman who has taken the course and can help advise you along the way—I’m still close with my Hum10 mentor to this day!

The Q guide gives lots of honest reflections which are mostly positive, but don’t freak out about some of the ones that comment on how work-heavy it is. It’s not as hardcore as you would think, in my opinion. Hum10 has a reputation for being a challenging course for first-years, but if you love to read I highly recommend this course.” —Carli Cooperstein '24

## **English 10: Literature Today, taught by Teju Cole and Kelly Rich.**

“The combination of the two professors makes for an interesting blend of literary critique, creative discussion, and advice



from a published fiction writer. We read only works written since 2000, so it is truly a contemporary view of literature. A combination of poems, short stories and novels make the homework diverse and always exciting. It also incorporates creative writing, so the students get to use the skills they talk about in class. Take it!” —Kate Tunnell '24

## **DPI 227: Religion, Values, and the Future of Democracy, taught by EJ Dionne.**

“I will never forget my excitement after leaving the classroom building on the first day. This class is hosted by the Kennedy School, and I am confident that I am one of a handful of students from the college cur-

rently enrolled. The mixture of collaboration from so many students from different backgrounds and life experience as well as the

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depth of course content truly is something that I enjoyed and would highly recommend to other students.” —Marbella Marlo '24

**Math 21A: Multivariable Calculus, with David Freund**

“It’s one of the few courses at Harvard that uses a proof of knowledge grading system which is good. I took it during my Freshman fall and it was pretty useful. Understanding high-dimensional curves is useful to everyone. Lots of TF teach it, there is no lecture. The Q guide is a scam. Find classes that work for you.” —Noah Tavares '24

**GOV 20: Foundations of Comparative**

Gov 20’s overall mean score of 4.45 (out of 5) on the Q Guide places it notably higher than the FAS mean of 4.26. The median time spent on coursework outside of the class was 7 hours per week, but if you pinpoint key readings and passages, you can take that time down by several hours!” —Oliver Adler '24

**WOMGEN 1225: Leaning In, Hooking Up: Visions of Feminism and Femininity in the 21st Century, taught by Phyllis Thompson.**

“The Q Guide score is a 4.75. I took this course my freshman spring and not only is the material so relevant and important (for anyone) but also so accessible. You don’t

need to know any gender theory or have any back-

**ECON 50: Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems, taught by Raj Chetty and Greg Bruich**

“This course is an intersection between economics, data science, and social science. I believe this course is a must take for anyone interested in social issues and how we as a society can go about addressing them. Just about every week there is a new topic to dive into, and each topic is armed with a large amount of data to prove the points being made. The most enjoyable aspect however is not the teaching, but the hands-on projects students come up with and complete. For instance, students are asked to analyze social mobility in a city of their choosing and come up with a hypothesis as to why the local conditions are what they are. Both the projects and lectures in the class have turned out to be rewarding in my experience.” —Christian Browder '23

**HIST-LIT 90ES: Prison Abolition, taught by Thomas Dichter**

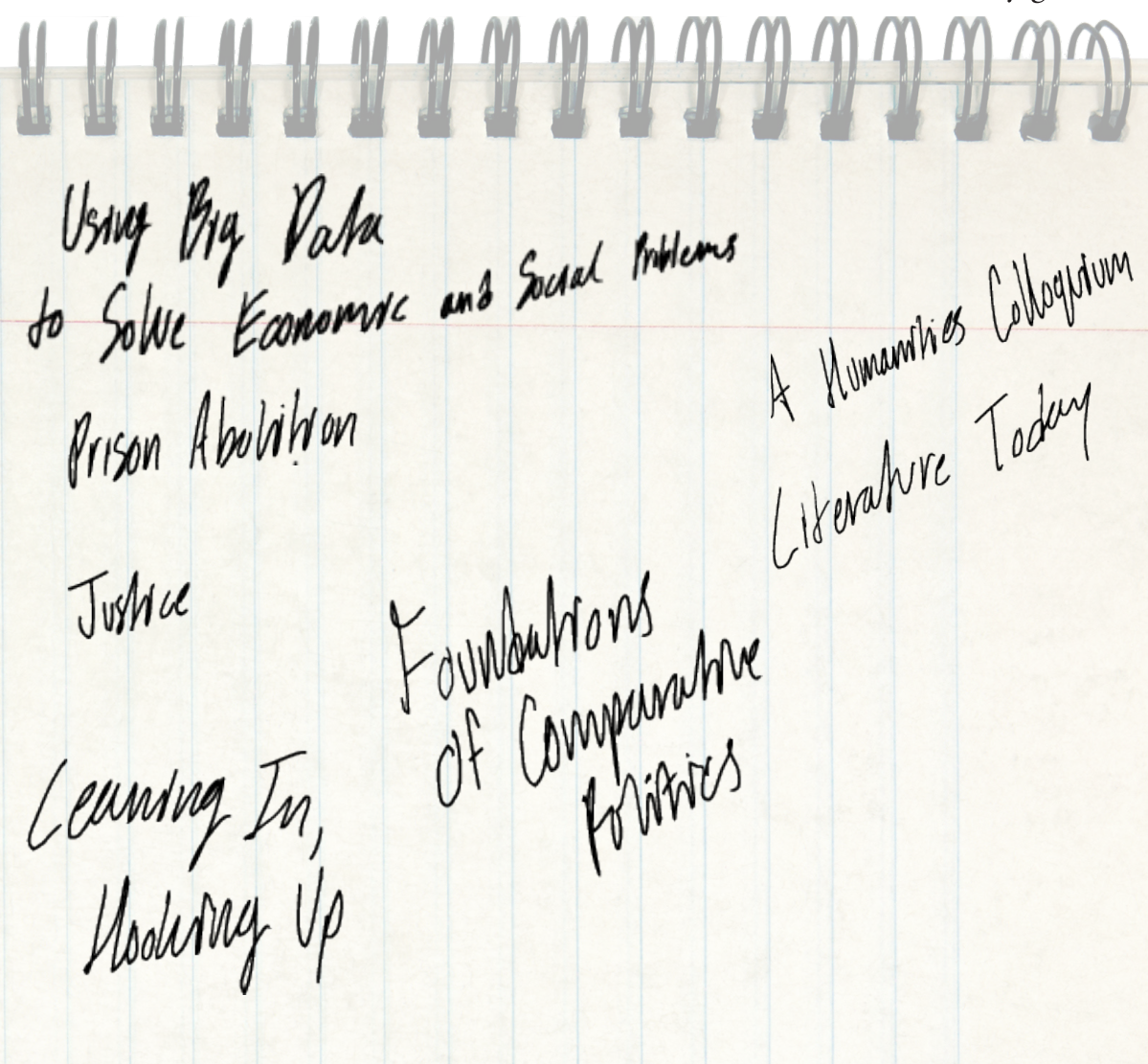
“It involved reading fictional and firsthand accounts of incarcerated life as well as studying the history of the prison system. One of the more unique aspects was the opportunity to spend an hour a week volunteering with a prison-related non-profit. I took it online and loved it, but I bet it’s even cooler in person. The instructor received a 4.7 on the Q Guide for enthusiasm, but I feel like he deserves a 5. He’s so passionate about what he teaches, and it makes the class very engaging.” —Ryan Stanford '23

**GenEd 1171: Justice, taught by Michael Sandel**

“I took Justice my freshman fall, and it changed the way I think about what is just in society and what it means to lead a good life. We considered how famous philosophers of the past have tried to answer big moral questions, as we debated contemporary ethical dilemmas in class. This course had an overall Q Guide score of 4.28 (although it should be higher) and the majority of people said that the workload was 3-5 hours a week, but I only spent 2-3 hours a week on work for this class.” —Gogo Taubman '24

**Indy Staff '22-24 write, design, and sell for the Independent.**

**Graphics by Arsh Dhillon '23**



**Politics, taught by Steven Levitsky.**

“Professor Levitsky presents an infusion of historical and contemporary information to teach the foundations of an extremely important topic for students of all backgrounds. Levitsky is not only one of the most brilliant and important political scientists in the world, but he’s also an engaging and buzzing lecturer that will make all students interested in a critical subject for understanding our past, present, and future. Gov 20 was a course that I took during my freshman fall, and it likely remains the course on which I’ve spent the most time outside of required assignments. The mate-

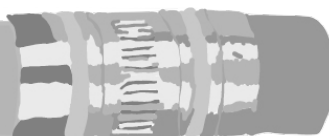
ground in Women, Gender, and Sexuality; the material, professor, and TFs are all so approachable and welcoming. The Q Guide score is a 4.75. Technically you don’t really need to do all the readings or take notes or anything, but the material is all so interesting that I highly recommend it!” —Marina Zoullas '23

**HIST 1024: The British Empire, taught by Maya Jasanoff.**

“I learned so much about the world as a whole, and Professor Jasanoff is a fabulous lecturer. I took it my freshman fall with my sister Lucy Hamilton (which is probably

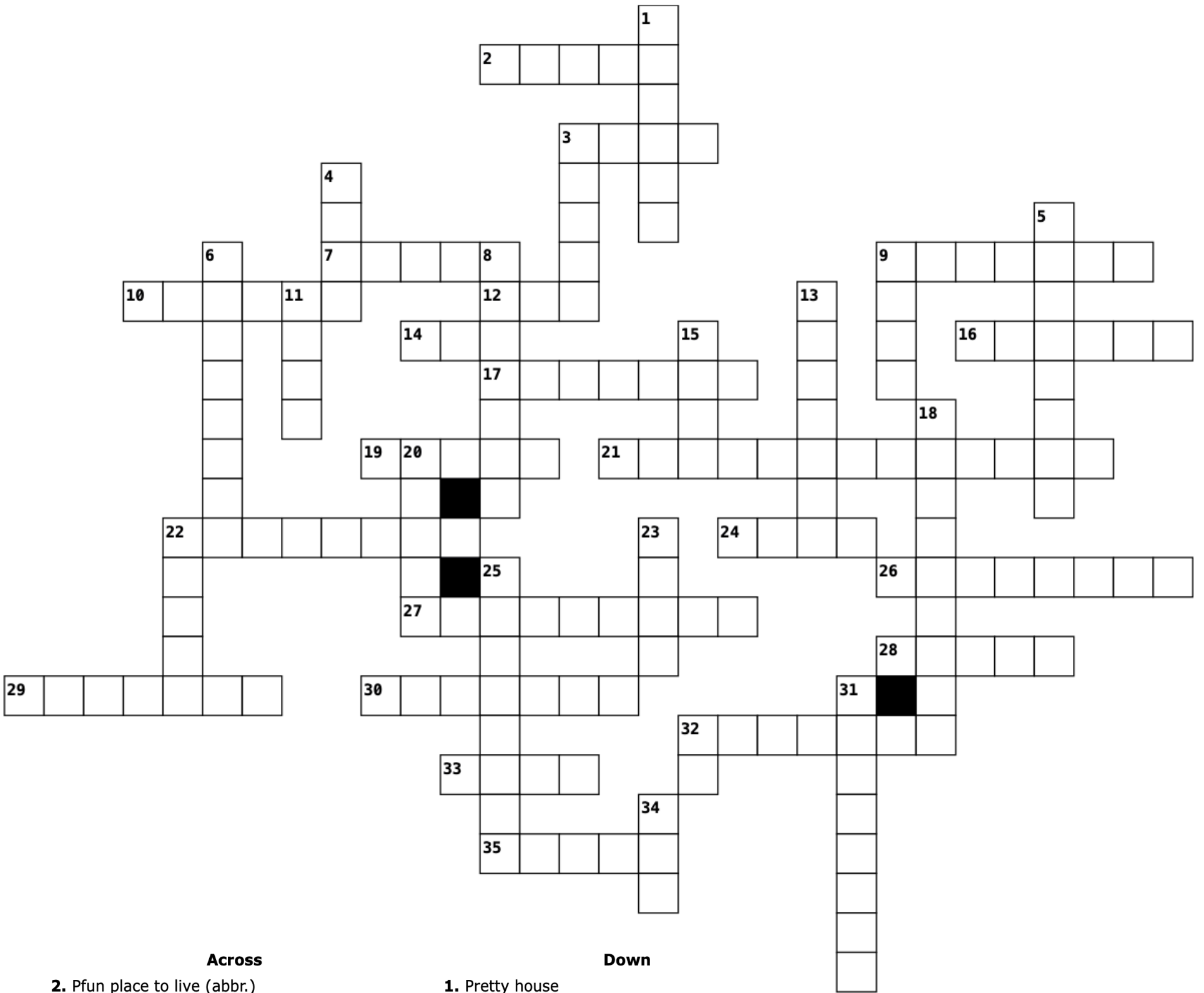
rial, professor, and section leaders are just so interesting as to warrant your own engagement in the class.

another reason why I enjoyed the course so much). Definitely go to lecture and take notes!” —Ellie Hamilton '23



# CROSSWORD

BY GRACE VON OISTE '24

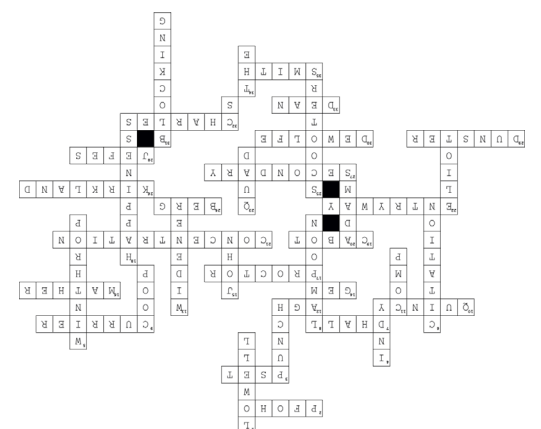


## Across

2. Pfun place to live (abbr.)
3. A STEM student's homework (abbr.)
7. Each house has one (abbr.)
9. Home with a female namesake
10. House with a pottery room
12. Oldy, but a goodie (abbr.)
14. Easy A Class
16. "Concrete Jungle"
17. Shuts down dorm parties
19. Has an "aquarium"
21. Major
22. More specific than a house
24. Freshmen eat here (abbr.)
26. Home of the Zuckerberg
27. Minor
28. Late night Mexican food
29. Mascot is the Moose
30. Apartment dorm
32. You might get an infection if you jump in
33. Khurana Selfie King
35. Home to Blackbird Donuts

## Down

1. Pretty house
3. Great in the mail, terrible in the face
4. Best newspaper on campus (abbr.)
5. JFK's former house
6. Something that a proficient language student might earn
8. Home of the house-resembling face
9. Bookstore
11. A common process before joining a club
13. Home to a Gutenberg Bible
15. Pee on his foot (first name)
18. Subject of one Harvard's most sought-after classes
20. John Quincy \_\_\_\_
22. House with a woodshed
23. Where no one wants to live
25. Dining Hall Cheerios
31. A source of freshmen stress
32. Department of Harvard's most popular undergrad class
34. stacks Place of shame for Henry Elkins Widener



# How

# Harvard Hat

# are you?

BY RYAN STANFORD '23

## What's your concentration?

- ★ Econ
- ♥ Social Studies
- ☾ Folklore and Mythology
- ◆ Anything else

## Where do you study?

- ★ Science Center (Cabot)
- ♥ Lamont
- ☾ Smith
- ◆ Widener

## What's your favorite dhall dish?

- ★ Meatball Sandwiches
- ♥ Harvard Crest Waffle
- ☾ Chicken Tikka Masala
- ◆ Cereal

## Where's your favorite hookup spot?

- ★ The stacks
- ♥ The cupola atop Lowell
- ☾ Adams construction site
- ◆ Tiny gap btwn Smoke Shop and Farkas

## Which pre-professional club do you think would win in a fight?

- ★ CBE
- ♥ HCCG
- ☾ HIA

## Favorite late-night snack?

- ★ Jefe's
- ♥ Pinocchio's
- ☾ CVS bark thins
- ◆ Insomnia

## Harvard should be renamed...

- ★ Yale (to cause chaos)
- ♥ Bean School
- ☾ Noah Tavares College for Arts & Sciences
- ◆ Write-in Option: \_\_\_\_\_

### SCORE CARD:

- ★ 1 point
- ♥ 2 points
- ☾ 3 points
- ◆ 4 points

**7-10 points:** ehhhhh

**11-14:** ok, not bad

**15-18:** now we're talking

**19+:** fire hazard

# DRINKS

GUIDE TO HARVARD SQUARE'S LAVISH AND POPULAR ROOFTOPS AND BARS  
BY LULU PATTERSON '24 AND WILL GOLDSMITH '24

## F ELIPE'S MEXICAN TAQUERIA — 21 BRATTLE ST

### “PALOMA”

*Grapefruit juice, tequila, lime juice, pinch of salt, grapefruit soda.*

A solid paloma ought to be refreshing. It's the sort of drink one enjoys on the rocks poolside. The nectar was perhaps too sweet in this one, making it quite unappetizing. Excess sweetness and minimal alcohol are never a solid combination.

### “SPICY SKINNY MARG”

*Lime juice, jalepeño coins, tequila, cointreau, agave, salted rim*

This classic drink is a top-seller on Felipe's menu, but it was nothing short of underwhelming. All drinks were served in paper cups, leaving much to be desired. Would I drink this drink again? Sure, but I would drink most drinks again. Would I pay for this drink again? Hm, probably only if I had already had too many.

#### Overall...

A classic spot for Harvard students, Felipe's boasts a 21+ rooftop with tables and standing room, mostly filled with college students and young adults. Between the groups of brothers Chad and Brad (dressed in basketball jerseys, because, #sofrat), guests at Felipe's can order drinks at the bar and enjoy a view of the Cambridge skyline. Felipe's is a great spot to go with a group (just be prepared to stand), but the drinks are subpar and not all that interesting. Tacos and tequila though—what more could college kids really want?

## THE LONGFELLOW BAR — 40 BRATTLE ST

### “UNKNOWN COUNTRY”

*Privateer New England White Rum, smoked pineapple, gomme syrup, citric acid*



The Unknown Country wasn't our first pick, but the bartender's recommendation. We were pleasantly surprised by this drink, made up of white rum, smoked pineapple, citric acid, and gum syrup. The classy presentation of this drink added points to our review, served in a low glass with one single ice cube.

The Unknown Country was not overly sweet, but if it had been a bit stronger, I just might have been transported to a beach in the Caribbean and forgotten about my cinder block dorm room in the delightful city of Cambridge. Almost strong enough, but not quite.

### “LONDON CALLING”

*Gin, yellow chartreuse, dimmi, lime, bubbles*

“London bridges falling down, falling down, falling do—” you could have said the same thing about me after this drink. Definitely one of the least enjoyable of the whole night, London Calling was both too sweet and too bitter at the same time, almost like my hallway proctor.

I wouldn't order this drink again; I expected far more bubbles and far less cringing with every sip. I don't even think I would drink this thing again for free. That's a lot coming from a college frat star at the huge party school that is Harvard University.

### “SURFER ROSA”

*Mezcal, St. Agrestis inferno bitter, cinnamon, lime*

The surfer rosa offers patrons the perfect libation suited for those in search of a simultaneously spicy and sweet refreshment. Mezcal is, of course, the spirit of choice for those looking for a fun yet sophisticated evening. Pairing the spirit with such an unexpected substance as cinnamon makes it all the more superior to its tequila counterpart.

### “VODKA GIMLET”

*Tito's vodka, fresh lime juice, a splash of simple syrup*

The gimlet always does the trick. Elegant and sweet, Longfellow's gimlet is wonderfully delectable and ideally chilled with its single stone of ice. Be careful, though: the gimlets pack quite the punch and are known to induce sleepiness in some.

#### Overall...

Longfellow wows with its unique array of cocktail offerings. One would be hard-pressed to find another bar in the Square offering patrons obscure mixtures of



mezcal and cinnamon. The balcony overlooking Brattle Street imbues the bar with a relaxed, date-night aura.

**NOIR AT THE CHARLES HOTEL — 1 BENNETT ST**

**“FLEUR DE LYS”**

*Vodka, lime, herbes de Provence, white peach*

Delicate and delicious, the Fleur de Lys is soft and light, though it may induce a cruel hangover the following day. The drink’s pink hue and coupe presentation made Will question his masculinity when he snuck a sip, but he loved it too. The Fleur de Lys was a safe bet, hard to dislike, and would surely be a favorite of the night.

**“RUE ROYALE”**

*Almond, lemon, champagne, Pineau des Charentes*

Original and simply delightful to the tastebuds, the Rue Royal is served in a long, classic champagne flute, garnished with a single orange flower. This drink felt both exciting and familiar at the same time, and also made Will question his masculinity when he admitted he enjoyed it. The notes of almond, lemon, and Pineau de Charentes came together seamlessly with a base of champagne. Each flavor was individually present, yet played off the others for a wonderful combination on the palette.

**“BATTLE OF PUEBLA”**

*Mezcal, quince, lime, Piment d’Espelette*

The Battle of Puebla is essentially a margarita with a kick to it. It also comes in a water goblet which adds a rustic appeal. There has yet to be a Harvard woman who

does not like the Battle, as it is quite extraordinary. Of course, you can’t go wrong with a more alcoholic margarita.

**“CRICKET CLUB COCKTAIL”**

*Wild botanical gin, curry, grapefruit, chickpea*

Like the night Noah lost his virginity, the Cricket Club Cocktail was wild, eccentric, quite thrilling, but in the end, a bit weird to think about the next day. This was the first drink we noticed on the menu, and the bartender vowed it was certainly their most original drink. Served in a champagne coupe, the notes of curry and chickpea were intriguing and exciting. I would order this drink again, but it does demand full attention so a simple meal is probably the best pairing.

*Overall...*

Noir sits just beneath The Charles Hotel, making this bar elegant, classy, and high-end. While we agreed this spot boasted the best drinks overall, the rude waiter, cold and empty room, and lack of energy within the space left us to agree that Noir deserved a poor vibe rating. This is a spot your parents might like, if they’re no fun. Maybe a nice spot for a break up, because at least you’ll have a strong drink in hand throughout your serious conversation.

**DAEDALUS — 45 MT AUBURN ST**

**“SKINNY MEGIS MARGARITA”**

*Blanco tequila, orange liquor, fresh lime, lemon and orange juice, salted rim*

Strong and traditional, Daedalus’s Skinny Megis Margarita is a great drink to start the night with, or a good kick to keep the night going. It balances fresh citrus flavors, orange liquor, and blanco tequila. The salted rim and real glass grants this margarita a higher ranking than that of Felipe’s.

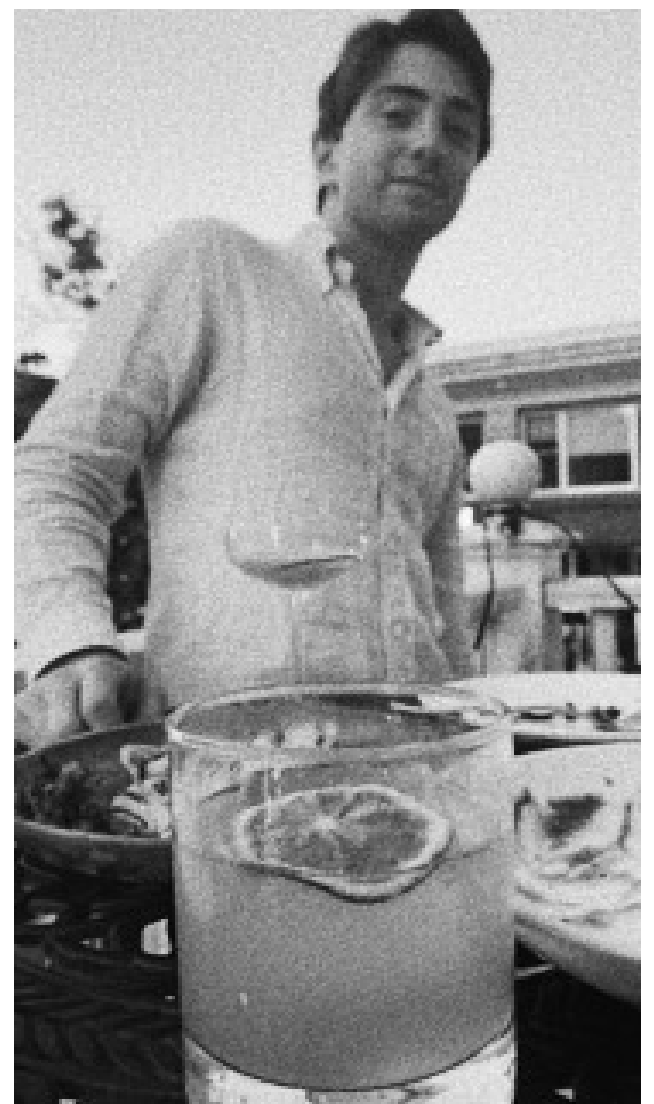
**“MOSCOW MULE”**

*Vodka, lime juice, ginger beer, rocks*

This classic Moscow Mule hit the spot as the last stop of our drinks tour, but it wasn’t anything special. It has a good balance of flavors and I would happily get it again, but doubt I could decipher it from many other bars’ own versions.

**“SANGRIA”**

*Burgundy wine, orange liqueur, brandy, pineapple and orange juice garnished with diced green apple*



Good sangria is refreshingly sweet. Daedalus’s sangria certainly fits the mold of a good—perhaps even excellent—sangria. Be careful not to underestimate the potency of this burgundy beauty, though. Its sweetness is equaled by its punch.

*Overall...*

Daedalus is an instant classic for Harvard students, and the summer back patio has string lights and a young crowd enjoying warm evenings with comfort food and solid drinks. Daedalus is a great spot for a first date or a fiftieth date, with an energetic scene and something on the menu for everyone. For the best time, ask to be seated on the second floor roof deck!

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**Graphic by Piper Tingleaf '24**

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