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# MASTHEAD

December 18, 2021

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**ENCAPSULATE:** A CONTINUOUS, PLANNED, SCATTERED SERIES OF IMAGES AND CAPTIONS THAT CAPTURE THE INDY MASTHEAD'S SEMESTERS

# MASTHEAD



*ARSH DHILLON '23  
PRESIDENT & HEAD OF DESIGN*

# UNMOORED FROM REALITY

Students' opinions on the university COVID-19 policies this semester, and fears for the next

MARY JULIA KOCH '23

Color kits, nose swabs, sets of eyes above blue disposable masks. These sights were defining features of campus life this fall. Though most students were compliant in wearing masks indoors and completing their weekly testing, more students disagreed with Harvard's COVID-19 policies this semester than one might expect. And as the surging omicron variant renders this week eerily similar to mid-March of 2020, students share concerns about the spring semester.

In an anonymous survey on Harvard's COVID-19 policies, compiled on December 6th by Jillian Graver '23, Zachary Lech '22, and other students, roughly 62% of the 611 respondents strongly agreed with Harvard's policy to regularly test students for COVID-19. On September 2 and November 28, Harvard College increased testing requirements for students from once a week to three times a week, and 61% and 67% of respondents agreed with these decisions, respectively.

Dhiya Sani '23 helped elucidate these perspectives. "While I know that many found the testing cadence throughout the fall to be a bit overcompensating, I was honestly thankful for how hard Harvard cracked down on us to get tested," she said. "It kept cases largely controlled from September to November and allowed us to live pretty regular college lives with feelings of certainty about our health statuses."

However, student sentiment was more uniform on the issue of decreasing testing requirements in accordance with decreasing case counts: 83% agreed with the College's October 4th decision to reduce testing requirements for students from three times a week to two times a week. And in response to the question, "How frequently would you be tested for COVID-19, if it were up to you?" almost a fifth of respondents said "never."

Evidently, students are not unilaterally supportive of Harvard's policies throughout the semester. While nearly half of survey respondents strongly agreed that they should be required to wear masks in class, 68% disagreed with the mandate of wearing masks when visiting other students' dorms or suites. And though roughly 30% of respondents found it "very important" to follow mask policies, 20% found it "very unimportant."

Who are the nameless individuals who dis-

agree with these mandates?

At Princeton, one student made his opinions known when he noticed inconsistencies in the University handling of a surge in on-campus cases after Thanksgiving Break. In response to an email announcement limiting social gatherings to no more than 20 people, David Piegaro '25 wrote a letter to Princeton's Dean Dolan and Vice President Calhoun on November 27th, which was published the next day in *The Daily Princetonian*.

"If the risks currently posed by COVID-19 are truly grave, then the University should not allow formals or other social gatherings of more than 20 students to occur, but then the University should also neither allow in-person dining nor in-person class," he wrote. While many student gatherings were cancelled, halls remained open and classes continued in person.

"We shouldn't let an uptick in cases distract us from the fact that we are well-protected, and we should not restrict students' activities in ways that would make, at most, a marginal impact on student health but a significant impact on their well-being," Piegaro added.

His argument was an anomaly in that he publicly voiced it; after the letter was published, many students approached Piegaro explaining that they concurred with him. Although he engaged in a couple disagreements on Tiger Confessions, an anonymous Facebook page for Princeton students, and received a comment on Instagram accusing him of just wanting to party, his feedback was largely encouraging. In the Princeton 2025 Parents Facebook Page, parents have posted positive comments about his letter, with one parent even directly sending him a supportive message on Instagram.

In conversation with the *Independent* a few days later, Piegaro elaborated on his viewpoint toward Princeton's social restrictions: "The policy is unmoored from reality ... Because we're all vaccinated and hopefully we'll soon get boosted, cases aren't a super important metric." He described a bad likely viral infection that spread across campus for months, known as "the Princeton plague" which didn't prompt any changes in the University's regulations on socializing.

Princeton's restrictions also seemed to provoke fear in students: "I think a lot of us were like, oh, this is just the beginning. They're doing this now, but this shows they're prone to overreact, what are they going to do next?" Piegaro shared.

With the rise of the omicron variant, the students' fears about future university policies toward COVID-19 are growing. In the past couple of weeks, the number of kits sent to labs have grown, just as the layers of masks on our faces have doubled. At Harvard, there have been 314 new positive cases within the University in the last seven days, up from an average weekly count of 52 this semester. According to a December 16 email from President Bacow, Alan M. Garber, Executive Vice President Katie Lapp, and Giang T. Nguyen, Execu-

tive Director of Harvard University Health Services, Omicron is likely present in these cases.

"Because case numbers have been low this semester, we have become comfortable with certain ways of living and letting our guard down," wrote

Dean of Students Katie O'Dair in a December 14th email to the student body.

On December 16th, Harvard University Dinings Services (HUDS) shifted to exclusive Grab-n-Go Dining beginning that night to Saturday, December 18th, the last day of finals. In another December 16th email, Bacow, Garber, Lapp, and Nguyen announced that Harvard will require COVID-19 boosters for all eligible community members for the spring semester.

"I really think their requirement of the booster Spring semester and maintenance of testing 3x a week is a powerful approach to minimizing the spread, but I can only hope that it's enough to keep us in-person next semester," said Sani.

She is hopeful, however, that Harvard will not go online: "Thankfully, as Harvard said, Omicron transmission does not seem to take place in class settings, so I pray that's enough to rule out going completely virtual." Marina Zoullas '23 is also optimistic: "If they're requiring boosters it's because they're expecting to be in person."

This semester, student sentiment was divided on issues of testing, mask wearing, and social gatherings, both at Harvard and beyond. It remains to be seen how students will view whatever regulations are enforced next semester. But as many depart campus for Winter Recess, questions about if and how the in-person campus experience will change in line with the evolving nature of the pandemic. Several universities, including University of Southern California, have already informed students they are considering a remote start to spring courses.

"My worst nightmare would be returning to online classes for the rest of senior year," Virginia Tiernan '22 shares. However, she said, "It is reassuring to know that the University is providing as many resources as possible to contain the virus."

Mary Julia Koch '23 is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Independent*.

Design by Arsh Dhillan '23

# NAKED AND UNAFRAID

ELLA HILTON '24, NOAH TAVARES '24

Twenty-five degrees Fahrenheit, a slight easterly breeze, and the season's first snow: auspicious conditions for a nude lap. With gates agape, Harvard Yard welcomed hundreds of students and dozens of voyeurs for "Primal Scream." This bi-annual tradition originated in the 1960s as a gathering at the end of reading week in which repressed Harvard students left the confines of the library to literally scream. In the '70s, a few maverick streakers transformed the scream into a naked lap around the Yard.

To begin our exploration of the modern lap, we spoke to the man guarding Dexter Gate, the main gate to the Yard. Over the past year, gates were closed beginning at 5 pm for COVID-19 related reasons, with each of the five remaining open gates guarded by a member of the Harvard Securitas team. No matter the temperature or weather conditions, a Securitas member demanded your credentials upon entrance. However, a week after the discovery of the Omicron variant, the gates to veritas were left wide open. The security detail sat inside a guardhouse set apart from the path behind two wooden doors with cloudy glass panels. We made eye contact with the guard and he emerged from his light and warmth into the chilled air. He glanced furtively to the side as we started with "Hi sir, do you know what tonight is?"

"It's Primal Scream," he responded tentatively.

"Are you excited, are you going to watch?"

"No. Two years ago I witnessed the scream for the first time. Suddenly hundreds of naked kids came out of the dorms all at once. I just try to stay out of the way." The guard didn't want to be involved. He did his job and gave the students their privacy.

We left in search of the other night watchmen and found them sitting in a white vinyl wrapped SUV with a red Securitas and three dots emblazoned on the door. Two gruff elderly men sat inside and slowly rolled down the window on our approach. When we asked them why they were there, they said, "No comment. We are here just to watch," alternating syllables.

Deep in the winding and confusing website of the Swedish Securitas AB corporation, they list the description of campus security officers: "our campus security officers are trained to help provide a safe and secure school environment for students, faculty and visitors." Typically we conceive of safety as an active process, but all three guards had non-intuitive approaches. The first guard closed his eyes, while the second and third guards kept their eyes wide open. The longer we reflect on it now, it's clear that they were focused on the third mission of a campus security officer: to keep visitors safe, to protect the voyeurism.

We pressed deeper into the center of the Yard, towards John Harvard's glimmering toe. "Penis" was drawn into the fresh snow with small, determined feet. Then we saw him. We whispered between each other in almost reverent voices; we had spotted a "tourist." As we were able to identify one tourist, a dozen others came into focus. We walked up to the first man who stirred our radar and asked the same question we had asked the guards: "Do you know what tonight is?" His

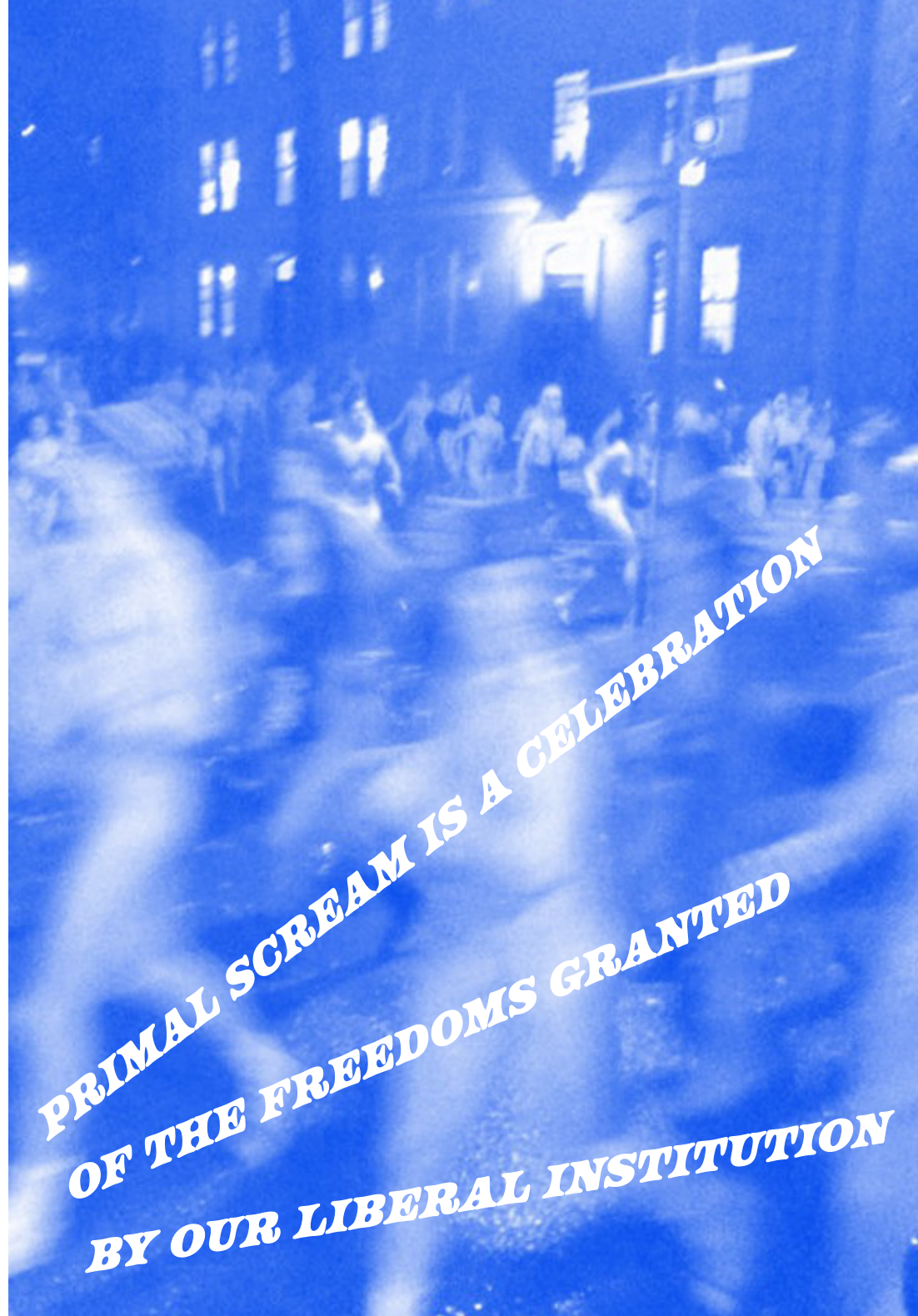
response was a simple and flat "Yes." He suavely waddled away, literally a walking contradiction. He repositioned himself on the other side of the path, stood impassively, and prepared for the show to come.

Before we mustered the courage to approach another spectator, someone walked up to us: Kevin, a delivery driver from Louisiana on a "naked run" tour of the Northeast. Fresh off the road from UNC's Primal Scream-equivalent, Kevin is well-versed in nude streaking rituals.

## PEOPLE COME WATCH NUDE STUDENTS. IT'S MORE NORMAL THAN IT SOUNDS.

While it can easily be argued that a middle-aged man driving 24-hours to observe potential underage nudity is creepy, Kevin quickly became human to us. We previously saw Primal Scream as a simple opportunity for students to burn off stress before finals, but Kevin brought a fresh perspective: Primal Scream is a celebration of the freedoms granted by our liberal institution. Being from the "Bible Belt" of the country, Christianity and Conservative values have constricted Kevin his whole life. For him, attending these naked runs is a pilgrimage, an opportunity to relish in freedom of expression. He was fascinated by Harvard's lack of resistance to public nudity, something that would never be accepted in Louisiana. Over and over again he returned to the idea of freedom. In fact, Kevin was here and wanted to participate. He told us stories from joining naked bike rides in Portland, Oregon to nude runs in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

At midnight, the students emerged from the freshmen dorms, revved up and in various states of undress. The commencement of their run concluded our wholesome moment with Kevin. He began recording the Screamers, making us think that he was there for more than a respectful observance of freedom. We still believe that Kevin was not in attendance to deliberately make the runners uncomfortable, but he must have known that his recording



device would have that effect.

Later in the night, one runner described their reaction to seeing the bright white flash of an iPhone camera. They immediately pulled up their drawers—an act of repression, with people like Kevin ironically serving as the repressor.

Clearly, our initial reaction is to push people like Kevin to the fringe of society. To label them perverts and, in the case of our runner, deny Kevin pleasure. But are these visual tourists a disease infecting our community or a symptom of our community? Inside of Harvard dorm rooms, "Full Send" paraphernalia is on display, the purchase of which is to expressly fund the hedonistic lifestyles of 30-something pseudo-actors so that students can watch it on Youtube. On any given night, students are doing homework with a Twitch streamer playing a video game in the background of a colorful LED lit room. Everyday we choose to digitally live vicariously through others. At least Kevin had the decency to come in person. To watch the jumble of flesh oozing its way around the yard pulsing with the energy of adolescents. To watch the catharsis. To watch the night.

Noah Tavares '24 ([noahtavares@college.harvard.edu](mailto:noahtavares@college.harvard.edu)) currently has clothes on.

Ella Hilton '24 ([ellahilton@college.harvard.edu](mailto:ellahilton@college.harvard.edu)) watched Primal Scream on a lawn chair.

Original Photo from *The Odyssey*



ALL THE

*KATE TUNNELL '24  
MEDIA DIRECTOR*

*GOGO TAUBMAN '24  
STAFFER*

VANITY  
DO  
NO  
LIES



# HOUNDMOUTH

ELIZA KIMBALL '25, HANNAH FRAZER '25

The lead singer of Houndmouth is Matt Myers. We're the stereotypical fangirling freshmen who want to fuck him. Instead, we got to interview him.

On November 17th, 2021, the band Houndmouth performed at Boston's Paradise Rock Club in a concert unlike any we have been to before. The energy radiating on stage from Myers, along with bass guitarist Zak Appleby, and drummer Shane Cody, overshadowed that of the sea of fans. Myers' fingers grazed the metal wire of his guitar strings, and damn, we wish we could be played like that. Our bodies viscerally reacted with every reverberation of his genius chords. After playing Darlin', the three members thanked the crowd and exited the stage. The lights were shut off, but smoke lingered in the air.

"They didn't even sing Sedona yet!" a voice yelled from the center of the throng, referring to Houndmouth's most popular song. People stood in a stupor, pondering their next move. But after a quick outfit change, the band was back on stage rocking out. Everyone sang along, knowing every word to every verse of that one song.

You didn't need to know more than the song Sedona to notice the pure childish joy of the bandmates together. Myers later told us, "I grew up as an only child, so I don't have siblings or anything. So this is... what I would consider like, my siblings, or like, you know, like brothers. So we pretty much do anything for each other. We keep it pretty light on tour, like touring is kind of rough and lots of just long, long drives."

**A LONG TIME AGO, SHANE MISSED THE BUS AND HE GOT KICKED OUT OF A HOTEL. I JUST WON'T GIVE YOU ANY REASONS. IT WAS NEGATIVE FOUR DEGREES. HE WAS WEARING THIS HUGE FUR COAT AND STANDING IN THE FRONT OF THE HOTEL. HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PANTS ON... IT'S 4 A.M. AND THE BUS HAS TO TURN AROUND. IT'S 30 MINUTES AWAY.**

Myers did not always have crowds of freshmen girls drooling at his feet. After struggling to get C's in high school, he quickly turned to an out-of-school social scene and eventually his creative calling. He spent hours at home practicing the guitar, and began building his arsenal of instruments to write his first song. "My grandma had a little keyboard in the house," Myers recalls. "I just wrote a song about my neighbor that I was like, I was really

young and I was kind of in love... also, I didn't like her very much. The love-hate thing, the confusing love-hate thing..."

When asked about how he could better himself as a musician, he shared little desire to learn more scales. It is experimenting beyond the rules of music where he finds his best works. Most of his favorite melodies in his songs sat in his song book for over two years before they fell into place. He said,

"You're sitting down, you're playing, and you kind of choose to forget the rules of music. And you can have like a freedom to go anywhere and make a core progression that doesn't really make sense. And then you'll find something that catches your ear, and you're like, I don't know why this is working, but it feels right."

**WE WERE IN FARGO, AND SHANE WAS WEARING THE SAME FUR COAT. WE CAME OUT OF THE VENUE, AND THIS KID WAS STANDING ON OUR TRAILER. SHANE WAS LIKE, ALRIGHT, DUDE, YOU HAVE TO GET DOWN AND THE KID JUMPS DOWN. HE DOESN'T SAY A WORD. AND HE HOCKS A LOOGIE RIGHT ON SHANE'S JACKET. THAT'S RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF HIS CHEST. AND SHANE WAS JUST LIKE "[I HAVE TO] HIT HIM, HIT HIM IN THE FACE, AND KNOCK HIM OUT. LIKE, I HAVE TO DO THIS NOW." IT'S LIKE HE DID IT OUT OF PRINCIPLE. HE DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO.**

Even with a wife and a child who he loves, Myers admits being drawn to "the most attractive instrument" which is, in his opinion, the drums. "I love playing drums and singing," he said. "During our rehearsals, that's all I want to do. I just want to play drums. I got to play them on the record. I didn't even know I was recording drums, but I sat down and had like the headphones on when Good for You is playing." This track was then used in the official song.

If you're lucky, a good live concert can be a transient experience. The lyrics stay the same, but the individual meaning put to words is ever evolving. Houndmouth's performance at the Paradise Rock Club was no exception. Myers, Appleby, and Cody may have one famous song, but their performance was larger than life. Houndmouth will be continuing their Good For You tour with a performance in Chicago on December 17th. Check them out if you can.

*Eliza Kimball (elizakimball@college.harvard.edu) will be returning home from break looking for a potential love-hate relationship with her new neighbors.*

*Hannah Frazer (hannahfrazer@college.harvard.edu) is reconsidering her stance on mustaches after seeing Myers'.*

*Original Photo from The Daily Californian*



BOAZES

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W A



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# ALL MY X'S LIVE IN CAMBRIDGE

*The case for student engagement in local politics*

MICHAEL KIELSTRA '22

“ In a Presidential, high-turnout, election, you have 58,000 people vote in Cambridge. In a low-turnout gubernatorial election... you have 46,000 people vote, but in a municipal election, you have maybe 23,000 people.”

That's Burhan Azeem, MIT graduate and newly-elected member of Cambridge City Council. “The city council... might write off Harvard students as people who aren't going to be invested [in politics].”

That's Luke Albert '23, Government concentrator and regular campaign volunteer.

Harvard students, it appears, do not like to vote on the issue of who should run Cambridge. The popularity of politics in general is undeniable at Harvard. In 2005, the Institute of Politics (IOP)'s endowment had reached \$100 million. Partisan groups ranging from the Harvard College Democrats to the Harvard Republican Club and beyond regularly campaign, canvass, and get involved in controversy, while the Harvard Votes Challenge encourages students of all political stripes to, in the words of Harvard President Larry Bacow, “Register to vote, inform yourself of the candidates and the issues, and cast a ballot.” I personally remember hearing these words at Convocation for the class of 2022, and I have never forgotten the thunderous applause that greeted them.

“In general, there are a lot of opportunities for students here to get involved in politics in a very real and tangible way... from the IOP to the IRC [International Relations Council] and a lot of different smaller organizations as well,” says Justin Tseng '22, a Social Studies and East Asian Studies concentrator who was recently elected to Medford City Council. “Exposure to policy, policymakers, politicians—I think a lot of those opportunities are available here on campus and a lot of students are taking them.” We cannot accuse Harvard's student body of failing to be engaged citizens on a national-politics scale.

At the same time, though, Tseng points out that “We give a lot of importance to federal politics here,” arguing for the merits of “paying attention to what's happening at the state level or at the local

level.” This, too, is tough to deny. Currently, 49 recognized Harvard College student organizations classify themselves as “Government and Politics,” but only one (Harvard Undergraduate Voters Choose) mentions the word “Cambridge” in its description on TheHub. Eleven mention the word “National,” nine, “America”—although one of those is the Harvard Organization for Latin America. If the old adage is true and we know Harvard students by the company they keep, they are singularly uninterested in what happens politically in and around Cambridge.

While undergraduates, fed and housed by the University, may believe that they have nothing to gain from voting in local elections, many of my interviewees pointed out that this was a simplistic view. “The buzzing issue around Cambridge is housing, considering the high cost of living here,” Albert argues. While this does not necessarily immediately translate into increased room and board fees, “it really impacts those who make our educational experience, and that is grad students.”

He is not the only person to worry about this: in 2020, HGSU-UAW published a summary of their newly-negotiated first contract and introduced the section on parking and transit benefits with “Given rising housing costs near Harvard's campus, student workers are increasingly living some distance away.” If students want to be able to go to office hours in the evenings, then they should consider advocating for policies that make living on campus an achievable proposition for the people who run them.

Cambridge recently passed the Affordable Housing Overlay, amending zoning laws to allow for larger affordable-housing developments, but this by no means ended debate on the matter. Albert, who is quite optimistic about the Overlay, still summarizes the situation as “Housing's huge.”

The question of where you want to be and how you want to get there came up in other senses as well. Theodora Skeadas '12 '16, a Harvard College and Harvard Kennedy School graduate who ran for a position on Cambridge City Council in the recent election, mentions the issue of cycling.

“This fall, there was a pretty dynamic debate around bicycle lanes,” she says. “The city is implementing a network of protected bicycle lanes around Cambridge, which I'm excited to see.” However, this led to a number of problems, in particular “an associated loss of parking spots... I can get on a bike and I can ride around; someone who's older might not be able to do so with such agility.” The decision in favor of an expanded network of cycle lanes was not a sure thing.

In fact, it is surprising that it happened at all, given that opposition to it was, as Skeadas says, “very generational.” “City Hall... skews older, because older people tend to have more time—often, if they're retired, they have a lot more time—and they can advocate for their interests more loudly,” she explains.

According to Albert, while the median age of registered voters in Cambridge is around 35, that of those who actually vote in municipal elections is 57. As Skeadas says only half in jest, “It sounds like it's 60 if you're just listening to the voices that are speaking.”

In an environment as small as local government, who is pushing which agendas can really make a difference. Given low election turnout, Albert says, “Each individual and every vote can have a major influence on these city counselors and on who sits on the city council.” Similarly, Azeem says, “The same 50 or 100 people will come to speak at City Hall... even if you think [a proposed bill] is generally popular, having no-one come and speak at Monday night's meeting-hall meetings can be very disappointing.” Students are missing out on opportunities to push for policies which benefit them.

This need not be the case. Harvard students in particular are very well-placed to get involved in local politics, not least due to the importance and prestige of their institution in the community. Tseng even attributes “a little bit of a better reputation” among the voters of Medford to his Harvard status: “I think some voters might look at it and say, ‘You know, I can trust the Harvard student because they've worked hard, because they've gone through receiving a certain education.’”

**‘LEAVE THE HARVARD BUBBLE AND TALK TO VOTERS... ABOUT WHAT THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT, WHAT THEY'RE WORRIED ABOUT, WHAT VAL-**

# UES THEY HOLD, TO HAVE THAT DISCUSSION, AND TO BE EXPOSED TO SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT TO WHAT WE'RE EXPOSED TO HERE ON CAMPUS.'

Harvard also has a culture receptive to organizing (witness the graduate student strike and attendant protests), and this can lead to great things. Azeem recalls “an iconic moment, about four years ago now, when the Affordable Housing Overlay was being passed, that many students that I had been organizing from MIT and Harvard showed up and spoke in favor of it.” This, he says, “really turned the dial” on the issue, turning it from a highly-controversial hot potato to a much more politically acceptable proposition.

Harvard’s undergraduates can also receive unique benefits from being engaged with the Cambridge City Council. The most obvious one is experience with civic engagement, something which can be surprisingly hard to find on campus. Skeadas said that she had gone on to the Kennedy School after four years at the College because “That’s where students who are civically-minded go.” She praised the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), where she “very much felt at home,” but “outside of PBHA, and maybe the IOP, though I was less engaged there, there wasn’t as much of a focus on civic engagement at the College.”

Luckily, making your own fun is very much an option. Tseng enjoyed the opportunity that running his campaign provided to “leave the Harvard bubble and talk to voters... about what they’re concerned about, what they’re worried about, what values they hold, to have that discussion, and to be exposed to something very different to what we’re exposed to here on campus.” Surprisingly, the second part of Bacow’s charge, to inform oneself of the issues at play, can be the most rewarding.

The cynics will, at this point, retort that the purpose of politics is to get what you want and hang statespersonship. Here, too, Harvard College undergraduates can get good things out of local politics. While Harvard can seem like a political juggernaut that rides roughshod over Cambridge politicians to the point of deciding every year how much tax it feels like paying, the reality is more complicated.

“At the end of the day,” says Albert, “as long as the Cambridge government is operating within the law, they exert authority and power over Harvard.” This authority is expressed through zoning laws and other local ordinances, through the regulation of other businesses in Harvard Square, but also through softer power. Discussing HGSU-UAW’s picket lines, Albert says that “A lot of [Cambridge’s]

elect officials will show up and be there in support of HGSU, and that can make a major difference.” Nor do Council members only put pressure on Harvard on their own: Azeem claims that “Harvard and MIT want to do so much with City Hall, City Hall negotiates with them so much, and [engaged students] can also use that as a direct lever of power to get things from the universities.”

Cambridge City Council has not been afraid to argue with Harvard in the past. On April 5, 2010, as universities downsized after the 2008 financial crisis, City Council Order Number Five resolved “That this City Council go on record requesting that Harvard and MIT cease further layoffs and any cuts in hours, salary, or benefits and engage in an open and transparent dialogue with all stakeholders including staff and the community.” While the minutes of the University Relations Committee contain no record of a response from Harvard, then Vice President for Human Resources at MIT Alison Alden wrote a letter in response giving more details about the financial problems and decision-making that had led to the layoffs at her school. While Cambridge’s universities absolutely can fight City Hall, they do not ignore it.

Local government gets things done in other ways as well. It provides opportunities for incremental improvement: Azeem talks about “[leaving] a better city for the students who will come after you.” Albert agrees that some things take time, but he says that “The impacts are real and tangible now. A bike lane can be put up in a matter of weeks... all of this stuff is very real.” During the pandemic, Cambridge closed Memorial Drive, near the Charles River, and created a pedestrianized open space for socializing, which quickly became popular with students. The discussion about this began as early as late March 2020, and the Council formally asked the City Manager to explore the possibility on April 13. Cambridge politics may deal with smaller issues than the federal or even state varieties, but that just means that some of those issues can actually be easily resolved or, at least, quickly improved upon.

Although voting for this election cycle is over, Harvard students who want to get involved with Cambridge politics have a number of options. The most basic ones can often be the most effective: Azeem says that “One of the wonderful things about [local politics] is that everyone will respond to you. If you’re a Harvard student, and you send

me an email, there’s a 100% chance that I will respond... even if you want to sit down and have a meeting, that’s totally possible with me, but also with most City Councilors.”

For those looking to contribute more seriously, Skeadas mentions neighborhood associations, including one for Harvard Square (where she was “always one of the youngest... voices in the room”), and the Cambridge Democrats for those who politically lean that way. Tseng’s recommendation is to go to Council meetings and to read the documents that result from them, to “Be curious and go click on some random document, see what City Council’s talking about, talk to our City Councilors.” All interviewees suggested making one’s voice heard in small meetings, in one-on-one conversations, in town halls, in all the places students are allowed to but never expected to come.

The most important requirement, possibly the only real one, is a mindset that views Cambridge City Council as something worth your time. Harvard’s students are busy, with competing calls on their time, and many of them simply do not know what Cambridge has to offer. Three out of fifteen respondents to an extremely unscientific poll of the class of 2022 were unsure whether they were eligible to vote in the most recent municipal election. Figuring this out can be difficult. For students who want to make change in and around Harvard, though, figuring it out is exactly what they should be doing.

“In an ideal civic world, Harvard’s acting as a partner with the Cambridge government... for students in particular, that’s exactly why they’ve gotta care about both,” Albert says. “They’ve gotta care about what Harvard’s doing, and they’ve gotta care about what Cambridge is doing.” You can’t have one without the other.

*Michael Kielstra '22 (pmkielstra@college.harvard.edu) has been told by multiple people in local government that Parks and Recreation is accurate.*

*Original Photo from Cambridge City Council*

# FIEBRA



*MICHAEL KIELSTRA '22  
COMP DIRECTOR*

# KOZ

BREATH

ING

THE

MOUTH

**SOMEBODY  
HAS TO  
DO IT**

*KENNEDY  
HEATH '24*

It troubles me to think how often I tell people I am a Harvard student and they either don't believe me or immediately inquire about my participation in sports purely based on the color of my skin. It's time for a change, and Achele Agada '23, Grace Allen '24, Annika Bassey '22, and Chelsea Williams '22 are initiating that momentum within Harvard's community. As the founders of Harvard Athletics Black Varsity Association (HABVA), an organization for Black student athletes at the College, they wanted to create a space for Black athletes to feel heard, supported, and respected.

Entering last school year as a Black eighteen-year-old recruit on the Women's basketball team, I was incredibly aware of the fact that I would be attending an institution with a plurality of white students. After a few weeks on campus, I applied to be on the board of HABVA in its inaugural year along with 14 other Black athletes. Even though the club was entirely functioning through Zoom last year, I was introduced to more Black people in our first handful of meetings than I had ever seen in any of my classes or basketball team meetings combined. In hindsight, it was naive of me to expect Harvard to actively recruit a plethora of Black athletes, coaches, and administrators. It became apparent that I had gained a false sense of life at Harvard when competitive sports returned this year and I was introduced to the reality of Harvard Athletics.

As a board member for the second year, I have learned that every Black athlete at Harvard has a unique experience, comes from a different background, and expects different things from Harvard Athletics. Yet, a common theme persists—we each have to advocate for ourselves or nobody will.

Growing up living in white suburban neighborhoods, going to predominantly white schools, and playing on majority white basketball teams, I have found disturbing truth in the trope of Black athletes only being appreciated for what we can provide for a sports team. Unfortunately, this same narrative applies to my experience at Harvard as well.

Being a student athlete at Harvard mirrors my previous experiences for several reasons: I still have a white coaching staff, all white athletic trainers, and an overwhelmingly white athletics department administration. Harvard has about 16 athletic trainers in the training room and a number of interns and trainees, all of whom are white or white passing, except for one trainer and one intern. Of the 42 varsity teams, there are 2 Black head coaches. Of the 23 people on the Harvard Athletics Administrative Staff, 4 of them are Black—an increase from last year's 3. Not to mention, the Assistant Director of Athletics

**“WE WANT BLACK ATHLETIC TRAINERS, BLACK COACHES, BLACK RECRUITS. FOR ANY OF THIS TO HAPPEN WE FIRST NEED BLACK VOICES TO BE HEARD WITHIN ATHLETICS, WHICH MEANS WE NEED BLACK PEOPLE IN ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS WHO WILL ADVOCATE FOR BLACK ATHLETES.”**

and Diversity, Inclusion and Student Development is a white woman.

These racial discrepancies make it difficult for Black student athletes to navigate life across the river. For one, we often fall victim to racially motivated comments and micro-aggressions from coaches and teammates. For example, on my first recruiting visit at Harvard, a coach approached me commenting on my hair and proceeding to touch it without my permission. In addition, when competing against teams with more Black players on their rosters, they'll be described as “undisciplined”, “arrogant”, and “ready to come after us”—descriptors that have never been used to describe a predominately white team. Then, there's a clear lack of representation across Harvard's varsity sports. Not to mention the shared feeling amongst Black student athletes that we must fend for ourselves because Harvard fails to provide adequate care for students of color. For example, there are no Black mental health clinicians which forces Black athletes to share their traumas with individuals who will never understand the Black experience.

“I would say a positive experience that I had personally was when we had a Black trainer come in,” shared Sharelle Samuel '22, Harvard Track and Field senior and HABVA Co-President. “She was a graduate student who had just graduated from Howard, getting her masters at [Boston College]... The impact that she had on us as black athletes was amazing. She would just talk to us about anything, make us laugh, and help us with everything we requested, even if we didn't necessarily need it. She would always make us feel better, whether it was emotionally, mentally, or physically.” Samuel noted that when this Black trainer was here, she more willingly went to the training room to get the care her body needed as she was having more positive experiences than what her typical encounters with white trainers entailed.

Sports have been an outlet for my-

self and for so many others over the years. Unfortunately, the same issues we want to escape persist within the realm of sports. Achele Agada '23, Harvard Rugby player and HABVA Founder and Vice-President, feels as if “[Harvard Athletics] doesn't really recognize the ways that being Black and more specifically being a Black woman within Harvard Athletics spaces can be really exhausting and lonely. I feel like in order to feel happy and fulfilled, I have to mould myself into a very reduced and uncomplicated version of myself”. It's the sad truth that a number of Black athletes don't feel heard or supported by the Harvard Athletics Administration.

HABVA is attempting to be the bridge between Harvard Athletics and Black athletes, who have historically been met with empty promises and performative actions.

Last year, at the height of some of the most crucial social justice movements, Harvard Athletics created the Harvard Athletics Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB) Task Force to address their shortcomings as an institution. After producing very minimal results, according to an email sent out by Erin West, the EDIB Task Force has now been dismantled and turned into a smaller “advisory group” with goals of “pressure [testing] EDIB initiatives, [providing] feedback on department policies, and [helping to] create programming for the future” that plans to only meet once or twice per semester. When a vast restructuring is required, what tangible change can come from discussions taking place just twice per year? It's laughable. Furthermore, the terms “inclusion and belonging” are contradictory when referring to an institution like Harvard that releases blanket statements about “initiatives” with no real action. As Black student athletes, we do not want to be “included” in the violence of an institution that is systematically built to perpetuate white supremacy.

Our requests are simple—we want action. We want Black athletic trainers, Black coaches, Black recruits. For any of this to happen we first need Black voices to be heard within Athletics, which means we need Black people in administrative positions who will advocate for Black athletes. We need resources allocated to creating an equitable space where peoples' needs are met and not dismissed. Although the burden of educating our non-Black peers shouldn't fall on the shoulders of Black individuals, we have to continue to hold Harvard Athletics accountable for their structural violence and failure to create an equitable and representative environment.

*Kennedy Heath '24 (kheath@college.harvard.edu) is ready for change.*

*Design by Arsh Dhillon '23*

# YARD A WALK

*ALEXANDRA LENZO '25  
BUSINESS STAFF*



## WHERE ARE THE COMMENTS?

GRACE VON OISTE '24

*How hard is this class? Will I get an A?* These are, for many students, the first concerns when deciding whether to take a class.

Searching for answers, students turn to Harvard's Q Guide, which publishes student feedback on classes at the end of every semester. Also known as the Harvard FAS Course Evaluations in recent years, this comprehensive list of feedback features data on any given course's workload and evaluations of its teaching staff, assignments, and other important aspects of the classroom experience.

In the past year, however, the Q Guide has looked different from those published in former years. Something is missing from many of the course reports: student comments.

On January 20th, 2021, Professor Joseph K. Blitzstein, who teaches one of Harvard's most popular courses, Stat 110: an Introduction to Probability, emailed the Q Guide staff, asking why only a few Q Guide reports for Fall 2020 courses published student comments. The staff explained that it was a software vendor issue. Yet the same option to not display student comments still seems to be available this semester, Blitzstein said. He chooses to show student comments. "I consider it very valuable for students to be able to see responses to that question, and valuable to me as a concentration advisor when discussing course selection with students," Blitzstein said. "Often the qualitative comments for that question are more informative than the numerical ratings for a course."

However, the Q Guide does still mandate that professors include other useful information for prospective students, such as professor ratings, hours spent on the course per week, and feedback on course assignments. Students report this type of information through a series of multiple-choice questions, in which they can select options ranging from unsatisfactory to excellent.

Connor Stoltz '23 is an avid user of the Q Guide. He utilizes the annual report to make sure that he is taking classes that are right for him. "There was this class on game theory called Strategy, Conflict and Cooperation, which I thought sounded really cool. But the Q Guide made it seem like the class was poorly run so I chose to do a different



Econ elective," he said.

But Stoltz questions the usefulness of the guide without student comments: "Why would you not want to

**THE Q GUIDE DOESN'T REQUIRE PROFESSORS TO PUBLISH STUDENT COMMENTS NOW, BRINGING THE PURPOSE OF THE Q GUIDE INTO QUESTION.**

For Laibson, though, his motivation for publishing student comments is much deeper. "We like giving the students the opportunity to communicate to future cohorts of potential students in the class because we think that students overall have wisdom to share," he said. "We think that the experience of students that will take the course in the future will be increased by not just hearing from one or two friends." The student response portion of the Q Guide provides students with an opportunity to hear from a variety of students that they would not otherwise have the chance to hear from.

For large classes, such as Economics

**'WE LIKE GIVING THE STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE TO FUTURE COHORTS OF POTENTIAL STUDENTS IN THE CLASS BECAUSE WE THINK THAT STUDENTS OVERALL HAVE WISDOM TO SHARE.'**

see what students tell other students? That's arguably the most important thing about the class. What students tell other students is the course's reputation." Without student comments, it appears that the true reputation of a course is not conveyed in its Q Guide report.

Livie Jacks '24 also finds the student comments extremely useful. "There is usually advice for how to do well, cautionary words about what to avoid, and sometimes I find things that steer me away but don't seem to negatively affect others," she said. "I was upset when they took the comments away because that is really the most valuable part of the Q Guide, and they give a ton of specific and honest information about each class."

Professor David Laibson, who teaches the Economics series, Principles of Economics, another one of Harvard's most popular courses, chooses to publish his student comments. This choice might seem unsurprising because many of his published comments read, "It's more than you could ever ask for. It's engaging, creative and really fun."

10a, which has around 770 students, the student response section creates a unified student narrative about the class. "This big sample is very useful because it averages out the idiosyncratic experiences of 1 or 2 people that you might happen to ask about the course," Laibson shared. "I think there is a lot of value for students contemplating both what to take in the future and how to approach the course."

As students take time over break to reflect on the courses they want to take during the spring semester, it is crucial that for each class they choose to take, they know what they are committing to. If the Q Guide lacks student voices, is it an effective means for student communication?

*Grace von Oiste '24 (gvonoiste@college.harvard.edu) needs to see student comments.*

*Design by Arsh Dhillon '23*



## THE BONOB[R]O

**PROFESSOR MARTIN SURBECK IS SPENDING TIME AWAY FROM HARVARD'S CAMPUS TO STUDY ONE OF HUMANS' CLOSEST RELATIVES.**

*HARRY COTTER '25*

Having conversations about people's future plans, and realizing just how impressive they are, is a quintessential Harvard experience despite our awareness of the impressiveness of professors and students alike. Such is the case with Professor Martin Surbeck, from the department of Human Evolutionary Biology, who will be spending much of the winter and spring semester working in a community forest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The site is dedicated to protecting and studying bonobos, an endangered species and humans' closest living relatives alongside chimpanzees.

Started in 2016 with support from the Bonobo Conservation Institute and Vie Sauvage, two NGOs dedicated to bonobo preservation, Surbeck's research site provides a remarkable combination of local support and international research opportunities. Establishing a site well-populated by bonobos meant utilizing land already occupied by native villagers. Rather than pursuing research at the expense of locals, Surbeck's team has worked towards cultivating a mutually beneficial relationship with the historic inhabitants of the land. Local Kokolopori villagers comprise the vast majority of the site's staff. Trained in behavioral data collection by Surbeck's team, they are offered well-paid employment in an area with severely limited economic opportunity. "For how remote it is, there are a lot of people living there. There are not a lot of income sources for the locals, and selling smoked caterpillars is one of their only options," Surbeck explained. Locals' jobs on the preserve mainly consist of tracking bonobos and recording their behavior over the course of the day.

In addition to his research, Surbeck works to ensure successful follow-through on agreements made with the Kokolopori people. He primarily works with village elders and provincial leaders. "As a rent of the forest, we invest in local infrastructure like schools... I think that that's where money should be spent. That's where they live, and they're the crucial player," he said. Surbeck believes in offering the Congo that which they have historically been deprived of by Western forces: respect, fairness, and appropriate compensation. His efforts

are a huge improvement over the historically barbaric treatment of the Congolese by the West, serving as an example of how researchers can ethically work with indigenous peoples.

Despite sharing the same common ancestor with humans, bonobos are very understudied compared to chimpanzees, Surbeck shared. This is largely due to the physical and behavioral connections observed between humans and chimpanzees, such as a similar skull shape and a willingness to engage in warfare. Bonobos demonstrate a much higher level of egalitarianism between the

because of their relative peacefulness.

The anthropologist and primatologist Jane Goodall often discussed her personal connection to the chimpanzees she lived with and specific instances of compassionate chimpanzee behavior that she directly observed. Surbeck has a more balanced perspective on bonobos:

"I'm somebody who worked with insects and birds. If I wasn't a professor I would be a farmer. I don't feel a spiritual connection to animals, I just enjoy being around them. However, if you spend years around a species, especially if they're

long-living, you start to develop opinions about the different individuals. Some are cute, some are jerks... The first time a female bonobo felt comfortable going to sleep in front of me, that was very special."

Surbeck's research and oversight of the Kokolopori bonobo site are some of the greatest assets he brought to Harvard. However, the University was not fully prepared to support his continued research, as trips like his current one require him to spend a significant amount of time away from Cambridge and administration of a research site in the Democratic Republic of the Congo can be challenging.

But the University has been progressively more accommodating of his efforts in the Congo, Surbeck said: "There's an idea of how things have to be done at Harvard, which sometimes doesn't easily facilitate getting things done in Africa. There are a lot of people that help me, though. If you talked to me a year ago, I would express more frustration." Surbeck's work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo also provides many research opportunities for PhD and postdoctoral degree students to analyze the data collected by employees of the preserve, and he should be able to continue his political, logistical, and research efforts at the Kokolopori site for the foreseeable future.

*Harry Cotter '25 (harrycatter@college.harvard.edu) thinks that maybe we should try and be a little more like bonobos.*

*Original photos taken by Martin Surbeck.*

**"IF YOU SPEND YEARS AROUND A SPECIES, ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE LONG-LIVING, YOU START TO DEVELOP OPINIONS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS. SOME ARE CUTE, SOME ARE JERKS... THE FIRST TIME A FEMALE BONOBO FELT COMFORTABLE GOING TO SLEEP IN FRONT OF ME, THAT WAS VERY SPECIAL."**

sex- es than chimpanzees, as seen in the lack of sexual coercion in bonobo groups. The females of a given group will violently lash out against and even exile males that make unwanted advances on females. Determining why this stark difference in chimpanzee and bonobo behavior exists is one of Surbeck's main research goals.

Even so, "We have to be careful to not over-romanticize bonobos," he said. Surbeck described situations where bonobos demonstrate less care to each other than chimpanzees would in parallel circumstances. For example, male chimpanzees of a given group form tight bonds in order to facilitate collective engagement in warfare. But male bonobos of a given group lack this motivation to pursue the same level of camaraderie

# NEWS

*PIPER TINGLEAF '24  
DESIGN STAFF*



# NEWS



*MARBELLA MARLO '24  
FORUM EDITOR*

# NEWS

# WESTSIDE STORY

## *Spielberg strikes again*

DAN ENNIS '25, CALVIN OSBORNE '25

**W***est Side Story* is one of the most recognizable American works: it's been placed in the National Film Registry, has had more than a handful of Broadway and West End reboots, and now has two film adaptations. Composer Leonard Bernstein and lyricist Stephen Sondheim worked together to create a riveting, modern-day take on *Romeo and Juliet*. It was released as a Broadway production in 1957 to critical acclaim: "Pooling imagination and virtuosity, they have written a profoundly moving show that is as ugly as the city jungles and also pathetic, tender and forgiving," the *New York Times* wrote that year. An equally successful film adaptation hit theatres in 1961. The musical and its subsequent Broadway revivals have taken home three Tony awards and were nominated for a grand total of fifteen. The film met even more critical acclaim: it took home ten Academy Awards, the most of any musical film, and featured the first Latina woman—Rita Moreno—to win an Oscar.

When it was announced that Steven Spielberg would be directing a new adaptation of the musical in January of 2018, it caused quite the commotion: Spielberg had never before directed a musical film, and critics were eager to see what would come of it. After a delay due to the pandemic, the film was finally scheduled for release on December 10th, 2021.

Hear two opposing reviews of the film from writers who attended a press screening

to the release.

### **DAN'S TAKE: IT WAS... EH.**

This adaptation of *West Side Story* was, surprisingly, rather unremarkable. It was a good movie—nothing life-changing, nothing emotionally transformative, just exactly the quality you'd expect from a Disney-produced and Spielberg-directed film.

The acting through the first half of the movie was less than stellar and made it difficult to actually appreciate the scenes—it took at least an hour into the 2.5 hour-long film for me to feel any kind of connection with the characters. Riff seemed about as unconvinced in his role as one could get, and the actors of the various police officers played throughout the movie struck me as simply uninterested. However, that's not to suggest the show didn't impress at all.

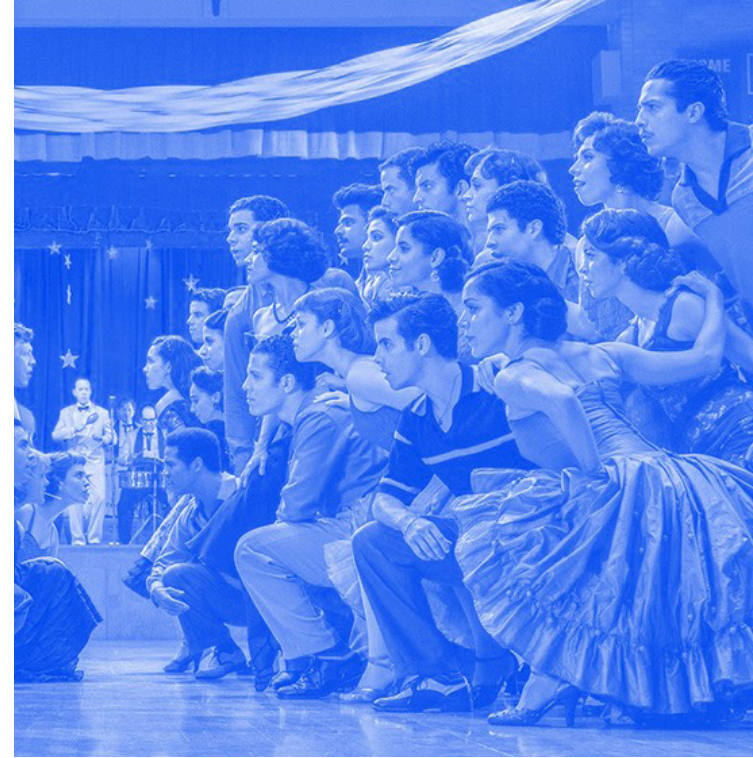
In every scene, the choreography and dancing were clearly professional and very rem-

iniscent of a typical Broadway production. The singing, likewise, didn't disappoint. The performance of America immediately comes to mind – firstly, the costume designer certainly deserves recognition, the ensemble led by Anita Debose certainly performed well vocally and the scene was visually beautiful in no small part from the choreography. The casting of Ansel Elgort as Tony was a good choice, as he is an actor with both significant musical and acting experience – this is certainly seen in his performance of Cool around halfway through the movie. In fact, the majority of the lead cast, including Ariana DeBose as Anita, David Alvarez as Bernardo, and Mike Faist as Riff, consisted of Broadway actors and actresses, some of whom had never performed in front of a camera before. It was refreshing to see a cast of a musical film that had experience performing in musicals.

The racial diversity of the cast accurately reflected the tensions they explored as characters. Productions focusing on Latinx struggles often have a whitewashed cast: in the 1961 film, for example, Bernardo was played by George Chakiris—a white man—who won an Oscar for that role.

In fact, there were a few aspects of this movie in which Disney took a stand, and I wholeheartedly respect them for it. Disney cast a non-binary actor, Iris Menas, as a supporting role in the film—that kind of representation is needed in films. What really impressed me, though, is that Disney refused to cut scenes pertaining to gender expression for the Middle Eastern markets— for now, the film will not





be shown in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar. That was a move that must have hurt financially, but I'm happy to see Disney standing their ground.

That wasn't the only social aspect of this film that struck me—the extensive inclusion of Spanish was unique, but made the film inaccessible to many. Much of the charm and wit of the characters only comes through in Spanish, and I wondered if the audience members who couldn't understand it had an even more difficult time connecting with the characters than I did. In the 2009 Broadway revival of *West Side Story*, Lin-Manuel Miranda was hired to translate some of the lyrics to Spanish. Following criticism from audiences, some songs were translated back. The film featured Miranda's translated versions, as well as some additional script changes to Spanish. According to an interview *IGN* conducted with Spielberg, the film consciously chose to not include English translations in the Spanish subtitles in order to “respect the [Spanish] language enough not to subtitle it”. While I understand the attempt at normalizing languages other than English in film and media, I believe it further ostracizes the Latinx community and paints the community as “the other.” There's a clear double standard—the Spanish subtitles translate English dialog, but not vice versa.

The film is absolutely worth seeing for its modern interpretation of the classic, with diverse and inclusive casting. However, I wouldn't consider it the best of the *West Side Story* renditions—the characters were hard to connect with, the language barrier alienated some audiences, and the plot itself was often lost in the singing and dancing.

**CALVIN'S TAKE: IT WAS... WOW.**

I will be the first to admit that I have a poor taste in movies. I am a sucker for sappy



rom-coms and perhaps even enjoyed the first time I watched the *Twilight* series. It was hard for me, then, not to enjoy the love presented in *West Side Story*. While the build-up for the pairing of Tony and Maria was shockingly brief, I still found myself invested in these partners by the time of their inevitable deaths.

It was the case that the pipeline between Tony and Maria's first meeting to their engagement was startlingly fast, and this rendition seemed to take itself too seriously for this to be an ironic jab at Shakespeare's tale. The characters in the story were supposed to be teenagers, something that was made suddenly apparent after a dance-fight at high school prom, and yet this aspect of the story was presented unfaithfully.

One of the reasons that *Romeo and Juliet* is such a tragic tale is that the lovers in the story died so young. In this respect, it was shocking to see the brutality of many scenes in the film, especially as a Disney movie intended for younger audiences: while blood was notably absent, the movie was home to frequent drug references and multiple cases of homicide. But these themes aided the conclusion of the story, imparting a deeper emotional capacity to these characters through a raw portrayal of the life as an adolescent in a gang. With the end of the film marked by the deaths of multiple main characters, just as is in the end of *Romeo and Juliet*, it helped to make these moments impactful in that they didn't seem to come out of the blue thematically. I was notably impressed that Disney didn't back down from references to these more mature themes.

However, it still felt like there was a missed opportunity in *West Side Story* to explore the incongruence between these children and the mature reality faced by them: gang violence, familial trauma, and, most impactfully, untimely deaths. After Anita's lover Bernardo was killed by Tony, the fiance to her daughter, I expected the tension between Anita and her sister to be explored more thoroughly. Similarly, having the leader of the Jets be killed by Bernardo, it was disappointing to see *West Side Story's* lackluster exploration of the tragedy in losing a friend. This failure is inevitably linked to this being a Disney movie, but for such an iconic reimagination of *West Side Story*, it was unsatisfying to see room for the film to explore these topics in more depth.

Regardless, the film deserves praise for its strategic choreography and incredible costume design. The tension between the Jets and the Sharks was reinforced in the difference between their dances: the Jets opted for classical Amer-

ican ballet, while the Sharks were influenced by Puerto Rican salsa dancing that has its roots in the culture of New York. It was fascinating to see how the film integrated dance as a pivotal complement to understanding the conflict between these rival gangs. This use of dance intentionally interacted with our understanding of gender roles, combining the fluid jumps of ballet and the rhythmic precision of salsa with the hyper-masculinity of stereotypical gang life, and I found myself enthralled at each flourish of ballroom dresses and each tap of ballroom shoes.

While there were some incredible moments within the film, my personal favorites being the expertly-crafted dance fights, Spielberg's rendition of *West Side Story* is not life-changing. The movie left me wanting more: a deeper exploration into the theme of teenage gang violence, a more nuanced understanding of the trauma of losing a friend, or even a dramatic parody of Shakespeare's original text. For me, the casting felt a bit off as well, highlighted in the age gap between the lovers played by Ansel Elgort at 27 and Rachel Zegler at 20 as well as them both supposedly depicting teenagers. However, for a Disney film, many of these faults were unavoidable, and for its cinematography alone, *West Side Story* is definitely deserving of a place on your watchlist.

*Daniel Ennis '25 (djennis@college.harvard.edu) is a slightly annoyed Latino.*

*Calvin Osborne '25 (cosborne@college.harvard.edu) was a little too into the ballet.*

*Original photos from West Side Story (2021)*



# FALL NEWS

*MCGAVOCK COOPER '24  
STAFF*



*GRACE VON OISTE '24  
NEWS EDITOR*

# CHAOS

# NEWS

**IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES AND THE WORST OF TIMES**

*OLIVER ADLER '24  
SPORTS EDITOR*



*True Designed by  
Ash Chillon '08*

# WE BELONG

# TO NOONE

# BUT

# OURSELVES

THE HARVARD INDEPENDENT PUBLISHES EVERY FEW WEEKS DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR BY THE HARVARD INDEPENDENT, INC., 2 GARDEN STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

*Ash Chillon  
Mary Julia Koch*