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# independent

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# TEN PROFESSORS YOU NEED TO MEET BUT HAVEN'T YET

## Finding students' favorites

BY REINA PIMENTEL '25

Without Shopping Week, choosing classes has become an endless process of My.Harvard searches for Gen Ed and concentration requirements, applications, Q guides, syllabi—and all the while searching for a class that won't add to the stress of your week. We propose a new course search criterion: professor name. You may not be aware of these ten outstanding faculty members, most of whom teach smaller and specific classes, but they come highly recommended by students.



**Virginia Greene**

Professor Virginia Greene elicits “the magic of literature in ways I’ve never experienced before,”

praised her student Carli Cooperstein '24. “Professor Greene sets the warmest atmosphere in every class. I took her course on Proust last spring and could feel her genuine care for each of her students grow with every session. I feel fortunate to have gotten to know her through the course.”

The professor of French in the Department of Romance Languages and Literature will be teaching the spring course, “Teaching Languages, Cultures and Literatures,” built toward bringing together graduate students of different professions in the discussion of linguistics.

**Philip Fisher**

Professor Philip Fisher leads the freshmen seminar, “Complexity in Works of Art: Ulysses and Hamlet,” which Emma Hughes '25 called “one of the highlights of my first semester on campus.”

“His love for the literature we discussed was infectious, and he cultivated a cozy and supportive atmosphere within our seminar each class,” Hughes shared. “But what I miss most about being in a class with Professor Fisher is bearing witness to his genius—he knew our texts cover to cover and his insight was inspiring, though sometimes demoralizing because I know that I’ll never understand James Joyce in the way he does.”

Professor Fisher also teaches the English class, “The Classic Phase of the Novel,” and has written books on cultural theory and narrative theory in English novels, including *The Vehement Passions* and *Making and Effacing Art*.

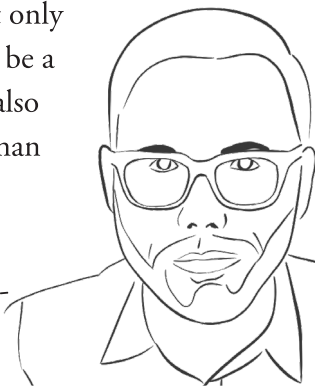


**Shifali Singh**

Dr. Shifali Singh “is probably one of the most incredible people I have ever met,” said former student Lulu Patterson '24. The Director of Digital Cognitive Research & Neuropsychologist

and President of the American Psychological Association’s Division 12 works as a clinical neuropsychologist and a professor in Harvard’s psychology department teaching the course, “Technology and Mental Health,” this semester.

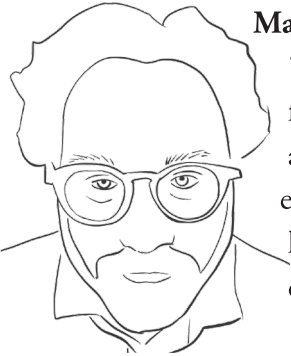
“She is a kind, thoughtful, and phenomenal teacher who takes the time to care for her students not only in their schoolwork, but also outside the classroom,” Patterson shared. “If you are looking to be astounded by what you learn, and see how it changes the way you look at your everyday life, take Shifali’s courses. Dr. Singh is the type of teacher who commits to keeping students engaged by talking through the tangents that most spark their interest with her vast wealth of knowledge... By taking her class, you will gain an extraordinary mentor, who will not only illustrate what it means to be a remarkable educator, but also an exceptionally good human being.”



**Nick White**

“Welcome! Tomorrow we will meet for the first time in person (!!!) to gab about the ‘imagined real world’ that is our fiction. I promise you much energy, much laughter, some woe, a touch of rue, and many blessings with respect to the ‘willed word,’” exclaimed Nick White, instructor of the course, “‘Telling and Retelling’: Reshaping and Remixing Myths and Fairy Tales,” in an email to students at the start of the school year.

White is a visiting associate professor from Ohio State University and although he has only been here a few weeks, he is already planning a horror movie screening to promote community between his classes of creative writers.



**Mariano Siskind**

“Professor Siskind’s passion for Latin America, literature, and Jorge Luis Borges is felt every second of his two hour lecture in ‘The Borges Machine,’” expressed Alejandro Escobar '25. Professor Siskind teaches the freshman seminar, “Borges, García Márquez, Bolaño and Other Classics of Modern Latin,” and “The Borges Machine” in the Romance Language and Literature department.

Siskind is an Argentinian writer from Buenos Aires, the same city as Jorge Borges, a writer who is the focus of much of his class content. “Without ever having stepped foot in Buenos Aires, I’m transported there for a bit, and guided by Professor Siskind, get to know the city that Borges inhabited and transformed,” said Escobar. “Getting to understand this enigmatic author and his unique writing style through a renowned scholar is incredibly special and has been a highlight of my sophomore year.”

**Julie Buckler**

Professor Julie Buckler in the Slavic Language and Literature Department teaches the course, “Reading Tolstoy’s War and Peace,” constructed around understanding the significance of the Neopolen wars in Russian history through literature.



Susanna Freudenheim '25 said that Professor Buckler’s course, “Russia in the Golden Age,” was her favorite last year. “It was utterly gripping. She just had so much fascinating knowledge to share with us and facilitated a great balance of discussion and lecture at the same time. She made me really want to speak, because she was so encouraging and focused on each of us. She read our essays and discussion posts closely and responded to them!”

**Dave Charbonneau**

Professor Dave Charbonneau of the Astronomy Department has taught “Topics in Modern Astrophysics” and “Astronomy 1,” and works at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, where he researches the characteristics of planets.



“His session of Astronomy 1 was one of my favorite Harvard courses,” Ryan Golemme '23 commented. “Even though the course was in the Astronomy department which usually requires physics prerequisites, he did a great job of teaching it to a more general audience. It almost felt like a secret kind of Gen Ed in the best way possible. He brought in so many great demonstrations to help us understand complicated physics and apply them to progressively larger scales through the universe.”



**EJ Dionne**

Acclaimed Washington Post writer and political commentator EJ Dionne serves as a visiting professor at Harvard and a full time professor for government at Georgetown. He “was hands down one of the most genuine, enthusiastic, and kind hearted professors I’ve had at Harvard,” said Marbella Marlo '24. “He hosted lunches twice a week and would invite his students to have conversations with him, welcoming students from all walks of life, and treating them with the highest regard and interest in their lives.”

**REINA PIMENTEL '25 (REINA\_PIMENTEL@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES FOR THE INDEPENDENT.**

**DESIGNS BY MARINA ZOULLAS '23**



# TO BE COMPETENT OR COMPETITIVE

*What to know as you comp clubs this fall*

BY HANNAH DAVIS '25

When every extracurricular club promises that its community and mission are *the best*, it is hard for students to determine which clubs are actually the right fit for them. Are you looking for a future management consulting career, a breath of fresh air on a hike, or a creative escape? The diversity of clubs almost all share one feature: the comp process.

Initially meant to abbreviate “competent,” comp is the intricate, multi-stage process by which academic clubs select their members. There are two types of comps: completion and competitive. The former often requires students to attend specific lectures, office hours, and complete particular tasks, while the latter usually involves interviews, deliverables, and anywhere from a week to a semester of work, all with the goal of being admitted to the club.

Women in Business is a popular club with a completion-based comp. “I think WIB is the way most comps should be, especially for more affinity groups,” shared member Margaret Caris '25. The 10-week process, which includes a small weekly meeting, a “wibternship”-wide weekly panel or workshop and an end of comp section-created business proposition, generally cultivates high member retention. “This is a women’s group, and allowing the space to open for women for networking and recruiting events is important,” said Caris. “It’s an organization that I’m so proud to be a part of.”

These semester-long completion comps introduce students with little field experience to a broader understanding of the material. In these more welcoming processes with high flexibility and low participation obligations, many students who succeed end up losing interest after a semester or two if they are not truly passionate about their clubs’ mission.

Phillips Brooks House Association’s CHANCE, a college preparatory program which connects students to local high-schoolers, has a high retention rate, despite its simple, two-question application comp. Member Joseph Kester '23 attributes this to the community and culture that the program cultivates. “When there is a mission that is larger than yourself and isn’t just your professional track, you don’t see that large drop off when people are juniors and seniors,” he said.

While Kester admitted that the concept of applying for community service work feels a bit superfluous, he explained that this process is a matter of practicality. And even students who do not get into their desired program can still get involved with one of PBHA’s over eighty student-run, community-based programs. “The nice

thing about how PBHA works is you never really get rejected from a program, you just get recommended to another program,” Kester said.

Not all clubs are as generous with admission. Project-oriented clubs, such as Harvard College Consulting Club, tend for shorter,

competitive comps to quickly determine which students are worthy of consulting for Fortune 500 companies. “The HCCG comp is notoriously competitive, but I’m okay with that, to be honest, and I say that as someone who didn’t get in the first time I applied,” said HCCG consultant David Kiley '25. “They’re very clear about what the comp process entails... It’s a difficult one, but then it is over pretty quickly.”

Meanwhile, other clubs prolong selective comps for weeks, requiring students to dedicate hours to an organization they may never get into even after completing all of the necessary requirements.

When Kiley comped the student fashion magazine, FIG, the fall of his first year, “I was really excited to join the club,” he said. “I was rather surprised when I was cut at the end without a reason as to why,”

especially after he completed a photo shoot and submitted a writing sample and received positive feedback on both.

Rejection does not necessarily breed regret. From Kiley’s two distinct comp experiences, he advises students to “make sure you enjoy the comp process itself because, unfortunately, a lot of the time, that might be where it ends. Or, if you do enjoy the comp process, it means you’ll enjoy the club. I wouldn’t think of the comp process as a means to an end. It can be telling of the organization itself.”

With both comps and clubs, what you put into it determines what you get out of it.

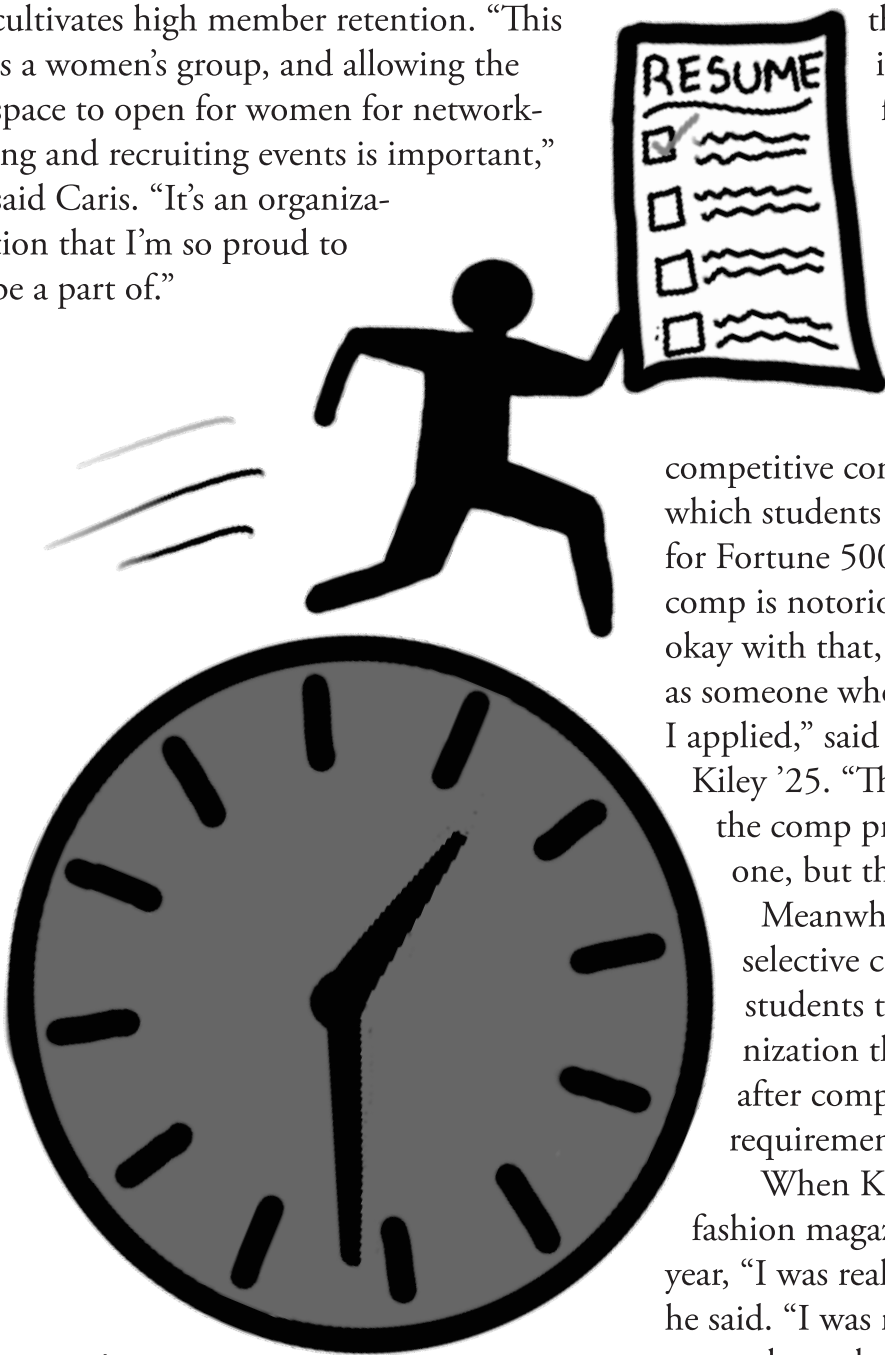
“I’ve found that the more involved you are in a club, the more enjoyable it is. Of course, this makes sense, but then you see people in eight different clubs and wonder how they are getting anything out of them,” reflects Daniel Schwartz '23. “Don’t get me wrong, I did this too, and I do think joining a bunch of clubs helps you build a social network and explore your interests, but eventually, it’s important to focus lots of energy into one or two.”

Signing up for mailing lists, comping a dozen different clubs, and then dropping or getting cut from half of them—all are part of Harvard life. Comps, much like Harvard clubs and students, come in all forms. Some prepare you for the professional world, others offer an escape from the Harvard stress, and many introduce you to your best friends.

Robert Lawrence '25 emphasized the importance of building your passions and social community. “Don’t comp a club because you think it sounds cool or because you think it will be good on your resume,” he said. “Comp because you like the people in it and you like the things you would be doing. Take some time either informally or formally through the comp process to make sure you spend some time getting to know the people in the club, because a big part of clubs is the social aspect of it as well.”

**HANNAH DAVIS '25 (HANNAHDAVIS@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS STILL ON EXTRANEIOUS MAILING LISTS FROM FIRST-YEAR FALL.**

**GRAPHIC BY ISABEL EDDY '24**





# HOPE, EXPERIENCE, OR ALL OF THE ABOVE?

*Professor Summers on what American national economic policy needs*

BY ALICE KHAYAMI '25

With his typical zeal and poignant analogies, Professor Larry Summers took to the JFK Jr. Forum's stage at the Institute of Politics on Thursday, September 15th. In an hour-long conversation guided by Linda Henry MC/MPA '21 and questions from a probing audience, Professor Summers presented his candid analysis of the current state of the American and global economies, as well as thoughtful criticism of The Federal Reserve System's approach so far.

Secretary of Treasury for Clinton, Director of the National Economic Council for Obama, Chief Economist of the World Bank, Summers certainly had experience under his belt as he addressed the current high rate and the threat of recession.

Henry started the discussion by recognizing, quite frankly, that Summers was "right." Early in February of 2021, Summers accurately predicted high inflation by looking at the data. Yet given the current political economy where speculation of recession hinges on political parties, interpreting data is not enough to be a successful economist, Summers argued. He was able to distinguish between analysis and preference, avoiding the tendency of many economists to let partisan debate infiltrate policy.

Summers' analysis of inflation rested not on his political views, but on what he observed: a two or three percent GDP gap, fourteen percent of GDP in fiscal stimulus, labor shortages. These issues altogether led to an overstimulated economy. Summers expressed regret that it "doesn't look like the



U.S. has moved on its inflation problem as a country."

Indeed, the latest inflation report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics last week recorded an 8.3% rise in prices in one year. As Americans' concerns grow and prices continue to soar, the Fed must recognize that taming inflation should be its primary policy focus, Summers contended, in a "firm and resolute" manner. To that end, Summers proposed raising interest rates up to at least 4 percent, if not further. "The soft landing of the U.S. represents the triumph of hope over experience," Summers offered, criticizing the overdue and insufficient policy actions to curb inflation.

Summers has been criticized for providing a weak response to the financial

crisis of 2007-2008 while serving as Director of the National Economic Council for the Obama administration: a meek stimulus coupled with too lenient bailouts. Now, he emphasizes the importance of learning from history.

During his talk, Summers carefully combined his prior work with sharp analogies to help the audience understand his economic prescriptions. He compared monetary policy, for instance, to a course of antibiotics: the medicine is only effective if you stay the course, not if you stray away and omit the last few days, hoping your expectations will turn into reality.

Summers' ability to craft such precise arguments and comprehensive metaphors reflects another one of his skills: teaching. He admitted that he, too, is still learning and teaching enables him to better formulate his own views. On the stage of the JFK Jr. Forum and in his own classes, Summers is unafraid to go against any wave of thought, actively combating groupthink. He urges audience members to think about contentious issues through different lenses, offering hope for the triumph of reason and wisdom in future economic policy.

**ALICE KHAYAMI '25 (ALICEKHAYAMI@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES NEWS FOR THE INDEPENDENT.**

**PHOTO BY MARTHA STEWART, IOP PHOTOGRAPHER**





# THE DEATH OF DOGMA

*Religion is declining, but spirituality should be here to stay*

BY MARBELLA MARLO '24

There are very few instances in which people will base concrete decisions on abstract ideas.

The stock market, the lottery, and following arbitrary cultural trends all exemplify individuals choosing to engage in a system without true proof of its physical existence. Religion trumps them all.

A 2020 study by *The Crimson* showed that approximately one-third of Harvard students over the past four years identified as Atheist or other, while the remaining two-thirds self-identified as Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Mormon, or Agnostic. Of these students, one-third identified as “somewhat religious” or more.

These numbers, despite representing a substantial subset of individuals remaining pious, have decreased considerably over time. In 1965, theologian and HDS Professor Harvey Cox published the widely popular and influential book *The Secular City*, where he supported the decline of hierarchical and institutional religion in the face of an increase

Cox concludes that humanity actually *does* “need a spirituality that can discern the presence of God.” In other words, he is arguing that we should try to cultivate an environment that welcomes the presence of religion in a different form: a spirituality that does not necessarily involve a God or any form of higher power.

This past summer, the Harvard Gazette released a study advocating for a similar spirituality, specifically linking spiritual involvement to “healthier lives, greater longevity, less depression and suicide, and less substance abuse.” The study pushed for the integration of spirituality into health care, claiming its potential for assisting individuals in reaching “their highest attainable standard of health.” However, this notion of spirituality has no relation to God, and is rather concerned with the “the way individuals seek ultimate meaning, purpose, connection, value, or transcendence.”

Though inconsistent in time period and general context, both Cox and the Ga-

Spirituality, the individual manifestations of a particular religion, can provide us with hope, community, and consolation in times of hardship. Spirituality is a moral compass that provides closure to events that humanity cannot explain.

The converse: the more dogmatic and centralized aspects of religion are the aspects which generally deter and exclude members. A world with virtually unlimited access to information and alternative ways of life no longer requires an unwavering subscription to just one. Religious dogma, which inherently calls for unquestionable belief in a set of principles, can often contradict modern values that seek to empower individuals, rather than confining them to a traditional set of standards.

I asked Divinity School Professor Francis Clooney what the purpose was for students to maintain their religiosity once surrounded by innumerable challenging opinions. His rebuttal: Do students really come to Harvard expecting a nurturing religious environment?

*“At a school where over 70 percent of students trust in some sort of higher power or religious tradition, perhaps what is keeping us tied to our religious identities is not a search for Truth. Perhaps we are actually staying spiritual as a form of survival.”*

in urbanization.

“The political is replacing the metaphysical as the characteristic mode of grasping reality,” Cox wrote in *The Secular City*. “Man must now assume the responsibility for his world. He can no longer shove it off on religious power.”

Cox’s view of humanity’s waning dependence on traditional creed does not come without substantial evidence. The percentage of Americans who do not associate with any established religion has more than quadrupled in the past forty years, and a recent Pew survey found that the percent of Americans who believed in God dropped to 81% in 2022 from around 98% in 1944. Last week, Pew published another survey that projected Christians, who now account for 64% of Americans, to shrink to about 35% of Americans by 2070.

25 years after publishing *The Secular City*, Cox responded to his previous work, and to the global “unanticipated resurgence of traditional religion” of the late 20th century, with an essay. In the essay,

zette story champion a version of religion that many of us are subconsciously adopting. I grew up Catholic, and I enjoy attending the occasional Sunday mass when in need of some peace and quiet. But if asked why I still stay in touch with my religious roots, I would not rush to come to the defense of traditional Catholic creed. Rather, the community, solace, and connection to personal identity inspire my continual engagement.

In his book *Seven Types of Atheism*, English philosopher John Gray writes, “The human mind is programmed for survival, not truth.” At a school where over 70 percent of students trust in *some* sort of higher power or religious tradition, perhaps what is keeping us tied to our religious identities is not a search for Truth. Perhaps we are actually staying *spiritual* as a form of survival.

There are over 4,000 recognized religious identities in the world, many of which are actively practiced at Harvard—yet realistically, only one scientifically correct explanation to life on Earth. But does it really matter which one of these doctrines is the truth?

The answer is no. Harvard is just a fragment of the population, but its diversity in both religiously welcoming and challenging environments are relatively representative of the real world. At a time when we are given countless explanations and theories about our existence, it is easy to lose sight of the different religious cultures and identities that make us unique. However, as both Professor Cox and the Harvard Gazette emphasize, a relationship to religion at any level may improve our quality of life, and it does not necessarily need to resemble what we (or society) thinks it does.

**MARBELLA MARLO '24 (MMARLO@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) EDITS SPORTS FOR THE INDEPENDENT.**



# DECEPTIVE DONATIONS?

*Harvard PSA encourages donations for charities that espouse anti-Israeli and anti-Indian views.*

BY ALEX BERNAT '25

Over the last several weeks, the Harvard Pakistani Students Association (PSA) has been raising money in response to the record-breaking flooding afflicting millions of Pakistani people and their land. PSA has requested Venmo donations from Harvard students and faculty, seeking financial aid for Pakistani flood victims. In a shared Google Doc, PSA explains they direct donations towards one of five Pakistani organizations, including the Women Democratic Front (WDF) and Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS) Pakistan, emphasizing the charities' contributions to the relief effort. However, the student body has not received the full picture of these charities' ideologies. While PSA emphasizes the contributions of the charities, they do not extrapolate on the organiza-

fighting against the Israel's colonial expansionism." The people fighting against "the Israel" are those same people launching the rocket attacks targeting highly populated civilian areas that characterized the May 2021 violence.

The Israeli/Arab conflict is so controversial on our campus, and Harvard students express diverse opinions toward the Jewish state. As a result, students ought to be made explicitly aware that what they believe to be a donation for flood relief may very well be supporting a political message they find abhorrent. Supporting humanitarian relief for these floods is a *mitzvah*. Supporting those who admit they tacitly support rockets targeting civilians is not.

HANDS Pakistan has expressed similar disdain for the Jewish state, among

American soil, it is our responsibility to protect against discrimination, too, fighting the reoccurring patterns of discrimination that contradict the natural rights America is built on. Further, we should recognize that these targeted countries also work to resist such hate. WDF and HANDS represent third parties that exemplify discriminatory values and therefore should remain out of our student body's financial activism.

I urge you to donate to help those affected by this natural disaster. However, when you do so, be mindful of the beneficiary organizations' other goals, aside from disaster relief. Perhaps consider donating through the Red Cross or the United Nations, which do not have explicit agendas or statements targeting minority groups and countries.

*"PSA ought not to ask students to donate to charities who hold dear what is anathema to most Harvard students. So donate—but not to charities that discriminate."*

tions' views towards a number of minority groups, including Indian and Israeli people.

PSA ought not to ask students to donate to charities who hold dear what is anathema to most Harvard students. So donate—but not to charities that discriminate.

The WDF released a May 2021 Statement in response to increased tensions between Israel and Hamas. In the statement, WDF expressed their support for those "people fighting against the Israel's colonial[ism]." They continued by criticizing the United States' "imperialist and oppressive forces" for supporting "Israeli Zionist Forces."

By treating Israel and "Zionists"—a dog-whistle term for Jews—as colonialists, WDF's statement denies a right to Jewish self-determination in our historical homeland. Further, in their statement, WDF extends "deepest solidarities to the people

other groups. In a signed 2020 Memorandum of Understanding between HANDS and Pakistan's government, HANDS pledges not to employ anybody of "Indian or Israeli nationality/origin." HANDS and the Pakistani government extend an ideological hatred beyond the political entity of Israel or India, but rather, to an ideological hatred of an "origin" of these nationalities or ethnicities.

Such generalizations directly contradict the equality promoted in these targeted countries, as well as our own. The United States' civil rights laws state "discrimination based on race, color, or national origin ... is prohibited." Israel, according to a US State Department report, similarly protects against discrimination based on "race, origin, religion, nationality, and gender." India, too, protects "race, gender, disability, language, place of birth" according to the same report.

As Harvard students, sitting on

**ALEX BERNAT '25 (ALEXBERNAT@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WANTS YOU TO DONATE TO HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS.**



# Students or Artists? An Inside Look

This is my final project of Dillion Field House across three different times of the day to represent the life of being a student athlete  
- Angel You '25



The final project for this class was on a self portrait because I rarely of time I need to for painting a self I did a self portrait because it real and even though I look horrifying actually really satisfied after the w



The lack of concrete instruction in the gened was fun because there was no right or wrong way to paint. No pressure, so things turned out pretty shitty, but it's important to let go of all creative expectations sometimes. - Kate Tunnell '24



# Look @ Harvard's Painting Gen-Ed



as any portrait, and I decided  
y look at myself for the amount  
self portrait. I am really happy  
ully made me look at myself,  
g in the painting, I was  
whole process. - David Li '25



I painted this during  
section when we  
practiced figure  
painting for the first  
time with a model.  
After drawing the  
model in different  
positions with  
charcoal in 30  
second and 1-5  
minute segments,  
we repeated the  
process with oil  
paint. For this  
particular painting,  
we had 10 minutes  
to complete it. I  
loved this day in  
section. Short  
intervals forced me  
out of my comfort  
zone from being  
able to spend long  
amounts of time  
on one painting  
and caring less about  
the small details.

- Julia Freitag '25



We were asked to produce  
a monochromatic value  
study of a tool we used  
in our daily lives. I chose  
a neuron because nerves  
are the literal tools that  
allow us to perform  
conscious/subconscious  
physical actions; at the  
same time, my nerve is  
what I often rely on to  
get to the end of my day  
(a very late end of day).  
My goal in this painting  
was to convey the vibrant,  
active, and living nature  
of the neuron; the way  
I place paint on the canvas,  
and the contrast I employ,  
are testaments to that  
desire! - Bank Daniel '25





# DAY TO NIGHT: WHAT TO WEAR THIS FALL

*Students are straying from the basics, but staying comfortable*

BY BECCA ACKERMAN '25

Waking up for class is hard. Figuring out what to wear can be even harder. As seasons and times change, styles and looks adapt. Students have a myriad of fits they wear around campus.

Across the board, chic comfort is a hot choice for students this fall. Whether hungover, tired, or simply wanting comfort, students are normalizing pajamas as everyday pants, paired with sneakers or dressed up with loafers.

Charlotte Baker '24 said loafers are the 2022 comeback for Generation Z. "So many loafers paired with all kinds of outfits—leather jackets, simple colors like blue jeans and white tops, sexy vest moments."

Vests are also having a comeback. Worried about your style when it gets cold? Wear vests, leg warmers, and cardigans to stay warm and add dimension to your outfit. These pieces also add personality to an outfit while providing coverage in these dropping New England temperatures.

Seemingly unusual footwear is another popular way to add personality to your street style. "Slip-on clogs are easy," David Li '25 expressed. "While maybe weird and ugly, they are wacky in a good way. They make a more boring outfit eccentric and show personal style."

Thrifting is also a budget-friendly way to develop fashion flare. "Thrifting allows people to find pieces that are more unique and sustainable," explained Li. "Fast fashion, like Urban Outfitters and Shein, has killed style. These brands create trends instead of having consumers create trends and curating towards that."

Maybe Shein should learn from Baker, who has curated her college apparel with impulse online purchases. "I'm endeavoring to serve academic-but-just-had-sex," she said. "Juicy prints, not-my-grandfather's big, bulky leather jacket, boots made for stomping, and a milkmaid's son. That's my fall vibe."

Li, on the other hand, prefers "an edgy look. Instead of the New England dainty, preppy, Lily Pulitzer vibe, I want to see work pants, a wife beater, chunky oxfords, and a big denim jacket giving Broke Back Mountain." Swap your romper for a pair of overalls and whatever shoes complement your aesthetic.

Around campus, Li has noticed  
**FORUM | 10** "people exploring fashion

that is outside of comfort zones and gender norms, experimenting with womens' clothing on a man and man's clothing on a woman, blending the line between gendered fashion. Women wearing men's outerwear, baggy silhouettes, etc. are very in."

Brooke Stanford '25 stated that "baggy pants" are in this season and has been for the last few years since the canceling of skinny jeans. These baggy jeans include distressed, clean, ripped, and boot cut styles.

Even when baggy, do jeans feel too rigid? Sweatpants, leggings, and sweatshirts are more often chosen as reliable staples that ensure a cozy walk to class. Mimi Koenig '25 is loyal to the "quarter zip." More formal than a sweatshirt, but not yet a full-on sweater, this functional item should be in everyone's closet.

When rushing from physics labs to a punch event, ditch the quarter zip, but keep the backpack—it is the hottest new accessory. Small accessories and everyday pieces have also evolved. "More men are wearing earrings I've noticed," says Li. Additionally, he praises the "over the ear headphone culture." Maybe take off the headphones for punch, but there are many

ways to dress up your problem-set attire. Chunky jewelry, patterned socks, bright belts, and complicated hairstyles can elevate an outfit.

Eliza Kimball '25 picks out pieces that are "unironically a 50s housewife," which transition well from day to night. Pair a more conservative dress with jewelry, bright colored shoes, and a matching lip to add some youthful fun. Big statement pieces are all the rage. Loud florals, bright, luscious knits, and sequins contrast well with tailored suit pants, baggy trousers, and silky silhouettes to integrate the out-there into ordinary life. Add big boots, ballet flats, or chunky sneakers to finish off the look.

At the end of the day, we all have our own styles! Wear what makes you happy and confident. If you look good, you feel good.

**BECCA ACKERMAN '25'S (RACK-  
ERMAN@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU)  
LOAFERS ARE ALTERING THE BONE  
STRUCTURE OF HER FOOT.**

**GRAPHIC BY SEATTLE HICKEY '25**





# TOP TEN RED AND GREEN FLAGS AT HARVARD

*What to look for when looking to date, according to Indy Compers*

BY CRAIG MCFARLAND '24 AND FALL 2022 COMP CLASS



## *Top Ten Red Flags*

Here at the Big H, you undoubtedly will rub shoulders with some precious students: future politicians, Nobel Peace Prize winners, acclaimed artists, and maybe the next Mark Zuckerberg. But your Crimson classmates undoubtedly have red flags, too...

### 10. They live in the Quad

- Kya Brooks '25, Theo Taubman '26, Amiya Tiwari '26, Cole Yellin '26, and Lily Liu '25

### 9. They wear a CS50 Puzzle Day shirt unironically

- Jen Yu '25, Carly Brail '26, Allegra Wong '26, El Richards '26, and Alexandra Dorofeev '25

### 8. They don't wear shoes in the Weld communal shower

- Mimi Koenig '25, Max Menin '26, Annelise Fisher '26, and David Li '25

### 7. You met them in Tasty Burger Basement

- Maddy Tunnell '26 and Angel Wan '26

### 6. They text "u up?" past Brain Break hours

- Rowan Mally '26, Gauri Sood '26, and Riya Kapoor '23

### 5. They added you on LinkedIn

- Kate Kadyan '26, Zayid Alam '25, and Azusa Lippit '26

### 4. They schedule their hookups on Google Calendar

- Kate Kadyan '26, Zayid Alam '25, and Azusa Lippit '26

### 3. They have navy blue bed sheets

- Isabelle Behring '26, Georgina Younes '25, Matt Melucci '26, and Reeve Sykes '26

### 2. Their favorite acronyms are IB, PE, MBB, SWE...

- Kate Kadyan '26, Zayid Alam '25, and Azusa Lippit '26

### 1. They go for the pre-frosh during Visitas

- Clara Corcoran '25, Jessie Liu '24, and Adedoyin Adebayo '26

### BONUS

### They're not comping The Indy!

- Everyone

## *Top Ten Green Flags*

Now imagine the cup half full. What are the praiseworthy traits of Harvard students? Maybe your suitemate is taking Math 55A or HUM10. Maybe the section kid in EC10A just updated their LinkedIn with their new summer experience. But what about the things that really matter here at Harvard?

### 10. They have a top sheet on their bed

- Maddy Tunnell '26 and Angel Wan '26

### 9. They have a Department of Athletics sweatshirt that you could steal

- Isabelle Behring '26, Georgina Younes '25, Matt Melucci '26, and Reeve Sykes '26

### 8. They're willing to walk to the Quad for you

- Kya Brooks '25, Theo Taubman '26, Amiya Tiwari '26, Cole Yellin '26, and

Lily Liu '25

### 7. They gives you notes in section when you haven't done the reading

- Jen Yu '25, Carly Brail '26, Allegra Wong '26, El Richards '26, and Alexandra Dorofeev '25

### 6. They're brave enough to sexile their suitemates

- Franny Connors '26, Alex Carlin '26, Asher Chamoy '25

### 5. They use their Board Plus to get you coffee

- Kya Brooks '25, Theo Taubman '26, Amiya Tiwari '26, Cole Yellin '26, and Lily Liu '25

### 4. They protect you from the roaches in Eliot House

- Clara Corcoran '25, Jessie Liu '24, and Adedoyin Adebayo '26

### 3. They call their mom but not every day

- Kate Kadyan '26, Zayid Alam '25, and Azusa Lippit '26

### 2. They have been featured on Dean Rakesh Khurana's Instagram

- Jen Yu '25, Carly Brail '26, Allegra Wong '26, El Richards '26, and Alexandra Dorofeev '25

### 1. They have a single

- Isabelle Behring '26, Georgina Younes '25, Matt Melucci '26, and Reeve Sykes '26

GRAPHIC BY REEVE SYKES '26



# STEAL THE REST OF YOUR SEPTEMBER

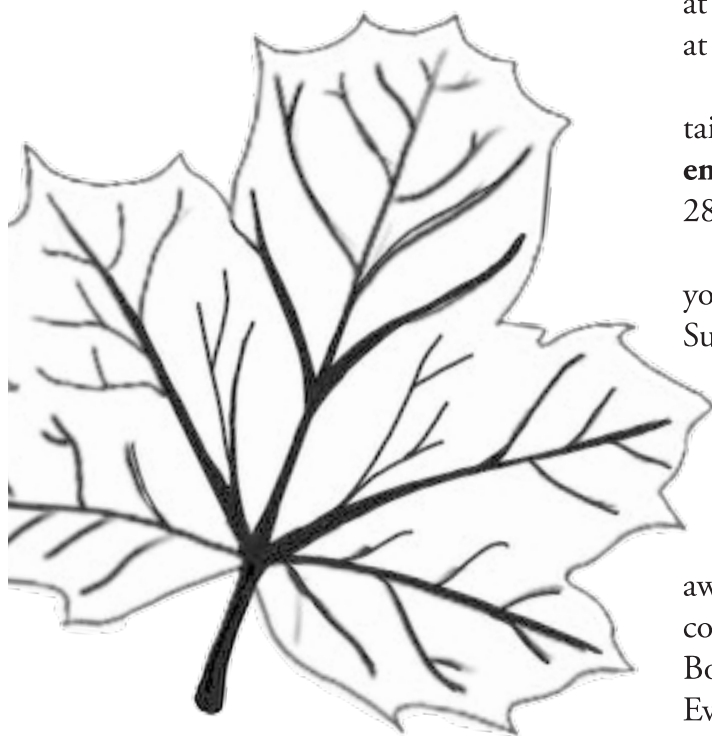
## *Alternatives activities to the Tasty Burger Basement*

BY CLAIRE BEDDINGFIELD '25

There's nothing like a club darty or a game of pong in a cramped, smelly dorm room to round out the end of a Harvard week. But as students settle back into life on campus, it's good to remember that beer games are not all Cambridge has to offer. Sometimes it's nice to go across the Charles River, too—and no, I don't mean having another disappointing night at Bijou.

These sports games, flea markets, festivals and more will spice up your weekly itinerary. Read on and plan your next week.

1. While tickets for the Boston Film Festival and Manhattan Short Film Festival may now be sold out, opportunities to explore cinema close to campus remain alive and well. Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) Boston invites spectators to enjoy four award-winning films from emerging talent around the world: Spain, Costa Rica, Croatia, and France. MFA's **The Boston Women's Film Festival Fall Showcase** will be screening carlota Pereda's "Piggy," Nathalie Álvarez Mesén's "Clara Sola," Antone-ta Alamat Kusijanović's "Murina," and Audrey Diwan's "Happening" from September 23-25, joining together cineastes and creatives alike in a showcase that celebrates the power of the female voice. Tickets for each individual viewing can be purchased on MFA's website at \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members.



2. **Oktoberfest**, the annual folk festival in Munich, began this past Saturday after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic. Though most students won't be able to make the seven-hour flight to Germany, there is absolutely no reason for a good pair of lederhosen to go to waste. The holiday, marked by stein-hoisting—a competition testing who can hold a stone mug of beer at an arm's length for the longest—Schnitzel, and Bavarian beer, can still be enjoyed right here in Boston. From 5 pm to midnight on Thursday, September 29th, jazz-bar and restaurant The Beehive will host their 15th annual Oktoberfest Der Beehive, featuring music from Cocek! Brass Band. Dinner reservations, made on their website, are recommended, though one can

still get a seat at the bar. Alternatively, Samuel Adams Downtown Taproom Oktoberfest offers stein-hoisting competitions, live music, food trucks, and pop-up shops from September 23-25. Pre-sale tickets for \$10 include a free first pint and can be found online.

3. **Carly Rae Jepsen** is performing on September 26th, so for those averse to the jarring cacophony of "Call Me Maybe," make sure to stay away from Roadrunner after 8 p.m. Instead, I invite all "Harvest Moon" enthusiasts to storm The Burren the night before. The Irish pub and restaurant will host the Forever Young band for a **tribute to the songs of Neil Young**. Enjoy dinner and drinks in The Back Room as, for the fourteenth year, the band engages with all types of Young's works from rock to folk to country. The concert will be on Sunday, September 25th at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

4. Harvard's quidditch team, the Horn-tails, has its **Massachusetts Quidditch Conference (MQC) Opener** on Tuesday, September 28th. Enough said.

5. Frog Pond has been the site of free yoga classes since the beginning of June, but Summer Yoga ends in two weeks, leaving Bostonians only September 22nd and September 29th to participate. The program, part of the Boston Parks Summer Fitness Series, offers individuals of all ages and abilities the chance to dive into meditation, sweat away stress, and engage with the larger Boston community every Thursday from 6 to 7 pm in Boston Commons. Sign up for the workout on Eventbrite.

6. **The New England Patriots play against the Baltimore Ravens** at 1 pm. on September 25th at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. The two NFL teams have been in a bitter rivalry since 2007 and will go head to head this coming Sunday, with both teams holding one win and one loss since the 2022 season began on September 8th. Tickets to the game are available on numerous online platforms.

7. Since 2011, **Food Truck Festivals of America (FTFA)** has striven to support small business owners by bringing the gourmet food truck trend to the foodies of New England. This year, FTFA will host nearly one hundred different

food and craft beer vendors from noon to 6 pm. on Saturday, September 24th and Sunday, September 25th at its Food Truck and Craft Beer Festival in Salem. Visitors are invited to chase down lobster rolls, chicken tacos, chocolate-covered strawberries, and Sopapillas with craft beers from over fifty different vendors—one of which is (unfortunately) selling cheeseburger dumplings. Tickets can be purchased on their website via Showpass.

8. This weekend, **pro.found's fall vintage market** will bring together over 120 vintage, antique, art, and lifestyle curators in an event which embraces "collaboration over competition."

The event takes place in Lancaster Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, September 24th and 25th, with tickets starting at \$12.

Visitors are encouraged to engage with this curated community of small business owners by perusing through antique watches, hand-made linen duvet covers, and vintage bar carts. Although the market is a forty-five minute drive from campus and alarmingly resembles *Midsommar* before all the human sacrifice, the chance to explore different vintage and hand-made gems while sipping on wine, munching on tasty foods, and listening to local artists, makes the event well worth the drive—and subsequent nightmares.

**CLAIRE BEDDINGFIELD '25 (CLAIREBEDDINGFIELD@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS AWAITING THE 18TH ANNUAL BOSTON PIGNIC WITH BATED BREATH.**

**GRAPHIC BY ISABEL EDDY '24**





# FROM BEST TO WORST: MATCHA IN THE SQUARE

*The good, the bad, and the watery: we tasted six matcha lattes so you don't have to*

BY GRACE VON OISTE '24 AND YASMINE BAZOS '24

Some like coffee. Some like tea. Others need a little more. Enter the matcha latte. It's lightly caffeinated, giving you the slow buzz you need to stay alert morning or night. The matcha tea that forms its base is high in antioxidants and has been shown to have numerous health benefits, including promoting liver and gut health and reducing the risk of heart disease. And whether it's served with oat milk or regular, iced or hot, the taste is unmatched.

We took to the Cambridge streets on a mission to find the best matcha in the Square.

## Flour

Flour takes the cake—pun intended. This matcha latte is better iced, but you really can't go wrong. It's luscious—creamy and smooth—and the perfect green color. Not too sweet, but not too bitter, striking the perfect balance. Add your own simple syrup for an extra kick—or don't—either way, it's perfect.

## Blue Bottle

If you like to online order a matcha for quick pickup, this isn't your spot. But if you have some time to kill, then Blue Bottle's matcha is worth your while. Creamy, potent, and not bitter, this matcha takes a long time to make for a reason. If you're feeling extra adventurous, try their Hojicha, which is a toasted matcha that gives the drink a bit more of a deep, earthy taste.

## Pavement

This matcha latte is definitely a sweet one. It's the perfect pick-me-up when you're in the mood for something on the sugary side of things. The latte has a distinct taste and has a pretty good matcha powder to liquid ratio. Go for oat milk—it's like dessert.

## Tatte

A classic. It's creamy, has just the right amount of foam, and Tatte makes you wait just long enough to really crave it by the time you get it. Perfect location to grab one post-Boylston lecture. You can never go wrong with a beverage the color of the Green Monster!

## Life Alive

Nope, not a fan of this one. It might be that the ambience of Life Alive is characterized by vegetables, but this drink tastes like vegetables. Even with oat or almond milk supplemented, it lacks creaminess. Although Life Alive offers a daily dose of health, that might not be what you're looking for in a Matcha latte.

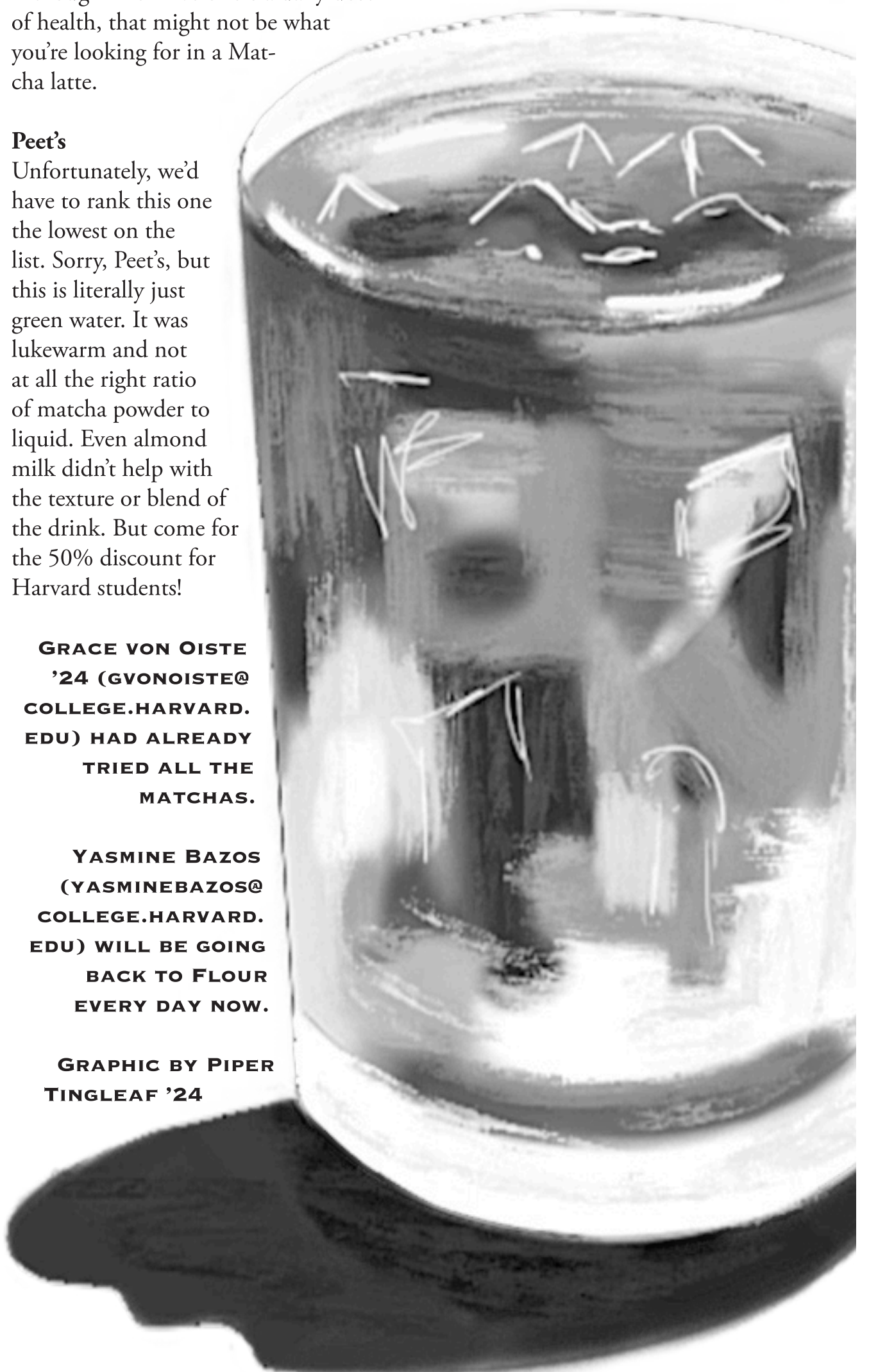
## Peet's

Unfortunately, we'd have to rank this one the lowest on the list. Sorry, Peet's, but this is literally just green water. It was lukewarm and not at all the right ratio of matcha powder to liquid. Even almond milk didn't help with the texture or blend of the drink. But come for the 50% discount for Harvard students!

GRACE VON OISTE  
'24 (GVONOISTE@  
COLLEGE.HARVARD.  
EDU) HAD ALREADY  
TRIED ALL THE  
MATCHAS.

YASMINE BAZOS  
(YASMINEBAZOS@  
COLLEGE.HARVARD.  
EDU) WILL BE GOING  
BACK TO FLOUR  
EVERY DAY NOW.

GRAPHIC BY PIPER  
TINGLEAF '24





# MULES, MARGS, AND MARTINIS, OH MY!

## Libations in the Square

BY GOGO TAUBMAN '24 AND WILL GOLDSMITH '24

From the classic destination of Grendel's Den to spots off the beaten path of Harvard students, we tried eight drinks so you know where to go for your next big night out.

### Noir Bar

#### "Fleur De Lys" – 8/10

*Vodka, Lime, Herbes de Provence, Peach*

Noir's Fleur De Lys is wonderfully fresh, a reminder of the summer, but it also packs the necessary punch. Our first drink on the docket typifies the perfect balance of sourness and sweetness. It's so good it's perhaps too easy to sip down. The martini glass it floats about in adds the perfect level of sophistication to the cocktail.

### Waypoint

#### "Fairly Buzzed" – 9.5/10

*BCN gin, italicus, lemon, orange bitters, absinthe, buzz buttons, honey*

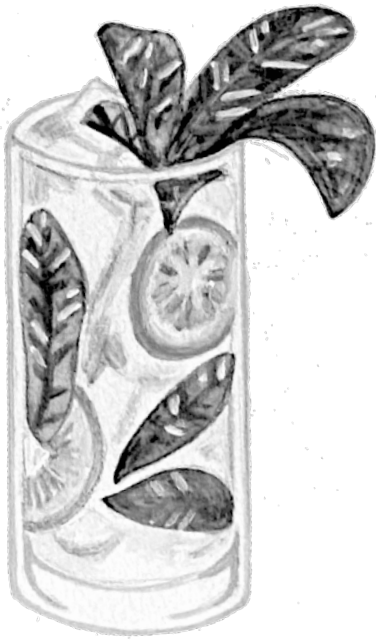
Waypoint is known for their absinthe drinks, so we decided to partake in their best-selling absinthe cocktail. The "Fairly Buzzed" did not disappoint. Going in for the first sip, we were met with its cloudy and subtly sweet foam, visually accented by the fancy shine of gold leaf. As the foam enters your mouth, your tongue is surrounded in the tangy liquorice taste of the underlying absinthe mix. Absinthe is said to have hallucinogenic properties, which, unfortunately, neither of us felt. However, the absinthe created a welcomed mildly numbing sensation—like a dulled down version of pop rocks on your tongue. The meeting of the foam with the citrus and liquorice create a sublime refreshment that remains paradoxically

light and thick all at once. Order this drink and effortlessly transport your senses to a classy bar in 1920s Ibiza sitting next to Oscar Wilde.

#### "Moscow Mule" – 7/10

*Vodka, ginger beer, lime*

Waypoint's Moscow Mule is lacking in ginger. And its tall, slender glass feels out of touch with the drink's typical rustic aesthetic of a copper mug. On the other hand, this Mule offers the perfect level of sourness, and its smooth flavor is admirable. While it could certainly be a bit stronger, it goes down quite well.



#### "Skinny Spicy Margarita" – 7/10

*Tequila, lime, triple sec, chili*

This skinny spicy margarita went down exceptionally well in the "tastes like juice til you can't walk" kind of way. The flavoring included the perfect amount of lime, melded with the tequila to create a drink that I consumed way too fast.

Waypoint does not use any simple syrup in their drinks, which made it surprising to me that this drink was so sweet—almost overwhelmingly so. While the glass's salted rim complemented the cocktail well, the salt and the flavor of the tequila failed to fully cut through the overwhelming sugariness, and the drink lacked the kick it promised. Next time, we'll ask for extra spice and less sugar.

### Charlie's Kitchen

#### "Moscow Mule" – 6/10

Like Waypoint's, Charlie's Moscow Mule leaves patrons satisfied but not amazed. Its potency is severely lacking and it is infused with an excessive amount of ginger. Charlie's Mule is, however, a reliable libation—a libation incapable of being turned down. Despite its defects, it does its job: you'll finish the glass feeling very pleased, if not jubilant.

#### "Skinny Spicy Margarita" – 4.5/10

Go to Charlie's for the vibes, not its skinny spicy margarita. Though it has the perfect amount of spice and kick, it lacks integral qualities of the classic skinny spicy marg. We could not discern any hint of floral citrus liqueur and there was not enough lime to cut into the clear taste of bottom shelf tequila. Adding slightly more orange

flavoring or lime may have also made up for the drink's unwelcomed bitter aftertaste. Nonetheless, the spice of the drink (and the wonderful Charlie's atmosphere) somewhat make up for the drink's shortcomings.



### Grendel's

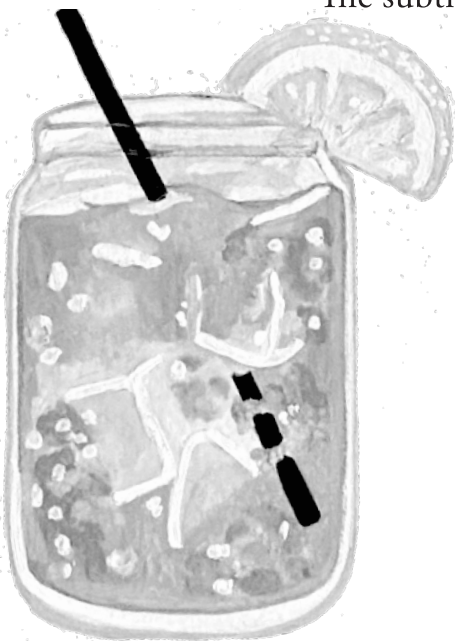
#### "Moscow Mule" – 8.75/10

Grendel's Moscow Mule sits at the apex of Cambridge Mules. Its mason-jar-like dwelling makes the drink decidedly aesthetically pleasing, evoking calmness and warmth. This Mule also boasts the optimal ginger to lime ratio and can be consumed with remarkable ease. Although it could be a bit stronger, Grendel's Mule nevertheless stands as the Platonic ideal of this familiar gingery delight.

#### "Skinny Spicy Margarita" – 8/10

Out of all the skinny spicy margaritas we tried, Grendel's is by far the best. The notes of orange and lime in this drink perfectly cut into the classic jalepeño spice

The subtle carbonation, coupled with the kick of spice that developed in the drink's aftertaste, made for an energizing sensation reminiscent of an afternoon of day drinking and sun bathing. Though this drink was a bit too sweet, its ranking as the best skinny spicy margarita on this list still stands.



GOGO TAUBMAN '24  
(GTAUBMAN@COLLEGE.  
HARVARD.EDU)

WILL GOLDSMITH '24 (WILLGOLD-  
SMITH@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU)  
TRIED ALL THESE DRINKS IN ONE  
NIGHT.

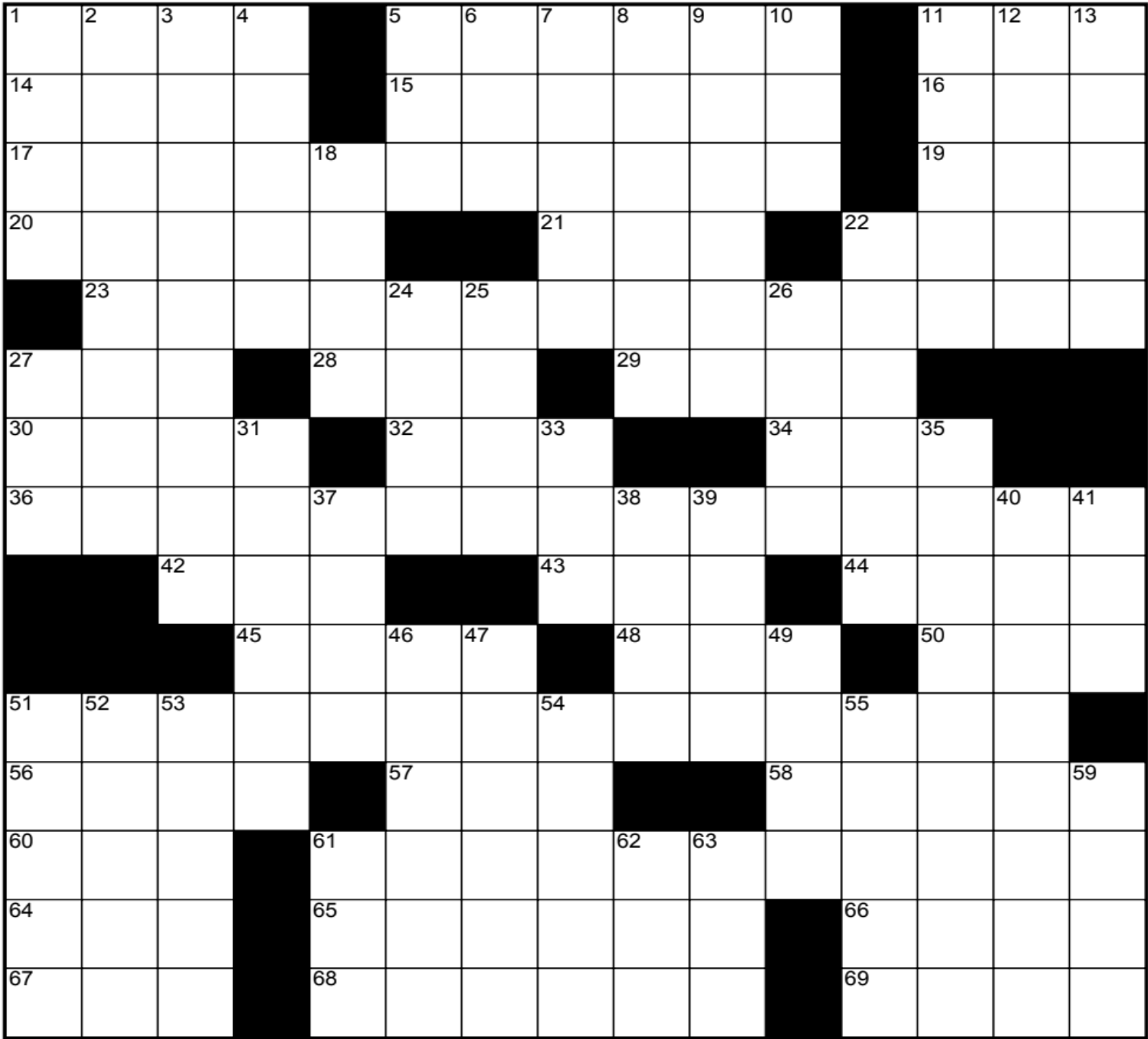
GRAPHICS BY PIPER TINGLEAF '24





# INSIDE STORY

BY PETER LASKIN '23



- 31 Appropriate  
33 Book that Time magazine called “a scholarly Everest”  
35 Traffic artery  
37 Clue weapon  
38 PlayStation maker  
39 School up the coast from LA  
40 One extending a line  
41 Suffix for winning, in sports journalism  
46 Dissonant  
47 Like  
49 Liver in Lille  
51 Tot precursor  
52 Garlicky emulsion  
53 Cluster of hatchlings  
54 Send to the statehouse  
55 Unspecific amount of seasoning  
59 Kind of person one is often attracted to  
61 “Documentary Now!” channel  
62 Cheerleader’s syllable  
63 Army unit?

PETER LASKIN '23

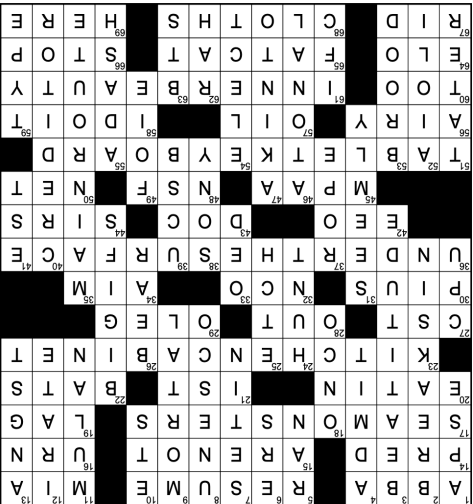
## ACROSS

- 1 “Money, Money, Money” group  
5 Document under a cover  
11 Singer born Maya Arulpragasam  
14 Subj. counterpart  
15 Potential response to “Am not!”  
16 “Ode on a Grecian \_\_\_\_”  
17 \*Denizens of the deep  
19 Annoyance for gamers  
20 “Garden of \_\_\_\_” (punny snack food brand)  
21 Novel’s conclusion?  
22 Belfry residents  
23 \*Unofficial presidential advisors  
27 Winter setting in Milwaukee  
28 Unsafe?  
29 Designer Cassini  
30 Apt name for a pope  
32 Sgt., e.g.  
34 Set one’s sights  
36 Beyond the superficial... or where

- the answers to the starred clues might be found  
42 Fair-hiring letters  
43 Glasses-wearing dwarf  
44 “Dear \_\_\_\_,”  
45 Movie reviewing org.  
48 Govt. funder of basic research  
50 Where to get caught up?  
51 \*iPad accessory, perhaps  
56 Light and breezy  
57 Palm product  
58 With 58-Across, “You’re not alone in that weird habit”  
60 See 58-Across  
61 \*Affectionate personality, perhaps  
64 “Mr. Blue Sky” group  
65 High-roller  
66 Order in an octagon  
67 Get \_\_ of (expel)  
68 Fabrics  
69 Where you are right now

## DOWN

- 1 Cathedral area  
2 Kicks down the door, perhaps  
3 Supernatural serenity  
4 Let on, as a boat or as a secret  
5 Was in charge of  
6 Common settings for medical dramas  
7 Take effect  
8 Org. at Mammoth Cave and Chaco Canyon  
9 Doomed to die  
10 UFO pilots, maybe  
11 Woman in disguise as a soldier named Ping  
12 Hoppin’ mad  
13 Inner turmoil  
18 Cancerous prefix  
22 Significant assumptions  
24 Wild \_\_\_\_ (European folklore motif involving a chase)  
25 Set in stone  
26 “The \_\_\_\_” (show about a disillusioned gourmet chef)  
27 Computer’s “brain”





# WE BELONG TO NO ONE BUT OURSELVES

THE HARVARD INDEPENDENT PUBLISHES EVERY WEEK DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR BY THE HARVARD INDEPENDENT, INC., 12 ARROW STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

NPE

Mary Julia Lock