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# STUDENTS HAVE MIXED REACTIONS TO BILL DE BLASIO'S IOP FELLOWSHIP

*What to know about the contentious former mayor of New York City's fall 2022 fellowship at the IOP*

BY HANNAH DAVIS '25

The Harvard Institute of Politics holds that former New York City mayor Bill de Blasio will be an asset to the institute this fall. But some students are doubtful, citing his contentious political record.

As part of the IOP's Visiting Fellow program, de Blasio is required to visit for a short but intensive period during the semester, participating in up to three events a day and holding small study groups with students.

"Mayor de Blasio's decades of experience in local government, federal agencies, national campaigns, and running the largest city in the country will provide invaluable insight to our students and the Harvard community," IOP Interim Director Setti Warren shared in a press release.

De Blasio's tenure in politics began in 2002 when he served on the New York City Council as a representative for the 39th district in Brooklyn. He held the position of New York City Public Advocate from 2010 to 2013 and served as the 109th mayor of the city from 2014 to 2021, subsequently running for president of the United States in 2020 and for Congress in 2022. He dropped out of both races due to low polling.

Jack Silvers '25, who is part of the IOP's John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum and a resident of Scarsdale, New York, said he was "puzzled" when he found out about de Blasio's fellowship. "As a New Yorker who watched him try to will himself into a higher job than mayor for years, it's not that surprising he would want to be involved with Harvard somehow," Silvers said. But he was not entirely opposed to de Blasio's fellowship, and cited the extensive political experience he brings to the role.

"His past is complicated and who knows what his legacy will be like. I hope students engage with his study group. I just worry about the stigma from his presidential run and antics as mayor."

As New York City mayor, de Blasio created democratic reforms in education,

reduced stop and frisk encounters, and increased Covid-19 vaccinations. Most notably, de Blasio expanded universal public pre-Kindergarten to include four-year-olds, increased the minimum wage to \$15/hour, and built and preserved 200,000 affordable apartments.

However, the former mayor has been criticized for failing to help New York solve other problems. Shootings and homicides increased to nearly twice their pre-pandemic levels as of last fall. A disproportionate 86% of people stopped by the police were Black or Latino, and 61% were later found innocent. The number of single adults living in

of political chess.

"Honestly I don't have a great impression of de Blasio," said Owen Wiese '25, who grew up in Manhattan. "I think he irked a lot of New Yorkers by campaigning for president in other states when NYC was dealing with a lot of problems. He generally was perceived as politically opportunistic and someone who changed his opinions based on who he was talking to."

Wiese also recognized the value that "someone who has been in such an influential position and helped make influential decisions" would bring to the Institute.

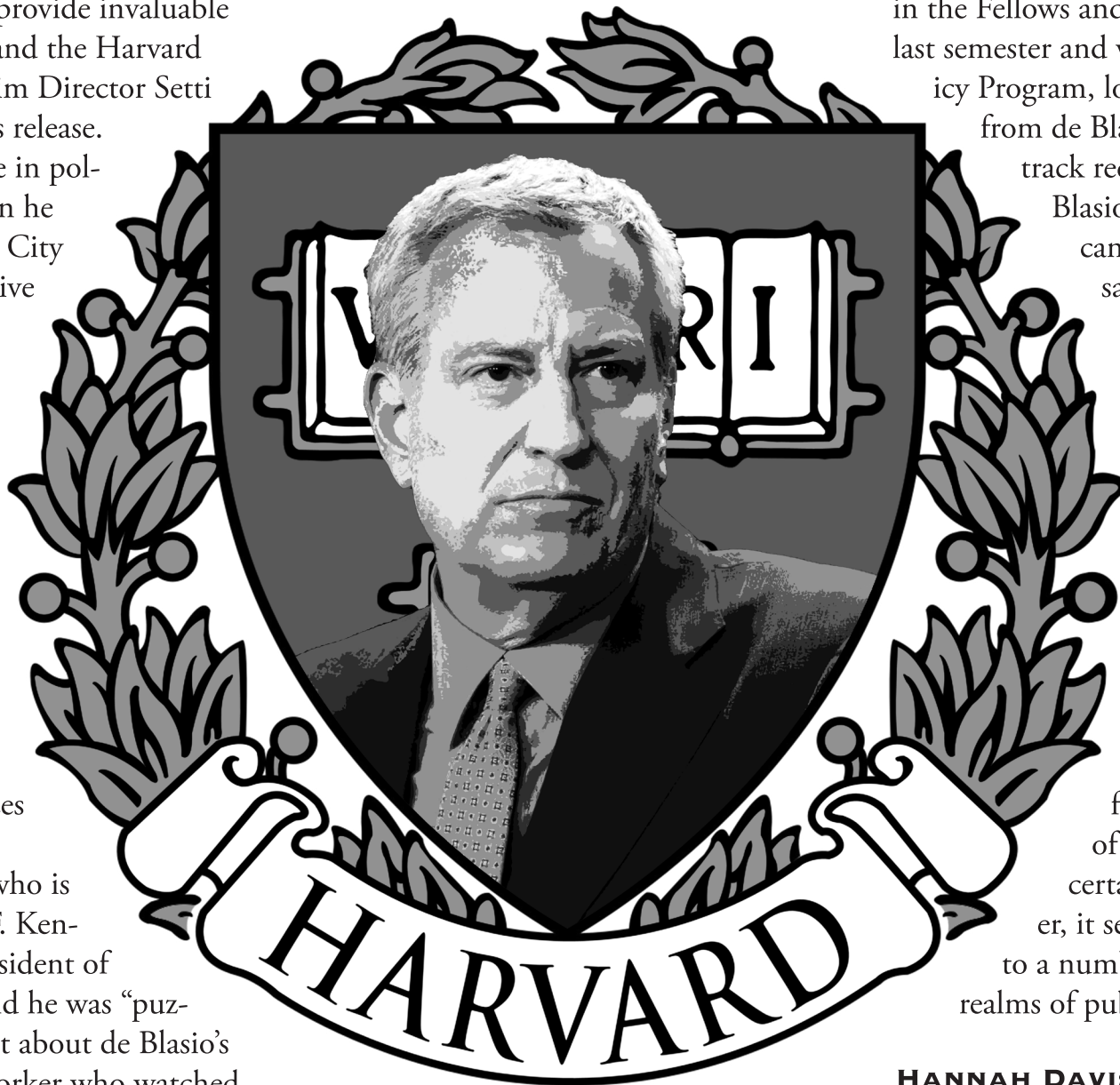
Lucas Gazianis '24, who participated in the Fellows and Study Groups program last semester and works with the IOP Policy Program, looks forward to learning from de Blasio, regardless of his track record. "Whether or not de

Blasio was a good mayor, he can still be a valuable fellow," said Gazianis. "Anyone who leads New York City has an array of highly unique experiences, and as long as de Blasio is a patient and candid teacher, students will likely get a lot out of his fellowship."

The IOP does not choose fellows based on their popularity, Gazianis explained. "An IOP fellowship is not a way of endorsing the record of certain public figures. Rather, it seeks to expose students to a number of leaders in different realms of public service."

**HANNAH DAVIS '25 (HANNAHDAVIS@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS EXCITED TO ATTEND SOME OF THE FORMER NEW YORK CITY MAYOR'S EVENTS THIS SEMESTER.**

**GRAPHIC BY MARINA ZOULLAS '23**



shelters increased by 65%. Seventy percent of schools are still segregated.

In a press release, de Blasio expressed his enthusiasm for his new role. "I am happy to join the IOP to help inspire our nation's next generation of leaders to find ways to serve in politics and public service, and to build a government that serves working people."

This statement echoes his campaign slogan of putting "working people first," which made some students wonder if Harvard is just another pawn in de Blasio's game

# AN “INTENTIONAL” LIFESTYLE

## *Demystifying the Dudley Co-op*

BY ANDREW SPIELMANN '25

The broad majority of Harvard students live in one of the twelve upperclassmen houses they were assigned to freshman year, but another housing option exists beyond this traditional structure, which some students call home, and others have never even heard of: The Dudley Co-op.

The Co-op is part of The Dudley Community, which is equivalent to a House in its academic resources, but far from it when it comes to lifestyle. With two physical houses situated between Harvard and Porter Squares—one on Massachusetts Avenue containing common spaces and the other on Sacramento Street containing living spaces—the Co-op houses around 32 undergraduates and two graduate student tutors, in addition to students living off-campus. Residents have chosen to disaffiliate from their assigned Houses to join what Cam Parsons Muniz '25 calls an “intentional community.”

Early in his freshman year, Muniz met a few students who brought him to the Co-op, and he immediately liked the space and its people. After moving into the Co-op as soon as he could this fall, Muniz has learned that being an active member of the tight-knit community requires pitching in with cooking, cleaning, and other chores. “The expectation is if you’re benefiting from the community that you give back to it,” he said.

Members are held accountable through a points system. A chore like washing dishes counts for more points than bread baking, where the rewards come in the form of communal praise. “We have a weekly bread chore, where you do a baked good and then everyone comes down and enjoys what you’ve made,” Muniz explained.

The Co-op has fostered a progressive and inclusive group of people since its founding in 1958. This inclusivity is on show every day—Dudley’s meals are mostly vegan, attracting a high number of vegetarian and vegan students. Its student population has historically been predominantly queer. Ultimately, the Co-op welcomes those who desire a more independent style of living than traditional Harvard Houses allow, in which “it’s hard to give up having access to a kitchen 24/7,” Muniz said.

At the same time, it is deeply participatory. “I really love it here,” Muniz expressed. “I think this is a really beautiful community and a really interesting way to live and it’s worth experimenting with. I’m really sad that we’re the only option here at Harvard for this kind of living, because I think that there are many other ways to do something similar which I would like to experience.”

Awareness of Dudley mainly comes from word-of-mouth advertising; students will often visit the Co-op by chance and end up liking it. Recruitment suffered during the host public events and fewer people were living on or near campus. Currently, the Co-op is searching for new members, and those interested are free to join one of their daily dinners at 6:30 PM to talk to the residents or check out their website. If you are bored of regular dorm living, this may be the community for you.

**ANDREW SPIELMANN  
'25 (ANDREWSPIEL-  
MANN@COLLEGE.HAR-  
VARD.EDU) FINDS THIS  
VERY TEMPTING.**

**GRAPHIC BY ISABEL EDDY  
'24**



# LOSING A HOUSE AWAY FROM HOME

*The growing popularity of off-campus housing signals the weakened appeal of Harvard Houses*

BY ELIZA KIMBALL '25

Harvard's twelve Houses have lost their appeal for some students who enjoyed off-campus living during the Covid-19 crisis. Even after most students returned to the time-honored tradition of on-campus housing in the fall of 2021, 265 undergraduates remained in off-campus housing—more than double the Harvard standard of roughly 100 students. These self-exiled students are attracted to the benefits of extra space and unsupervised housing offered by independent apartment living. The upperclassmen Houses have welcomed the Class of 2025, but with record high class sizes, many upperclassmen are squished in doubles and other unsatisfactory housing arrangements.

Harvard College prides itself on the centuries-old lore of the housing system. “Most students and alumni consider the House system one of the hallmarks of their Harvard experiences. Considering the diversity of student backgrounds, interests, and talents, Harvard’s residential program enhances the degree to which students learn from one another,” reads the College website. Harvard offers—and encourages—on-campus housing to all undergraduates during the four years.

The authentic Harvard spirit found in the twelve Houses induces most students to remain in the Houses. Madison Pankey '24 considered the benefits of off-campus housing with her roommates but ultimately believes she would have regretted leaving Dunster House for a more adult lifestyle. “People who live off campus aren’t in the House community at all,” Pankey shared. “That’s one reason why I wouldn’t want to [move off campus] where I’m at right now as a junior. I love being in my House and I love getting to see everybody. Off-campus friends don’t go to House [events and common spaces].”

Most on-campus Harvard students appreciate the spontaneous conversations found with their fellow housemates over unfinished homework and late-night munchies. However, with the exodus into apartments and the looming effects of the pandemic, the House identity has weakened.

“Twenty or thirty years ago, the Houses used to have a unique and independent feel.

Students were grouped together

by interest a little more, which makes House identity feel a little stronger,” says Nicholas Hutchinson '23, a current senior living in an off-campus apartment with friends. He credits the random selection of students in each House for its lack of community.

Hutchinson was ultimately motivated to leave campus not because of a weakening appreciation for the Houses, but for the ability to host social or academic events. “[Our apartment] allows us to host more people... whether that’s dinners, events, or parties, or really anything throughout the days or the weekend,” he says. “It’s much more flexible, and a nice space to have.”

When residential life at Harvard was closed during the 2020-2021 school year, many undergraduates lived in apartments in

chose to live off-campus in order to live with other friends beyond Eliot.

Harvard’s residential life allows students to transfer into another House, but the system is flawed. Transfer placements often get confirmed a week before move in, after all roommate preferences have been submitted. “There is a lot of uncertainty with transferring,” Steiner admits. “I just needed secure housing, and I knew [an apartment] was going to work well... You don’t always find out [your new House] until the very end of the summer.”

After moving from Adams House to an off-campus apartment, Hutchinson accepts “a marginal change” to his college experience without a House community. “I think going into the [dining] hall is super nice to interact with people...that you don’t necessarily spend

time with that often.

It was nice to chat up with very various good, different people,” says Hutchinson as he reminisces on his experience in Adams House.

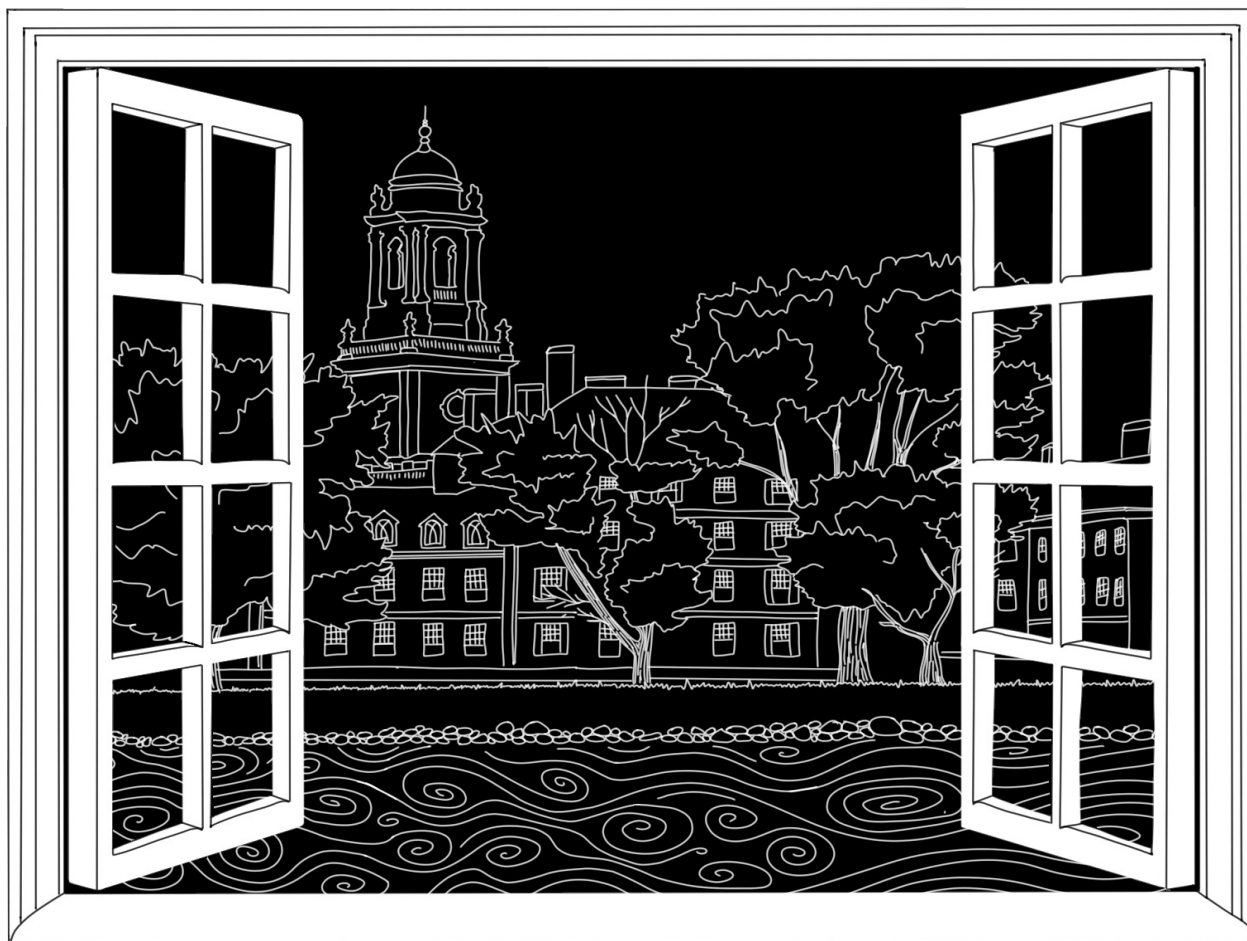
While still a proponent of Harvard’s unique housing system, Pankey denied the notion that off-campus housing is always more expensive than room and board. “If you do off-campus housing correctly, like it can totally be cheaper, especially without the food plan,” she added.

Many students are still wary of the economic

and social disparity between students on and off campus. Steiner admits this as her primary concern with her new apartment. “Cambridge rent is crazy expensive,” Steiner shared. “Is this just putting me in a group of people exactly in my situation instead of branching out anymore?” she considered, regarding leaving her Harvard-assigned roommate in Eliot.”

**ELIZA KIMBALL '25 (ELIZAKIMBALL@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WROTE THIS ARTICLE IN A DUNSTER-COURTYARD HAMMOCK.**

**GRAPHIC BY CANDACE GARDNER '24**



the Cambridge area in an attempt to salvage a community around campus. After a taste of the off-campus benefits, some students resist the transition back to supervised living and shared bedrooms in the Houses.

Clara Steiner '24 said the transition back to campus life is difficult, arguing that off-campus living “is more popular amongst kids that took gap years... If you have lived in an apartment, you know what that’s like and don’t want to go back to a dorm. I guess that’s backwards.” Steiner was driven to off-campus housing after living in a dorm for six years in boarding school and undergraduate housing.

Before being placed into one of the twelve Houses, Harvard first-years are required to create blocking groups of up to eight students assigned to the same House. After blocking by herself, Steiner was randomly assigned a roommate in Eliot House, and subsequently

# HOUSING HORRORS

*Between mattress fires and delayed storage lockers, some students are still moving in nearly two weeks after arriving on campus*

BY HANNAH FRAZER '25 & BECCA ACKERMAN '25

**F**lamming hot mattresses, last-minute switch-ups, and missing boxes: campus move-in this year was replete with complications, handing students troubles and trifles as they moved into their dorms last week.

On August 22, a truck filled with the Harvard Student Agencies's new bed-extending service, BiggerBeds, struck fire and delayed the delivery of many students' mattresses by almost an entire week. The incident presented HSA's president, Chris Doyle '25, with his first major presidential test before arriving on campus. "Move in is always a crazy time at HSA since we have to deliver MicroFridges and water coolers to all our customers and onboard new students to our laundry plans, but this year's BiggerBed fire was unprecedented," explained Doyle.

When the news of the mattress fire broke, Doyle said, "we immediately got on the phone with BiggerBed to ensure that the BiggerBed employees on the truck and everyone else involved was okay. Fortunately, no one was hurt, and BiggerBed worked around the clock to deliver another shipment of mattress toppers before students finished moving in. It was a stressful couple days."

HSA is not the only Harvard organization dealing with delivery issues. The Undergraduate Council, which disbanded in the spring of last year, followed through with its promise to offer students a subsidized storage service. While the UC had guaranteed quick and easy drop-offs, many students struggled to locate their storage boxes and could not access them for up to five days after delivery.

"It's kind of been terrible because I put all my stuff in storage with the undergrad council and I haven't gotten my boxes yet," said Jake Greer '24 a few days after arriving on campus, as he could not access his blankets and pillows. After repeated attempts to contact representatives of the storage program, he finally showed up in person at the facility. "They said, 'give me your ID and we will get your box here in an hour.' I came back in an hour and they still did not have it."

Storing items independently might have proved more successful. Nikkhil Kamat '25 left his belongings at a friend's house nearby over the summer. After a 16-hour flight from India and an

hour-long wait at the airport,

he was relieved to find that the person had dropped his items off on campus. Kamat moved in by himself, which forced him to think creatively when lugging items through the halls. "I didn't have the key to my dorm yet so I loaded it all into a random entry way in Quincy," he said. "And then I got my key but it turns out my room was quite a bit away from my stuff. So I segmented everything." Kamat shifted his boxes from doorway to doorway to avoid losing any of them or having them stolen.

Romeo Dean '25 and his roommates had to carry all their boxes up three flights of stairs in Mather House, an experience made worse by the lack of air conditioning in Mather. "The AC is terrible. It doesn't work in there," Dean said. "I didn't get a fan or anything and we have no AC. I've been sweating."

A week after Harvard's first day of

classes, many students are still feeling unsettled. Cardboard boxes line the garbage bins on the streets, and suitcases remain to be unpacked. But soon enough, the classic complications of the first days on campus will ease, and students will adjust to the rhythms of the semester. And as the temperature drops, even the lack of the AC will be less "terrible."

**HANNAH FRAZER '25, HANNAH-FRAZER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU, STILL HAS NOT PUT HER CLOTHES AWAY.**

**BECCA ACKERMAN '25, RACKERMAN@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU, STILL DOES NOT HAVE SHEETS.**

**GRAPHIC BY SEATTLE HICKEY '25**



# CONVOCATION, CORRUPTED

*PSC's protest at Convocation last week added fuel to the anti-Israel flames taking hold of campus*

BY ALEX BERNAT '25

**A**mid speeches, song, and instrument, the Harvard Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC) gave a performance of their own at Convocation Ceremony last week. “Veritas? Here’s the real truth: Harvard supports Israeli Apartheid,” exclaimed a banner held by members of the student group as they chanted “free Palestine.” This demonstration corrupted a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many freshmen, who saw it as an attack on their identity at an event intended to welcome them into a new community.

PSC went even further on social media, accusing Harvard of being complicit with “ethnic cleansing” and attempting to

of this academic year with an anti-Israel—and, frankly, anti-Harvard—display,” Rabbi Jonah Steinberg, the executive director of Harvard Hillel, wrote in a recent email. “Perhaps the best use one may make of such a moment is to lift up—by contrast to what we have just seen in the Yard—the nuance and the depth available to Harvard students.”

Harvard Hillel organizes trips to Judea and Samaria/the West Bank for Jews and non-Jews alike to explore the region’s complexity, and Steinberg implored students to experience the regions firsthand. Close academic ties between Harvard and Israel have enabled “interaction among the peoples who compose Israel’s population”

climate brought about by the Crimson’s anti-Israel editorial, arguing that “it seems like now is finally the time” for divestment.

However, supporters of the Jewish state at Harvard, especially those new to campus, have in turn experienced a hostile campus climate. Leaving home to be unexpectedly accosted by an unsanctioned display that targets one’s identity and homeland makes the move to a radically new environment all the more so harder.

Every freshman has worked incredibly hard to be invited by the College to sit in those seats in Tercentenary Theatre. Yet the PSC members turned this special community-building event into a self-promoting political show focused on them, spewing a

**“THE PSC MEMBERS TURNED THIS SPECIAL COMMUNITY-BUILDING EVENT INTO A SELF-PROMOTING POLITICAL SHOW FOCUSED ON THEM, SPEWING A MESSAGE WHICH WAS AT WORST PROPAGANDA AND AT BEST LACKING NUANCE.”**

create a dichotomy between the Jewish state and Harvard President Lawrence Bacow’s belief in “facing the truth when it is uncomfortable” and “justice, equity, and inclusion,” as he articulated during Convocation.

Yet these principles of liberal education are exactly what PSC themselves have neglected in their campaign, “Harvard Out of Occupied Palestine,” which calls for Boycott, Divestiture, and Sanctioning of Israel (BDS).

“I found the demonstration upsetting and in all respects contrary to the spirit of Convocation, a celebration of community and togetherness. Students want to feel safe at University-wide events,” expressed Isaac Ohrenstein ’26.

“It is so unfortunate that some students have abused the opening Convocation

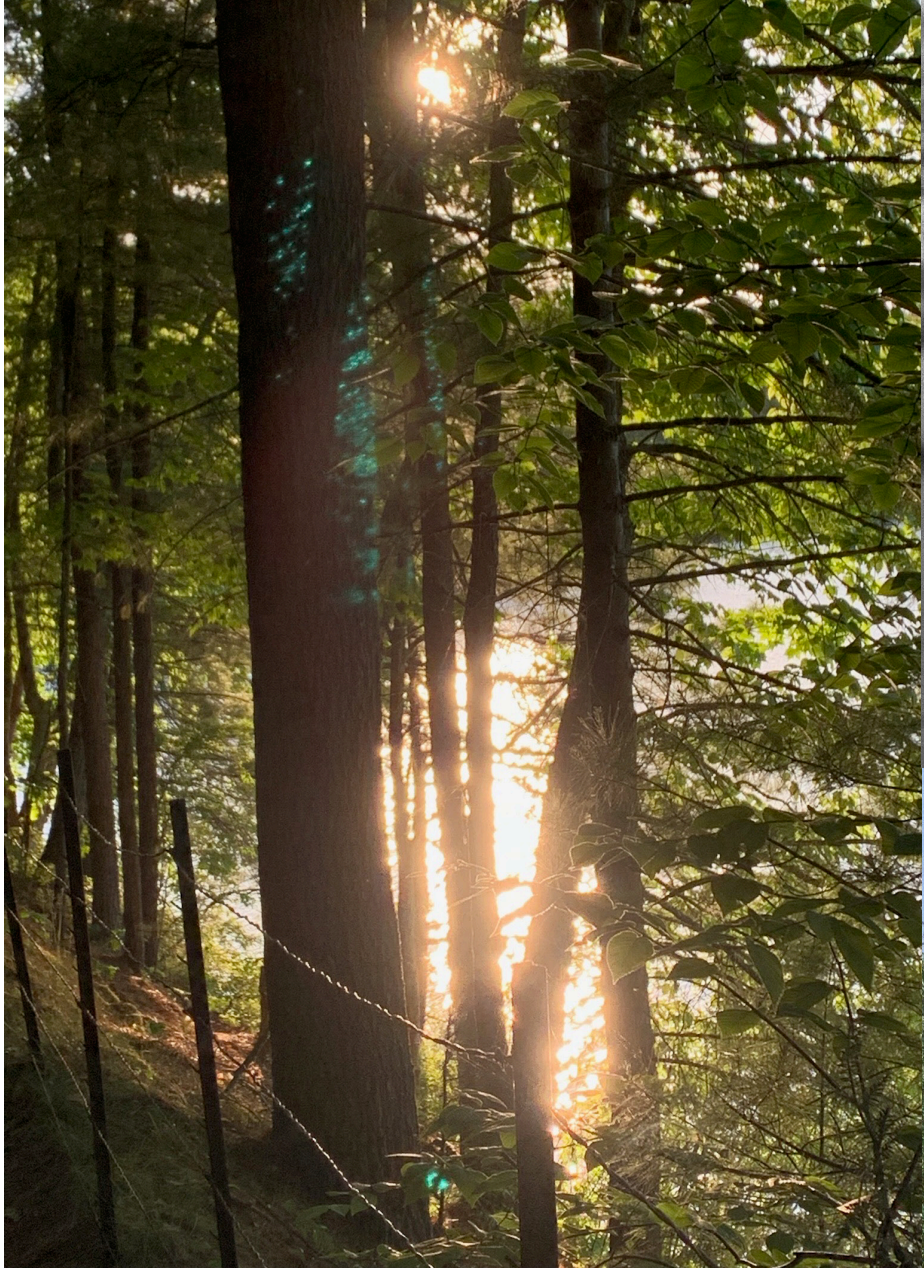
and “critical study regarding Israel’s abiding difficulties, its societal and geopolitical challenges,” which he described as crucial to Harvard’s mission.

At Convocation, members of PSC also made an effort to conflate their views and progressive politics, criticizing in both chants and an Instagram post about their performance Harvard’s financial involvement in “private prisons.”

PCS’s protest marked the continuation of the most visible period of anti-Israel rhetoric on Harvard’s campus in recent memory. During Israel Apartheid Week last April, PSC erected a wall, which garnered much media attention, expressing support for Palestinians. In social media posts and written statements after the end of last school year, PSC cited a shift in the campus

message which was at worst propaganda and at best lacking nuance. It is imperative that the conflation of anti-Israel sentiment and progressive politics does not lure our newest Harvardians into the folds of the BDS movement. I and many others stand strongly and fearlessly against hatred toward the world’s only Jewish state.

**ALEX BERNAT '25 (ALEXBERNAT@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS A SOPHOMORE IN LOWELL HOUSE CONCENTRATING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING.**





# I SPY

*A photo series*

BY RIVERS  
SHEEHAN



# POINT: DIVIDE AND RULE

## *Shopping Week's death bodes poorly for the future of Harvard*

BY NOAH TAVARES '24

Shopping Week was killed by an administration more concerned with Teaching Fellows' schedules than students, and now students' schedules are suffering.

Last spring, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) voted to end Harvard College's long-standing flexible week of class registration known as Shopping Week in favor of a far more opaque and restrictive pre-registration process. Sometimes you need to lose something to miss it, and this semester, the shadow of Shopping Week looms large over Harvard's return to Covid-free education. This decision has created a rift between faculty and students.

The conspiracy to kill Shopping Week started in 2018 when then-Dean of Undergraduate Education Amanda Claybaugh claimed that she was "no longer certain that the benefits of the shopping period are worth the costs." In the three years of discussion following that claim, the debate has primarily centered around the administrative burden of Shopping Week versus the benefits of student's obtaining a well-rounded education. Registration period without Shopping Week reveals that the debate should be about who the stakeholders in modern higher education are and whether *veritas* is still respected by Harvard's administration.

In this case, identifying the stakeholder is straightforward: the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. They made the decision unilaterally as a body, with a faculty vote that was so influenced by internal politics the outcome seemed obvious. The pretense to accommodate students' opinions ended after they decided to replace a student-led town hall in the 11th hour with a Faculty-led "listening session". Unfortunately, the result of the vote to end Shopping Week demonstrated a growing dissonance between the student body and faculty.

According to the charter, the Harvard faculty exists to teach. The theory is noble: in service to knowledge the greatest minds in academia choose to lower themselves to the level of students. As a common myth, professorship is a sacrifice because the student comes first. Indeed, the FAS should be for the College, not the College for the FAS. And yet this conflict shows that our ideal of education is disintegrating; the death of Shopping Week is a small symptom of a larger systemic illness. Instead of moving towards the myth, our faculty is departing for a cold capitalist reality. While the increasing capitalization and growth of the College's assets should signal more academic opportunities for students across the board, we have witnessed the balance sheet elevated above the student.

Graduate students who work as Teaching Fellows are the justification for this clear balance sheet prioritization

that advocates for the end Shopping Week movement. From a birds eye-view, the sudden care for graduate students by the exact institution that forces them to exist in a state of precarity is at best hypocritical. If the well-being of graduate students was a priority, why avoid strengthening non-discrimination procedures that the Graduate Student Union asked for? This measure saves the College money by allowing them to optimize their payments to graduate students while consenting to new non-discrimination procedures. In a sense, this is the worst possible veil to pull over the student's eye because it situates the graduate students as a buffer between undergraduates and the administration. By pitting two tuition-paying populations (graduates and undergraduates) against each other to achieve the administration's goal, it's clear at least some professors have studied the British colonial strategy of divide and rule.

The misalignment between students and the FAS is only set to get worse. In the current system where some students pay tuition, some students take on debt to pay tuition and even some families donate to demonstrate a student's commitment to the



school, some students feel the College is obligated to them. They are paying for a service. This orientation engenders the type of entitlement that is laced within this very article.

"Shopping Week meant that there was less predictability, but it honored the organic, free spirit embedded in our humanity," the former President of the Undergraduate Council, Michael Chen '24, wrote in an email to the

*Independent*. "In contrast, pre-registration treats people as numbers to algorithmically place into classes, makes course selection even more dependent on high-stakes online course reviews, and mandates course information and sign ups months before most professors and TFs can realistically finalize it."

At the same time that students expect more, the share of Harvard University revenue that is represented by tuition is decreasing every year. Last year, the figure stood at just 10%. Simultaneously, applications to the College are skyrocketing, and admission is becoming more competitive. The professors within the FAS will be paid regardless of the quality of student education, and students will demand education as its price skyrockets. This can of worms is primed to explode and Shopping Week is only the first of the worms to slither out.

Divergence between students' interests and faculty interests is a negative feedback loop since students continue to lose leverage as the FAS takes away more hallmarks of a liberal arts education. The depressing end of this zero-sum game can only be restored by an appeal to the nature of education itself. Can the faculty value truth over money?



NOAH TAVARES '24  
(NOAHTAVARES@COLLEGE.  
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FLEXIBILITY MATTERS  
DESPITE FILLING HIS  
SCHEDULE WITH CON-  
CENTRATION REQUIRE-  
MENTS.

GRAPHIC BY CANDACE  
GARDNER '25

# COUNTERPOINT: “DEATH” IS A TAD DRAMATIC

*There are calls for protest and times of sacrifice—Shopping Week is the latter*

BY CLAIRE BEDDINGFIELD '25

As a response to the termination of Shopping Week last May, popular narrative maligns the administration and hyperbolizes the undergraduates' suffering, leaving the voices of Harvard's graduate students unheard. Teaching Fellows incur major costs as a result of Shopping Week that cannot be dismissed. TFs aren't made aware of whether or not they're employed until a couple weeks into the semester, a problem which Shopping Week only amplifies as class sizes continue to vary with student's shifting schedules. These graduate students are often prevented from making logistical decisions critical to the day-to-day: “When do I need to get a babysitter?” and “Where should I rent an apartment?” to name a few.

Teaching fellows have made their preferences clear, with 73% favoring the shift to an early registration program in a survey conducted by the Graduate Student Council. They arguably represent

could be distributed over classes.”

There is perhaps validity to the concern that the administration has its own financial interests at heart, rather than those of either the undergraduates or TFs. Nevertheless, does such a motive make the dissolution of Shopping Week “wrong” when the verdict ultimately better serves the TFs? Moreover, could this decision, in fact, benefit the wider student body, considering that professors and TFs will be better equipped to instruct students if they have a clear idea of the number of enrollees from the get-go?

A critique of the administration's convenient oscillation between supporting and opposing the demands of TFs feels hypocritical. Students happily encouraged the graduate student strikes when they didn't have to show up to section last fall but, now, withhold support when their precious Shopping Week is taken away. Whether or not teaching fellows have once again been weaponized

connoption.

Might such indignation actually stem from entitlement? Why are undergraduate's claims to education more important than those of their graduate counterparts?

Today's Shopping Week vastly differs from Shopping Week at its conception. As an opponent of Shopping Week, biology professor Richard Losick mentions that “in the era of the Internet, having a shopping period is less valuable than before.” He cites that lectures and class materials from previous years are often posted online and that Q Guides make it easy for students to receive information on the time commitment and difficulty of courses, which would frankly be impossible to gather from the first fifteen minutes of an introductory lecture.

Shopping Week has always been an important component of Harvard's commitment to liberal arts, but that one aspect does not define the college. Some claim that the loss of Shopping Week is a

## “WHY ARE UNDERGRADUATE'S CLAIMS TO EDUCATION MORE IMPORTANT THAN THOSE OF THEIR GRADUATE COUNTERPARTS? MIGHT SUCH INDIGNATION ACTUALLY STEM FROM ENTITLEMENT?”

those most affected by Shopping Week's continuation, yet their perspective escapes common knowledge.

Nevertheless, whether as a result of ignorance or disregard, students have vehemently objected to the death of Shopping Week through student protests, petitions garnering 1,441 signatures, and op-ed pieces which often assume the perspective of the student body. Concerned undergraduates LyLena Estabine, Will McConnell, Luca Hinrichs, Al Xin and Michael Chen even responded to the Committee on Course Registration with a counter proposal whose length rivaled that of any Social Studies thesis beginning with “An Investigation of” and ending in “Capitalism.”

Some enthusiasm for Shopping Week has been echoed by alumni professors who spoke out in indignation at debates with the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, sentimentally citing Shopping Week as the fundamental reason they teach the very classes we see on Harvard's course listings today. However, these advocacy efforts do not imply a consensus among faculty, who, according to the *Harvard Magazine*, ultimately voted to dissolve Shopping Week by a 3:2 margin. In an article by *The Crimson*, philosophy professor Susanna C. Siegel raised concerns as to the lack of consideration afforded to teaching fellows, suggesting “the counterproposal treats teaching fellows as if they were ‘fungible items’ that

in some larger, metaphysical battle between the student body and the administration, the growing power of a bureaucratic big brother needs to be addressed: performative “listening-sessions” do not suffice. However, the exigencies of these discussions cannot themselves be manipulated to minimize more practical issues that affect individuals' livelihoods when students still retain numerous opportunities to explore a liberal arts education.

Shopping Week has never been the only avenue to explore courses at Harvard, so despite the immense pleasure one retains from employing morbid diction, Shopping Week isn't “dead.” The course selection system still enables much of the same advantages, namely, an extended grace period. Students have ample opportunity to essay different courses in the first five weeks of school with only the latter two of those weeks requiring a fee for late enrollment. All one needs to do is simply email their advisor to release the add-drop hold! The sheer length of the add-drop period differentiates Harvard from numerous other schools, such as Columbia and Yale, which only permit a single week for what Harvard grants five. A comparison to other Ivies should not make the student body complacent in the quest for the best education imaginable, nor should any mention of the magnitude of Harvard's add-drop period, but both should prompt one to consider the ways in which this protest verges on

microcosm for the diminishing breadth, depth, and flexibility which a Harvard education avows—one which encourages the exploration of all strains of humanistic inquiry. If the death of Shopping Week really is the death of a liberal arts education, then potentially, these concerns should be directed elsewhere: to the college's identity and *veritas* values or, dare I say, inwards.

The ability to branch out of one's concentration remains viable in a post-COVID Harvard, yet numerous individuals opt out of enrolling into courses which actually intrigue them for an easier “gem” devoid of a midterm and final. Shopping Week has been dearly missed, but if its discontinuation is symbolic of something brewing on campus which is more sinister than a matter of convenience for TFs, technological advancement, or redundancy, then each individual—whether among the administration, the teaching staff, or the student body—must be vigilant in the role they play in the development of this phenomenon. Those who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.


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WRITES NEWS FOR THE INDEPENDENT.

# THE PLIGHT OF THE HARVARD ARTIST

*Harvard is failing to make AFVS courses available to all despite high student demand*

BY KATE DE GROOT '25



Liberal Arts Fall '22 

Crimson Cart - 2022 Fall



Your Crimson Cart has been denied Please select other concentration

Harvard breeds countless courses that students not only struggle to complete, but to even acquire spots to begin with each semester. STEM concentrations are infamous for their course exclusivity: students often must have a specific combination of prerequisites and a dash of luck in the course lottery to gain access to the golden gates of enrollment.

Yet one department that excludes numerous students for reasons other than required prior knowledge: Art, Film, and Visual Studies.

AFVS was founded on the promise of fostering both practical and critical art skills. The concentration program boasts its commitment to an “integrated study of artistic practice, visual culture, and the critical study of the image,” prioritizing a skill that most courses do not: creativity.

Students choose to enroll in AFVS courses to break the monotony of their concentration requirements or explore uncharted artistic passions. “There’s no way to self-teach yourself something like silk screening,” said Ellen Hwang '24. “When else other than college do you get the chance?”

This fall, the department is offering 32 courses, 31 of which actively cap enrollment, and nearly half of which require prerequisite courses. As a comparison, out of the over 120 courses offered by the Psychology department, only 10 have an enrollment cap. While Psychology also features small, concentration-preferred seminars, it has large lecture courses that are more welcoming to non-concentrators, allowing anyone to get a taste for the subject in a way that is nearly impossible for AFVS, whose courses are more intimate and exclusive. “The optimal way to conduct these courses is in small groups,” reads the AFVS website.

In December of 2020, the AFVS department adopted two core values regarding the admissions process for limited enrollment classes: transparency and accessibility. Transparency requires clarity in the admissions criteria for the course on its Canvas page and syllabus, as well as treating the interview

process as a casual conversation rather than an examination. Accessibility requires that professors “provide suggestions for alternate classes when a student is not admitted... and prioritize them for admission to future classes,” according to the department website. The heads of AFVS are also obligated to keep students who do not make the enrollment cut informed about AFVS resources and remain in contact with them in case of any changes.

Yet these promises have seen many instances of neglect. After not getting into multiple art courses or off their waitlists, Hwang reported not receiving any communication about other possible options or opportunities for this fall, which has altered her plans. “I thought of being an Art secondary but I probably won’t because it’s so difficult to get into courses. You need to take 6 in total, but I’ve only been able to take one because I can’t get into any others.”

This low likelihood of getting into an AFVS course as a non-concentrator often deters students from applying in the first place. Transfer student Zane Jones '24 was intimidated by the ambiguity of the application process for production courses. She claims that if she were to take any art course, it will likely be a Gen-Ed and not a class in the AFVS department itself.

AFVS is only offering seven introductory courses this fall: two photography courses, one drawing course, and four filmmaking courses, each of which has only around a dozen open spots. AFVS 52, an introductory course for nonfiction filmmaking, had 10 available slots and 20 applicants, a demand trend which persists for most AFVS courses.

Another barrier for students wanting to explore artistic passions at Harvard is the time of many introductory AFVS courses, which, due to their practical nature, often take up to 3 hours during prime class hours. This makes it difficult for non-concentrators to fit any course into their schedule or apply for multiple courses in the hopes that they will get into one of them.

The difficulty of getting into AFVS classes extends to concentrators as well. “The application process is not centralized and there are

so few spots available,” said one junior AFVS concentrator. “Different professors look for different things. Some want concentrators and some want students with less experience.” Prior to declaring their concentration sophomore year, this student had to reach out to professors months ahead of the enrollment deadline to earn priority. The student offers a simple solution: hire more professors. The demand is there.

Most AFVS instructors attempt to combat the issue by disclosing their course exclusivity on canvas and syllabus pages. Drawing 1, for example, states that “Enrollment priority will be given, respectively, to: AFVS concentrators, prospective AFVS concentrators, secondary field students, and graduate students who require a studio course.”

These high barriers to entry might be contributing to dwindling student interest in creative fields. While the Engineering and Applied Science division has seen a rise from 174 to 293 concentrators in the last ten years, the Arts and Humanities division has seen a decline from 263 to 115.

Why isn’t more funding allocated to facilitate enrollment in their courses? Perhaps it is due to the small number of concentrators, who only make up a small portion of the study body. Or perhaps the College is choosing to instead prioritize STEM fields.

One thing is clear: Now that students are giving up on exploring their artistic passions, Harvard’s commitment to intellectual curiosity and interdisciplinary learning appears to be faltering.

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**GRAPHIC BY ISABEL EDDY '24**

# AT ANNUAL TALENT SHOW, CLASS OF 2026 DOES NOT HOLD BACK

*Although the first-year performers are seriously talented, they don't take themselves too seriously*

BY PROOF SCHUBERT REED '25

**C**on the last Saturday night of the summer, hundreds of first-years clustered outside Sanders Theater, poised to cheer on their classmates at the annual first-year talent show. The show, hosted each year by the Crimson Key Society, brought together the Class of 2026 for a night of poking fun at Harvard.

Bobby McCarthy '23 and Olivia Johnson '25 hosted the talent show, decked out in red lanyards and mock Class of 2026 crop-tops—cropped for McCarthy, who joked that Johnson had bought him the wrong size. They supplied jokey, sometimes vulgar commentary between the acts, teasing the Class of 2026 as a reminder that, in Johnson's words, "we don't have to take things seriously all the time to still be great."

The eleven performances ranged from virtuosic classical performances and heart-wrenching song duets to stand-up and musical comedy.

"I thought it was really amazing," said Maren Wong '26, just one of many first-years who professed their pleasant surprise. "It's the kind of talent you hear about everywhere at Harvard but I hadn't really seen it yet."

McCarthy explained that part of what is so astonishing about the talent show is how quickly the performers prepared their acts.

One student, Hamza Masoud '26, who performed a short stand-up comedy set, said that the talent show was his fourth time ever doing stand-up—following three previous acts he performed during his first week on campus. In his set, Masoud poked fun at the Harvard experience, teasing the prospective Economics concentrators in the house and going so far as to sport a Brown University hoodie on stage.

Masoud wasn't the only act to make fun of Harvard. Ian Hua '26 satirized the first-year experience through an original song played on piano, oscillating between amazement and desperation at life as a first-year.

Other acts, such as piano and violin duo Harvey Lin '26 and Enoch Li '26, found quick compatibility in the proximity of their dorms. Lin and Li are roommates, and figured

out they were both virtuosic musicians when they moved in together on campus. Harvey learned his piano accompaniment for the piece, Antonio Bazzini's "The Dance of the Goblins," in just a couple of days—all while rehearsing his own classical performance, which opened the show.

McCarthy said this speedy preparation is part of what makes the talent show special. "If I wasn't at auditions I would have assumed it had taken weeks for a lot of these acts but many of them were prepared no more than a day or two ahead," he said. "The fact that in

'26 and Carolyn Hao '26 closed out the show with a moving Celine Dion duet—so moving, in fact, that it brought several students in the front row to tears.

Johnson noted she was particularly touched by the enthusiasm that performers and audience members brought to the show. "I think we as upperclassmen have really been worn out from the Covid years of college and have historically lacked school spirit," she said. "So seeing so many first-years show up for not only auditions but for the actual show was so refreshing and honestly inspiring."

While almost forty students auditioned, only eleven earned the chance to perform. One quality brought all participants together: to not take the show too seriously.

"People have this perception of Harvard that doesn't really encompass the true student experiences here. We take ourselves way too seriously," Johnson explained. She said that their goal with the talent show—as well as other First-Year Week events such as Key's Rocky Horror style screening of *Love Story*—was to "ease the tension that many of the freshmen were probably feeling coming into Harvard."

Hamza, the show's resident stand-up comic, also expressed that he wanted to unite students with his routine. "Everyone's in the same boat right now and there's a lot of insecurity, so it's fun to kind of point out that we're all struggling in the same way."



**PROOF SCHUBERT REED '25 (PROOF SCHUBERT REED@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) DID NOT PERFORM IN THE FIRST-YEAR TALENT SHOW.**

such a short span of time these acts produced the quality performances they did is actually remarkable."

Most, but not all, of the acts displayed musical talents, from an array of different styles of dance, singing, and instrument-playing.

Lin and Li's was not the only coordinated act. Three friends, Isabella Xue '26, Linda Zhang '26, and Kira Tian '26, performed a traditional Chinese dance in matching newspaper-print outfits, while Brody Billingsley

# A RISING STUDENT RAP STAR: JAESCHEL

*On his first full-length album, Jaeschel Acheampong showcases infectious hooks, excellent production, and witty one-liners*

BY MATT SAKIYAMA '25

Last Thursday night in Lowell's basement, Jaeschel Acheampong '24 ("YoungJae") debuted his rap album *JAESCHEL*. He exuded a nervous energy while many of his friends chatted quietly during the first few tracks. But as he paused to explain the backstory behind each song, he built up steam and showed flashes of his performance prowess. When his speaker cut out mid-song, he said, "Fuck it, I'll go acapella." Acheampong hopped on a table to rap until he was rejoined perfectly in time by the speaker.

At Crimson Jam the following night, Acheampong's energy was infectious. The audience jumped in time with him as he leaped across the stage, and they screamed out "okay!" after every line of the hook in his lead single, "tuned in." At the end of his set, the audience started a "one more song!" chant that earned them another performance of "tuned in." Acheampong was absolutely at home performing in Harvard Yard and surely secured many new listeners with his spirited performance.

On *JAESCHEL*, Acheampong is both boastful and modest, both funny and reflective. He cannot be described in one fell swoop. As Acheampong explained, "There's the happy-go-lucky guy, the more intimate and relaxed guy, and I got feelings, you feel me?" Along with being an up-and-coming rapper, he is an engineering sciences concentrator and a sprinter and jumper on Harvard's track team. He has received skepticism about his ability to achieve on all three levels. "I can't just drop a good song. I have to drop a good song, with a good album, with good cover art, before people are like, okay this athlete can actually make music," he said. But instead of shying away from those who don't believe in him, Acheampong embraces such sentiments: "It's annoying, but I like proving people wrong. It's like, I can do it, so just watch me."

The production on "avenue," the first of *JAESCHEL*'s eleven tracks, is grandiose and provides an excellent introduction to the album. Acheampong perfectly executes a beat switch halfway through the song, teasing his ability to produce and

rap on a trap beat before fading out into the next song. As evidence of his greenness, the first half of the album had some hollow beats and lacked the energetic percussion shown after the beat switch on "avenue."

Acheampong enlists the help of J. Rico and Oh Alice on "wolves," one of the best tracks of 2022. Acheampong begins by singing a poignant melody, upon which he adds layers of harmony. J. Rico's short and sweet verse builds on the cinematic energy of the track, leading into beautiful two-part vocals from Oh Alice. Acheampong then spits his most powerful verse on *JAESCHEL*. You don't often hear a rapper sound this desperate about his desire to reach his goals and beyond. He doesn't want to be great, he needs to be great. As the track closes, Acheampong leaves you wishing only that the verse had been longer.

As a tribute to one of his greatest musical inspirations, Acheampong sampled the introductory drums from Kanye West's "Black Skinhead" in his song "mine". "You hear a Kanye track, and you're like, how did his brain go here?" Acheampong said.

Acheampong praises Metro Boomin's ability to exemplify "complex simplicity." "It sounds like an oxymoron, but he can take something huge and drill it down to where the artist has a place to float," he said. Acheampong incorporated this complex simplicity by creating huge tracks that are busy with interesting sounds and melodies, but not so busy that they become incoherent.

Acheampong said that movie soundtracks inspired a collaboration with Abdul Mohammed '24 on "thousand hounds." "A lot of [the inspiration for "thousand wolves"] came from Ludwig Göransson, who's composed for some Marvel films and Disney series. Through bouncing ideas back and forth with Abdul while he was reciting the poem, we were able to create a break within the album that intros my favorite song, 'wolves,'" Acheampong said. Mohammed's spoken word on "thousand hounds" is magnificently paced and performed, and the orchestral track under it supports Abdul's poetry

very well.

On "preach," Acheampong demonstrates a penchant for introspection. He focuses on the all too familiar feeling of giving advice that you yourself don't even follow: "So they tell me practice what I preach, I can't // Lying to myself now I can play pretend." With additional production from K. Ikeji '25, a gospel choir made up of T. Miller '25, D. Falode '25, B. Owusu-Amo '25, O. Otitigbe '25, and A. Gabeau '25 creates a full-bodied and elegant backdrop for Acheampong's verses. Hearing the rest of *JAESCHEL*, one might imagine that Acheampong is rock solid, but "preach" is where he admits he's just as unsure as the rest of us.

With *JAESCHEL*, Acheampong has proved to his listeners that his music need not fall by the wayside as he pursues his academic and athletic goals. As of now, he wants to keep his post-graduation plans open. He said, "I have the best case scenario in mind for the three aspects of myself. In terms of track, I want to go pro. Go to the Olympics, all that. In terms of my academic future, I want to work with Nike or Reebok to develop sneaker technology that makes athletes better. In terms of music, in my dream world—this is when I got my Grammys, chilling—my goal is to have a label that helps people like myself. Like, don't stress about money, don't stress about resources, just make the art that you want to make and we'll get it out there." Acheampong has big dreams, and he has the talent and dedication to get there.

In the meantime, the best way to support Acheampong is to get the word out. As he said, "Don't gatekeep! Same way you would geek out about Travis Scott, geek out about one of your boys." So, listen to *JAESCHEL*. And if you like it, tell your friends about it.

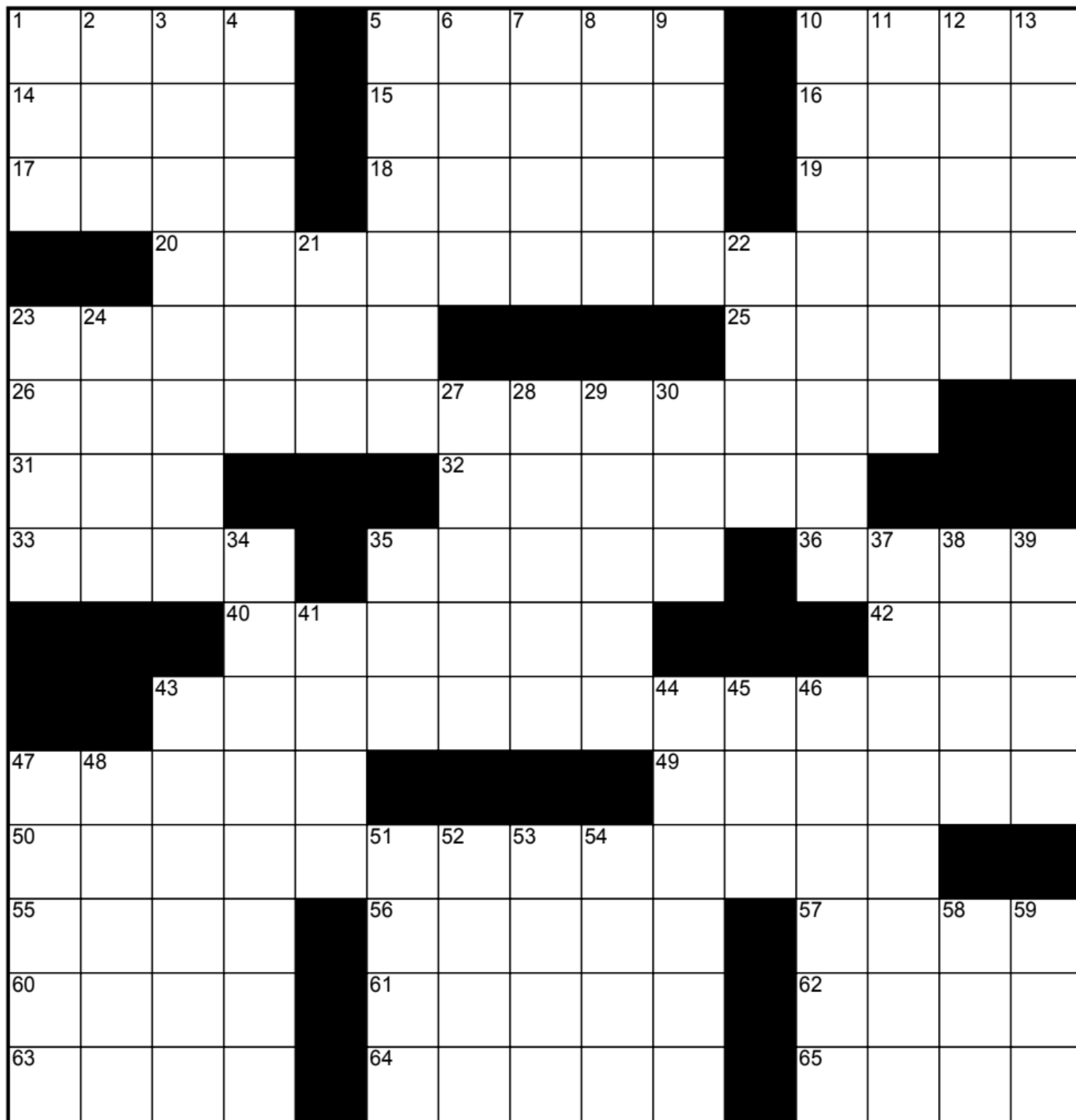
**MATT SAKIYAMA '25 (MSAKIYAMA@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) LOVED JAESCHEL, AND SO WILL YOU.**

**PHOTO TAKEN BY KYLE MURPHY '23**



# RE: MOVING IN

BY PETER LASKIN '23



- 29 TikTok format
- 30 Winter hours in Boston
- 34 “Well, aren’t you special”
- 35 Maude’s portrayer in “Maude”
- 37 Comical eccentricity
- 38 “And Still I \_\_\_\_” (Maya Angelou collection)
- 39 Last word in prayer?
- 41 Big name in champagne
- 43 Briny bagel toppers
- 44 The Harvard Mastodon, for example
- 45 Justice Dept. agency
- 46 Wears away
- 47 Child of privilege
- 48 Couldn’t help it
- 51 Since
- 52 Like a bad leg or a bad party
- 53 500 marque
- 54 Radius’ parallel
- 58 53-Down, for one
- 59 Drunk boating violation: abbr.

## ACROSS

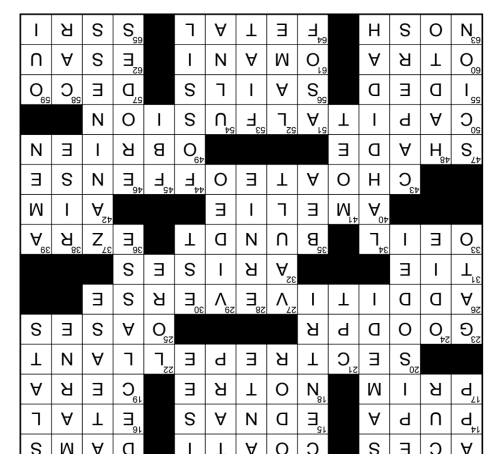
- 1 Las Vegas WNBA team
- 5 Raccoon relative
- 10 Beavers’ dwellings
- 14 Sedentary stage for many insects
- 15 Mode and St. Vincent Millay, for two
- 16 Common last member of a list of authors
- 17 Proper companion
- 18 Ours, in Tours
- 19 Michael of “Superbad”
- 20 Spray that deters cults?
- 23 Sharper image?
- 25 Where to get drinks in dry places
- 26 Poem that keeps getting longer?
- 31 Improbable baseball game result
- 32 Comes up
- 33 Trompe l’ \_\_\_\_

## DOWN

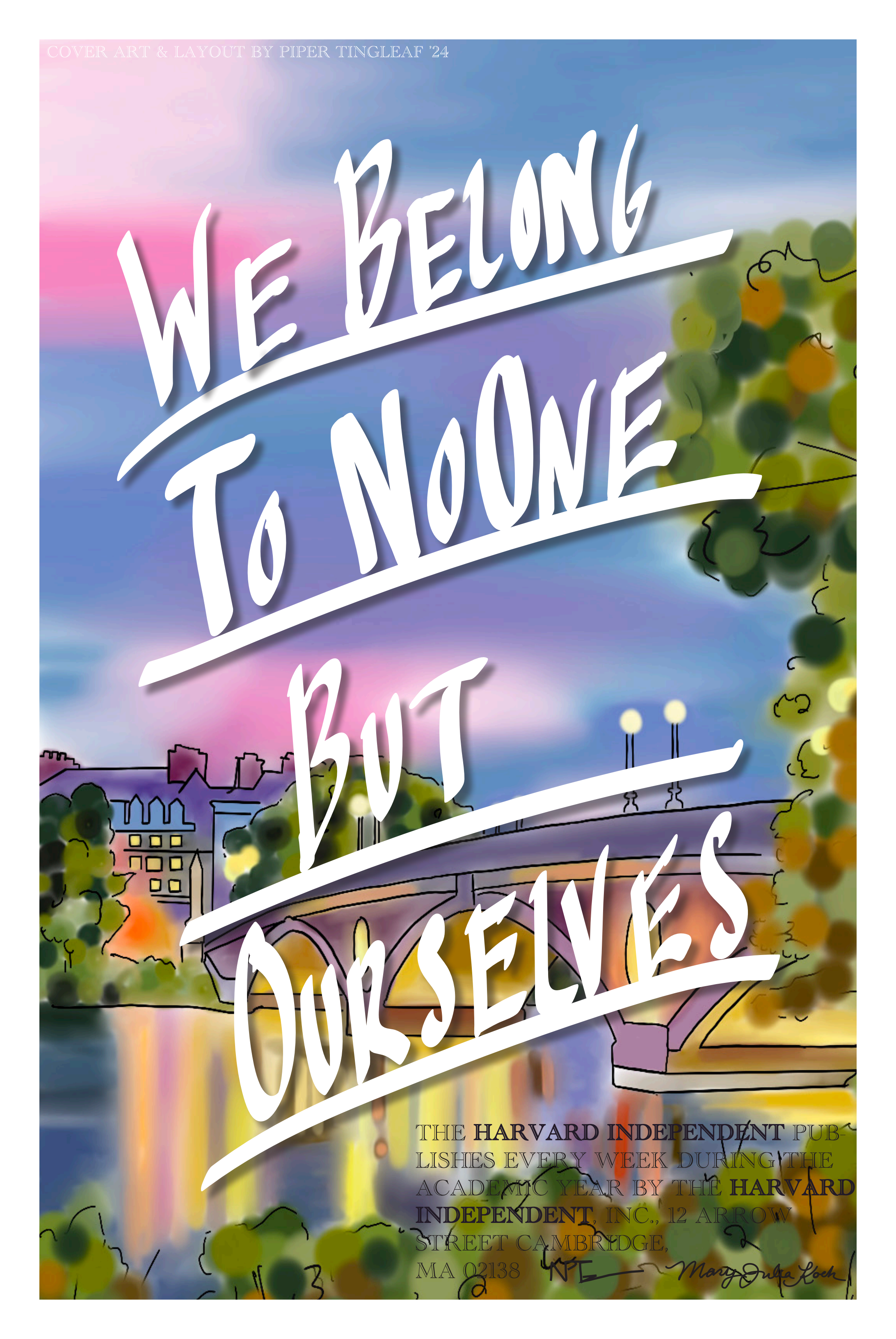
- 35 Pan with a hole in it
- 36 Koenig of Vampire Weekend
- 40 Acclaimed role for Audrey Tatou
- 42 Goal (or what’s needed to score a goal)
- 43 Reason JFK might have been sent to detention?
- 47 It can be cast or thrown
- 49 Conan of late-night
- 50 Top-notch nuclear reaction?
- 55 Determined the species of, say
- 56 Junk items
- 57 Chrysler Building style
- 60 \_\_\_\_ vez
- 61 From Muscat
- 62 Hirsute twin in Genesis
- 63 Have a bite
- 64 Pre-natal
- 65 Antidepressant compound

## DOWN

- 1 Calculator or calendar, perhaps
- 2 Mean mutt
- 3 “The Phantom Menace”, to fans
- 4 Baron \_\_\_\_ (death spirit of Haitian folklore)
- 5 Prefix with petal
- 6 Corpse flower’s notable trait
- 7 Pay to play
- 8 Ground cover
- 9 “Gotcha”
- 10 Fallen in status
- 11 Literally just vibing
- 12 WWI battle site
- 13 Blind components
- 21 USN rank
- 22 Backstory, in modern parlance
- 23 Enemigo de una rata
- 24 Garfield’s foil
- 27 Heist target, maybe
- 28 Bert’s bestie



COVER ART & LAYOUT BY PIPER TINGLEAF '24



# WE BELONG TO NO ONE BUT OURSELVES

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