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“NEVER STOP.”

Zelenskyy inspires Harvard on leading through crisis

BY ALICE KHAYAMI '25

Last week, the JFK Jr. Forum hosted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for a moderated discussion with former U.S. Secretary of Defense and Belfer Center Director Ash Carter. Speaking virtually from a bunker in Kyiv, Zelenskyy called upon The Ukrainian President has emerged as a hero, leading his country with resilience through Russia’s harrowing invasion of Ukraine.

Cormac Savage '25 reflected on the tangible sense of admiration and respect amongst the audience. “Everyone in the room understood the place Zelenskyy has in history and admired him for his fortitude,” she said. “Even appearing virtually, the awe was palpable.” With over 2,000 RSVPs for limited in-person seating, the live-streamed event was the Forum’s largest in attendance since before the pandemic.

In his opening remarks, Zelenskyy reiterated the urgency of Russia’s invasion, a sentiment he has conveyed at other public appearances at the United Nations, the G7, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. He emphasized the need for the international community, which included the audience of professors and students from the College, Kennedy School, Business School, and Chan school alike, to recognize Russia’s dangerous and veritable nuclear threats. After Russia’s annexation of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhya, it is imperative to act quickly, he proclaimed.

As Zelenskyy highlighted, military



and civilians alike—soldiers on the front line, children collecting donations and delivering water, and healthcare professionals providing for the wounded—are stepping up to defend their country, culture and dignity. Resilience and determination are characteristic of the Ukrainian people. Annabelle Krause '25 noted that it was impossible to forget that he was calling in from a bunker while in the midst of war.

The audience grasped onto the President’s every word, grateful for an hour of his time. Hannah Bottarel '24, co-chair of the Forum, reflected that the experience was particularly meaningful for Harvard’s Ukrainian students, who had the opportunity to pose questions to the President. One student asked about the role of Harvard stu-

dents as aspiring leaders who want to help restore their own country.

“Never stop,” Zelenskyy affirmed, especially in war. While the world “strives for peace,” it is “leadership that makes this happen,” he said. Zelenskyy reminded the audience of Harvard’s history of training successful world leaders, who are all united by the “ability to move ahead first, in anticipation.”

His undeniable strength and devotion to his country rang powerfully, exemplifying the purpose of the Forum as a place not only to engage in conversation, but to ignite activism and inspire leadership.

ALICE KHAYAMI '25 (ALICEKHAYAMI@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) BASICALLY LIVES AT THE JFK JR. FORUM.

PHOTOS TAKEN BY MARTHA STEWART, IOP PHOTOGRAPHER



BERG MENTALITY

Why the open culture of Annenberg should persist for all four years

BY ELIZA GOLER '26

It's 7 PM and the crowd at Annenberg is quickly growing. With their plates piled high with food, first-years stand by the door of the dining hall looking across a sea of faces as they decide which table they dare to join.

Dining at Annenberg is a central part of the Harvard first-year experience. As the largest dining hall on campus, "Berg" hosts the 1,600 students from class of 2026 for meals, brain breaks, and studying. For first-years, not only does sharing a meal with our new peers give rise to unique conversations and relationships, but the preceding act of *choosing* a table shapes your Harvard community, especially during the beginning of the year.

Kennedy Leehealey '26 credits the dining hall for starting many of her relationships. "I met all of my friends here, and this guy from my entryway even met his current love interest here," she said.

Beyond meeting your new classmates, Annenberg facilitates many unplanned run-ins with old friends. "I found out that I went to the same

elementary school as this guy in Egypt," shared Zoe Clark '26.

Most first-years agree that the social aspect of the dining hall defines the experience at least as much as the food. "I think of Annenberg as more of a social place than a nutritional place. It's just fun to be here," said Isabella Schaubel '26.

The dining hall is bordered with marble sculpture and paintings depicting Civil War soldiers. The walls and multi-story ceiling are adorned with large stained glass windows from the 19th century. While the vast dining hall may feel intimidating, the large tables foster an inclusive environment where many best friends will meet. Through communal social and academic anxiety, eager first-years are less nervous to introduce themselves to new people than in other spaces on campus.

Out of all the places that first-year students frequent, Annenberg is perhaps the place that most demonstrates Harvard's diverse student body. "I don't think it's like this at many other schools,"

commented Mukta Dharmapurikar '26, referencing the mingling between student-athletes and the rest of the student body.

As classes ramp up, however, the norm of sitting next to new people will subside. "The opportunity to meet people dies down for sure and then you need to find new ways—whether that's through sports, clubs, or small seminar classes—which aren't always easy to take," explained Katherine Jackson '25. Even so, most students agree that as friendships solidify, the 'Berg Mentality'—shamelessly joining strangers for a meal—should persist.

"Once you are entering the world of upper-classmen circles, you can no longer guarantee that everybody wants to make friends as much as you do. And that can make it feel scary sometimes," said Honor Pimentel '25. As a member of the Quincy House committee, Pimentel hopes to implement new systems that encourage spontaneous meals with strangers.

"You come for your classes, but you're here to learn from your peers also," she said of the Harvard experience. "Continuing to acquire new friends throughout all four years is the only way to guarantee that you'll get as close as possible to meeting all the cool people here."

Whether you are a first-year or a senior, next time you have an opportunity to channel Berg mentality, introduce yourself to someone new. You never know who you might meet.

ELIZA GOLER '26 (ELIZAGOLER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES FORUM FOR THE INDEPENDENT.

PHOTO BY DUMEBI ADIGWE '23



CHARITIES IN CONTEXT

Clearing controversy over Pakistani Student Association's Flood-Relief Campaign

BY AMIYA TIWARI '26

Since mid-June, record-shattering monsoons have ravaged Pakistan. As the death toll of the environmental and humanitarian crisis creeps toward 2,000, the Harvard College Pakistani Student Association (HCPSA) has turned to Harvard faculty and students for financial support. While the donations undoubtedly support a noble goal, some Harvard students have voiced concern over the HCPSA's lack of transparency about Palestinian support from the chosen charities. Others argue the longstanding alliance between Pakistan and Palestine makes for inevitable solidarity with Palestinians.

Over the last three months, HCPSA raised over \$33,000 for five carefully chosen organizations: The Citizens Foundation, The Edhi Foundation, Women's Democratic Front (WDF), Health and Nutrition Development Society (HANDS), and Welfare Association for New Generation.

WDF and HANDS support Palestine. The WDF's official statement regarding Palestinian solidarity states, "we offer our reaffirmed solidarity to the Palestinian people... We believe that none of us is free until all of us are free."

In a previous *Independent* article entitled "Deceptive Donations," Alex Bernat '25 argued that HCPSA unethically failed to emphasize these alliances. "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," he wrote.

After HCPSA endorsed and successfully raised funds for the five organizations, Palestinian support from WDF and HANDS was revealed to the student body through Bernat's article. Although some students felt misled by HCPSA, representatives Hamaad Mehal '24 and Shraddha Joshi '24 argue that the historical interconnectedness of peoples' struggles is not up for debate. They said the

alliances between Pakistanis and Palestinians result in evidential support from any grassroots organization.

"Generally, Pakistan is in solidarity with Palestine as a national policy," shared former HCPSA Co-President and current board advisor Mehal. According to the *People's Daily*, a Pakistani newspaper, Pakistan is one of the most outspoken supporters of Palestinians and frequently provides humanitarian aid to the Palestinian Authority.

HCPSA chose to redirect donations towards local charities that use collective action from the grassroots level to effect change at the regional, national, or international level. Joshi confirmed that HCPSA held an in-depth meeting open to all South Asian organizations to select the most qualified organizations for the funds, and the strongest opinions were from international Pakistani undergraduate and graduate students who had been involved with grassroots organizations in their home country.

The connections between organizations and alliances to Palestine were never questioned at the meeting, according to Joshi. "It was never something that the fundraiser wanted to distance itself from because it was something that we strongly stand with as well," she said. While not a member of HCPSA, Joshi is involved with its fundraising through the Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC) and as Co-Director of Ghungroo, Harvard's largest student-run production highlighting South Asian culture.

Mehal believes it would have been difficult to find a charity that did not support Palestine. "Like most people in Pakistan, grassroots organizations are going to be in solidarity with Palestine."

HCPSA and PSC are united under the central cause of fighting for marginalized people. For those from the non-Western world, "suffering

is assumed to be part of their existence," Mehal said. "Thirty-three million people suffering without any attention is unimaginable. Yet, this is an issue we see with many other causes around the world, including Palestine, which is where we draw that strong connection. Suffering shouldn't be an inherent part of human existence, regardless of where you live."

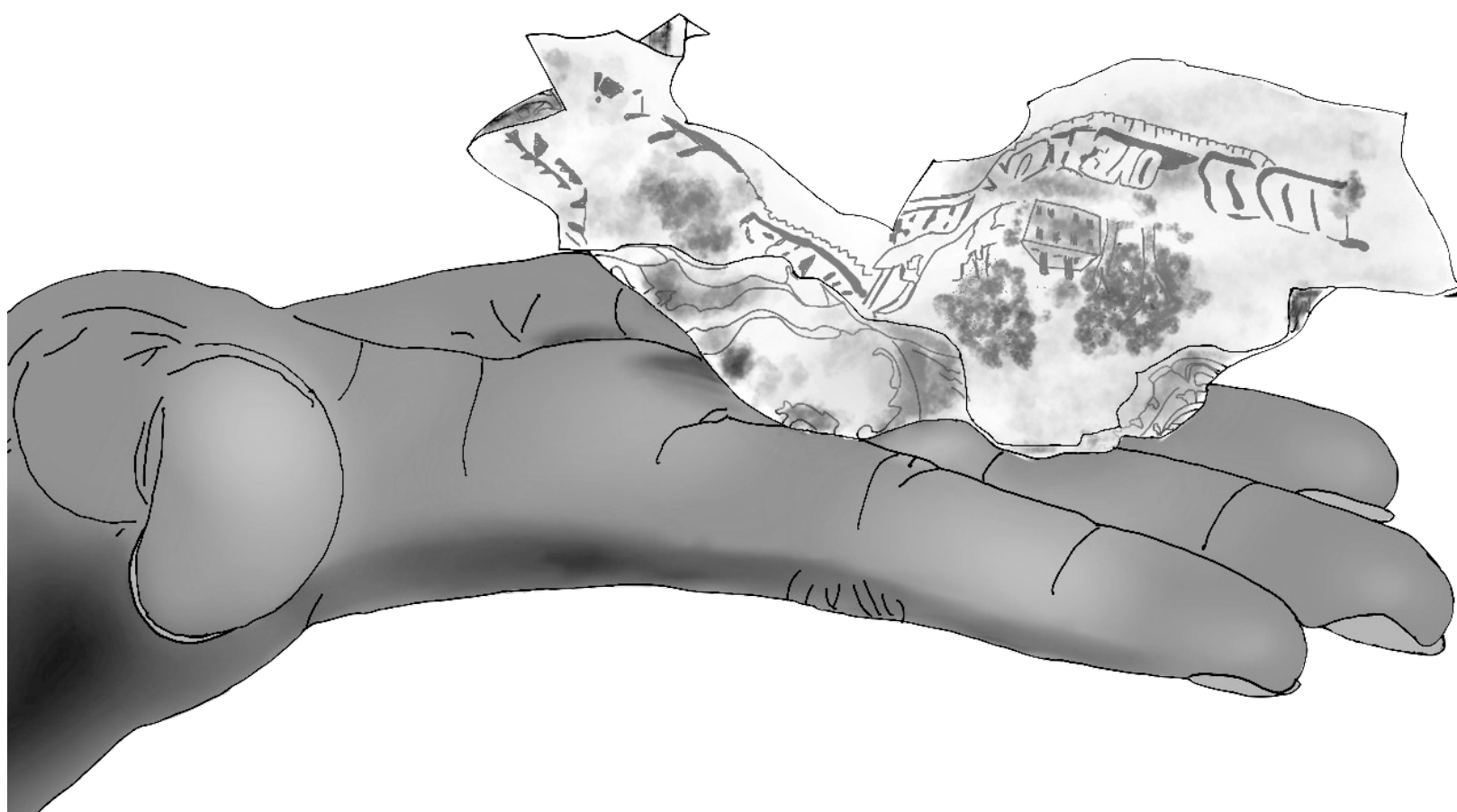
Joshi believes that charitable organizations cannot—and should not—be separated from their country's politics. "Even if it's a solely humanitarian cause, it's never something that needs to be depoliticized," she said. "Humanitarian causes are coming from some sort of power structure and power dynamics."

No social issue occurs in a vacuum. Recognizing historical connections and global trends is the first step to understanding human rights crises in their entirety.

In the Science Center Plaza last month, PSC members rallied alongside PSA to help raise money and awareness for the cause. "[PSC] sold Keffiyahs, or the Palestinian visibility scarf, at the same time as soliciting money for the fundraiser. It was never a matter of distancing from any cause, as these two causes are highly connected," Joshi said. "It just made sense to share our space, resources, and people given that we are fighting for similar causes."

AMIYA TIWARI '26 (AMIYATIWARI@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) LEANS INTO HER SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE BY GIVING A VOICE TO DESI STUDENTS ON CAMPUS.

GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26



POINT/COUNTERPOINT: SHOULD HARVARD RENAME THE SACKLER BUILDING?

BY MARBELLA MARLO '24 AND MANUEL YEPES '24

Marbella Marlo '24: Manny! I was just admiring some artwork in one of Harvard's art museums, the Sackler museum, and felt the need to text you. Just last week, the Harvard College Overdose Prevention and Education released a 23-page proposal urging Harvard to rename the museum. What are your thoughts?

Manuel Yepes '24: I was just thinking about that! Whenever I go, it seems weird to see the name of the family that essentially triggered the opioid crisis adorning the entrance. What's the story behind that?

Marbella: The Arthur M. Sackler Museum bears the name of one of the founders of Purdue-Frederick, a pharmaceutical company that was rebranded into Purdue Pharma after his death in 1987. A decade later, Purdue Pharma introduced OxyContin into the prescription drug market, which caused many of the 400,000 opioid overdoses in the past twenty years. Last year, the Sackler family agreed to pay \$6 billion in settlements and file for bankruptcy to compensate for fraudulent misuse of marketing techniques to physicians that fueled the opioid epidemic.

Harvard has faced mounting pressure in recent years to rename the Sackler Building. President Bacow has repeatedly refused, claiming that "it would be inappropriate for the university to either return the gift or take Sackler's name off the building," as previously reported by the Crimson. Yet in 2020, Bacow launched the Committee to Articulate Principles on Renaming, which has spearheaded the movement to rename Harvard buildings and spaces "associated with historical figures whose advocacy or support of activities would today be found abhorrent by members of the Harvard community."

Manuel: All that backlash is well-founded. I think students would rather not be reminded of the opioid crisis everytime they just want to admire Harvard's art collections.

Marbella: I actually think that this backlash is unjustified. Arthur M. Sackler did not lobby for OxyContin. The building was donated and constructed in 1985, and Sackler died two years later in 1987. Almost a decade later was when OxyContin was officially released by Purdue Pharma in 1996.

Manuel: True, but he did pursue aggressive, controversial, and frankly irresponsible advertising tactics for other painkillers, the same ones that his sons later used for Oxycontin. Just because he lacked the right drugs at the time, he had the same intentions, but just failed where his sons later succeeded.

Marbella: Well, it can be argued that the advertising tactics that Sackler pioneered were not as insidious as people claimed them to be. In 2018, political scientist Evan Gerstmann actually told Forbes Magazine that "it is an absurd inversion of logic to say that because Arthur Sackler pioneered direct marketing to physicians; he is responsible for the fraudulent misuse of that technique, which occurred many years after his death and from which he procured no financial gain," but let's just agree that he is somewhat responsible for the epidemic. The more interesting question, therefore, is whether or not Harvard should rename the building. Sackler

practical use in renaming it at this time.

Manuel: Ok, I concede, there are probably no practical consequences for changing the name of the museum right now, barring the butterfly effect. There is still something morally wrong in honoring the legacy of a figure who, as Barry Meier wrote in his book on the subject, "helped pioneer some of the most controversial and troubling practices in medicine" that later led to over 50,000 deaths a year, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Even though taking down Confederate monuments may not have any practical effects, it shows that we refuse to memorialize people who have hurt society.

Marbella: Right, but I believe that confederate monuments and building names are incomparable. Harvard buildings perpetuate the legacies of individuals like Sackler and Abbott Lawrence Lowell through the name of a building that they either donated or contributed to the development towards. A building only provides our school with physical resources, learning space, and, in some cases, a place to live. Confederate soldiers didn't donate their money, nor are the statues contributing anything functional or positive to society. Confederate soldiers' legacies are also much more symbolic and intangible. Monuments of Robert E. Lee, J.E.B Stuart, and Raphael Semmes commemorate their actions in history, which are the exact sources of their controversy and public criticism. We are not commemorating Sackler for his actions. Only his donations.

Manuel: You are arguing that you can disassociate the good a person does through a donation from their immoral actions in other parts of their life. I do not think that separation is possible. People are not just collections of disconnected actions. They are individuals who must be considered holistically. If Putin donated a building to Harvard, do you really think we should be taking classes in the new Vladimir Putin Center for Philosophy?

Marbella: Well, no. Not only is Putin directly responsible for an entire war, but if he were to hypothetically donate a building now, I do not support, nor do I think Harvard would currently accept do-

nations from such a sadistic individual. It is a different story when the wrongdoings of a donor become known or critiqued after the donation. Harvard is currently under fire for many similar examples: Lowell, Mather, and other significant campus landmarks are named after people who committed sins, and I am not sure if they all should be renamed. It would not only dismiss Harvard's formative history, but also would fail to recognize these individuals for the positive impacts they also contributed.

Manuel: Renaming the Sackler museum, along with Mather and Lowell, does not dismiss history. Naming a building after someone is an act of active memorialization, emphasizing one individual in the minds of all those who read the signage above the entrance. Choosing to retain this name signals that Harvard believes Sackler deserves such an honorific place within society and in the minds of those who visit the Art Museum.

Marbella: But the Sackler building is rightfully Sackler's—he paid for it. Are we going to start renaming every building the minute their donors do something controversial?

Manuel: True, we do have to respect transactions, contracts, and the rule of law that they are founded on. However, morality is the cornerstone of law, and sometimes the immorality of one party presents a situation where we have to go to the source and bypass the legality of a contract.

Marbella: Manny, this conversation is too complex to be had over text. Let's just finish it in person.

Manuel: Sounds good. Dhall in 20?

Marbella: Down.

Manuel: Taking the shuttle now.

MANUEL YEPES '24 (MANNYYEPES@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) AND MARBELLA MARLO '24 (MMARLO@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) DEBATED THE REST OF THIS CONVERSATION OVER QUINCY DINNER.

GRAPHIC BY REEVE SYKES '26

Hello
my name is



TOURISTS IN THE YARD

Who is entitled to view Harvard students' private space?

BY CLARA CORCORAN '25 AND SACHI LAUMAS '26

Sometimes, you decide to go to a petting zoo in Straus courtyard. And sometimes, you feel like you're in the petting zoo in Straus courtyard. A week or so ago, we arrived at the pop-up zoo expecting to pet some bunnies and goats, only to find a stagnant group of tourists clustered around the animals. We expected them to pull out their cameras and point them at the oft-photographed brick dorms scattered across the yard, but instead, they turned toward us.

If we had been doing something remotely interesting besides watching pigs tear up dirt, it would not have merited a second thought. But the irony of going to a petting zoo only to be observed in such an eerily zoo-like manner was too much to pass up.

Students' interactions with tourists

who may not want every part of their lives observed.

"I don't know why you would want to see where we live," said Chen. She, along with many of her peers, sees the primary purpose of the dorms as residential. She expressed the self-consciousness that many first-years feel about tourists infringing on their space: are dorms in the Yard first-years' homes, or just brick spectacles?

Stepping away from the Yard and making the trek down Garden Street to Harvard's Radcliffe Quadrangle, a certain quietness inhabits the space due to the lack of students who frequent the Quad during the daytime and the lack of tourists in this part of Cambridge. With no Harvard Shops or singers on street corners, the tranquility of the area is often cited by its residents as

feel like an honor to be approached by a tourist keen to learn about your class schedule or catch a peak at a first-floor dorm room.

Indeed, there is a bit of an insiders' game to interacting with tourists in the Yard. Whether giggling at the general naivety of the Yard's tourists or joining together in a sort of in-group game of "who can spot the outsider" as tourists latch proudly onto John Harvard's bronze toe, students undeniably fall victim to a larger spirit of elitism present in the student population.

If groups of strangers from around the world can put an entire student body on a pedestal with ease, perhaps it is time for us to begin questioning the assumptions we make in return.

IF GROUPS OF STRANGERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD CAN PUT AN ENTIRE STUDENT BODY ON A PEDESTAL WITH EASE, PERHAPS IT IS TIME FOR US TO BEGIN QUESTIONING THE ASSUMPTIONS WE MAKE IN RETURN.

range from being asked to take BeReals—always appreciated—to being pressured to give impromptu tours around their dorm rooms—not as appreciated. And while most tourists who roam the Yard do not violate students' boundaries, just snapping the occasional Instagram picture or rubbing the toe, some visitors' curiosity about Harvard encroaches on private space.

Sofia Chen '26 recalled when two women repeatedly pressured her to show them inside her room. "They said, 'Let us into some room, anyone's, we just want to see what the rooms are like,'" Chen explained.

The line between tourists being invasive and curious is a thin one. It is perhaps unfair to criticize tourists for wanting to learn more about Harvard and its students, but their curiosity about Harvard and its students quickly bleeds into the personal space of students, particularly first-years,

the Quad's best-kept secret.

Indeed, with no tourists, the Quad almost feels like a different campus, lacking the pulse of visitors eager to inquire about and perceive Harvard students. Cabot House resident Caroline Baynard '25 this aura as "definitely positive. It feels more peaceful and more separate from the idea of Harvard University as this tourist destination rather than a home environment."

Contrasting her Quad experience with her time in the Yard, Baynard said, "when you're trying to pass through a crowd of people at the statue, and you just need to get to your lecture at the Science Center, it can be pretty frustrating." Yet she also views the presence of tourists as a "reminder that the little pieces of campus that I overlook are also part of this history and culture that is so well-regarded internationally across communities really far away from ours."

Some students expressed that it can

SACHI LAUMAS '26 (SLAUMAS@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) JUST WANTS A TOURIST TO ASK HER TO TAKE THEIR BEREAL.

CLARA CORCORAN '25 (CLARACORCORAN@COLLEGE.HAVRARD.EDU) SENDS A PERSONAL INVITATION TO TOUR YOU AROUND THE QUAD.

Sundays in the Square

Fresh fruits and vegetables, music and movie posters, hand-crafted jewelry, and lots of thrifted clothing: With an open market running every Sunday until October 30th, and a farmer's market practically year-round, Sundays in Harvard Square are filled with opportunities to talk and shop. I spent a few hours at the markets and asked students and business-owners how they spend their Sundays in the Square.



Hi-Rise Bread Company is a popular spot in Cambridge which sells baked goods like bread, pastries and cookies. They began selling at the Charles to expand their sales. “I think it’s mainly markets that get our name out there into more parts of the community,” shared Olivia, a Hi-Rise salesperson at Sunday’s sale. “We are very close to this part of Harvard, but it’s kind of nice to move around a little and cover more bases.” The farmer’s market also allows the business to interact with the Cambridge community. “I definitely have good interactions,” Olivia said, joking: “Today, mainly it’s just been: ‘Are you staying warm?’”



Coy Brook Farm in Westbrook Field sells produce at the farmer’s market. “I’ve been selling here at this market for over 20 years,” exclaimed owner Roger Allen, “in this same spot.” When asked why he decided to sell at the market, like fellow businesses, Roger gestured to the area. “It’s a lot of work, [but] the location, mainly. It’s a great location to sell local produce.”

Taylor Browning ’26 came with a friend to scope out the market on Church Street. “It’s a great idea. At Harvard, there are a lot of people who would be interested in something like this, so to have it so close, I think it works for the businessowners and students, as well as livening up the square,” she expressed. “It’s a win-win-win.” Next week, Browning plans to come back to the market with a spending budget in mind, “as long as it’s not cold.”



Gabrielle Boyce from **The G Spot Vintage Shop** has been selling vintage clothes and her friends’ handmade jewelry at the market as long as it’s been going on. “It’s right down the street from where I live,” she explained. “And also, what better place than Harvard Square? It’s iconic, there’s so many great artists around here and great other independent shops, so it’s kind of just a great vibe all around.”

Boyce said the market has been a perfect setting to promote her brand: “I don’t own a storefront. I’m having a blast, making money, and the world is learning about G Spot.”



Marie Jensen '26 came to the Charles Square farmer’s market looking for one thing: carrots. “I’m a big fan of carrots,” she said. “It’s actually my second time here, so I try to go every Sunday to get new carrots, fruits, and vegetables.”

SEE HOW HARVARD STUDENTS AND LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR SUNDAYS

BY LAYLA CHAARAOUI '26



Anne Bunn and her partner Jill Forney started **Urban Pharm** in May of 2022, and just started selling at the Square's market this season. Urban Pharm sells shrub at the Farmer's Market, a raw apple cider vinegar infused with fruits, botanicals, and honey, used in salad vinaigrettes or even as a base for mocktails or cocktails. Bunn said selling at the Charles has come with countless positives, business and personal.

"In terms of the business, since we're brand new it's a way for us to teach people that, one, we even exist, that Urban Pharm exists, and two, what it is that we do. Shrub is not a totally mainstream product, so we're teaching people about the product itself, too," she said. "We as individuals are having a lot of fun meeting all of the different vendors. There's a whole fun culture that happens in exchange, and we're getting a lot of fun vegetables... and then meeting customers of course is really fun."



Giselle Chiprez '25 stumbled upon the open market on Church Street while her way out of the nearby T stop. "I saw the posters and said I'd go see for myself," she explained, and ended up purchasing posters from shops selling art. She thinks the markets add a sense of community to the Square. "You can just go out and see all the little shops that are around that you might not see on a day-to-day basis," she said. "You see not only people that live in the Square or live in the area, but people who also come out to come to places like this, and so I think it's just nice to see everyone around, outside, and just hanging out."



Zack Popiel '25, Makena Gates '25, Dylan Goodman '25, and Ella Gilson '25 also stumbled on the market after coming off the T. The artwork on sale caught Gibson's eye: "I didn't think I wanted anything in particular until I saw the paintings, and thought I definitely wanted one of them for my dorm, so I got one!" Goodman said that beyond creating a platform for small business purchases, markets create "a fun opportunity for students to take a break from their studying. I feel like this kind of shopping right now is very trendy, so it's a cool atmosphere."



Like the other sellers, Amanda Raynes of **Nellie Baker Vintage** thinks the market has helped boost her clothing business. "It's good to meet people and have them see my stuff in person rather than just online." Her shop was founded in 2017 and this is its first year of selling at the open market. "It seemed like a lively area with a lot of college students and people who are into buying secondhand and vintage clothing," Raynes stated.

LAYLA CHAARAOUI '26 (LAYLACHAARAOUI@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HAS ENJOYED HER APPLE CIDER FROM COY BROOK FARM, AND IS EXCITED TO WEAR HER BLUE COWBOY HAT EARRINGS FROM THE G SPOT VINTAGE SHOP.

IS PRIDE PRETENTIOUS?

Wearing more Harvard gear will strengthen our support for student-athletes and enhance our sense of community

BY ALEXANDRA DOROFEEV '25

When the Harvard Sailing team van pulls up to our regattas, we immediately look out of place. Everyone but our team is wearing matching team gear. My teammates are sporting unbranded sweats, jackets, and shoes—all Harvard logos out of sight. We seem far from a Division 1 Varsity sports team arriving to compete.

Many students opt to keep a “low profile” about the Harvard brand to avoid being regarded as obnoxious, or even vain, for showcasing our highly exclusive and elite school. But if we want to further our support for student-athletes and enhance our sense of community, we shouldn't be afraid of how we are being perceived.

A member of Harvard's Alpine Skiing team, Matt Ryan '25, said, “We have a lot of team pride and camaraderie in general because we're such a small team on campus.”

Conversely, a member of the Varsity Sailing team, Sarah Burn '24, explained that her hesitation to wear team gear stems from the emphasis that sailing places on competitor perception.

“If we showed up in head-to-toe matching Harvard Sailing Gear, people would see it as obnoxious,” Burn added. “It's better to be a little low profile.”

The school's innate exclusivity and association with the elite can instigate a negative public response.

A 2022 survey conducted by the Harvard Political Review asked 130 Harvard students if they hesitate to reveal the fact that they go to Harvard. On a scale of 1 (being strongly hesitant) to 5 (being very proud), respondents reported feeling an average of 2.63 out of 5. Further research reported that “undergraduates wear at least one piece of Harvard apparel an average of 1.44 days

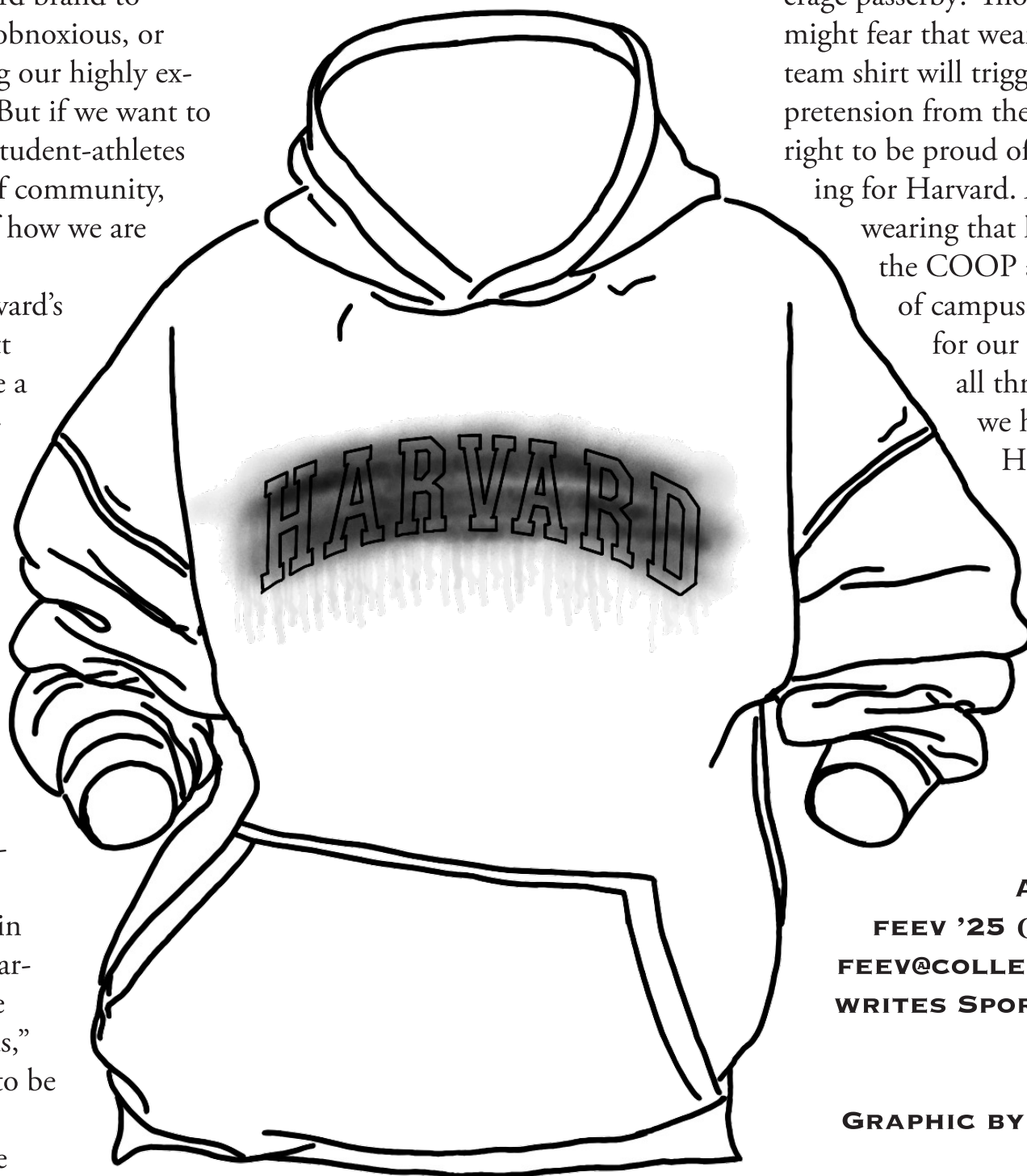
of their typical week, with one third of respondents reporting that they never wear Harvard clothing.”

Aside from the annual Harvard-Yale football game, where thousands of students and alumni support their teams donning branded gear from head to toe, the athletic culture at Harvard drastically differs from that of most American universities. Large state

associated with the school community.

“At first my dad was hesitant to put a Harvard Field Hockey sticker on his car,” said Elle Freedman '25. “But then he thought, ‘I shouldn't be afraid to publicly celebrate where my daughter goes to school. She goes to Harvard and I'm proud of that.’”

Should we hide any pride in our school to preserve our humility to the average passerby? Though student-athletes might fear that wearing a simple sports team shirt will trigger stereotypes of pretension from the public eye, we have a right to be proud of attending and playing for Harvard. And for student fans, wearing that hoodie you bought at the COOP around and outside of campus reflects your support for our teams and unites us all through the one thing we have in common: the Harvard name.



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GRAPHIC BY REEVE SYKES '26

schools, where the multibillion-dollar industry of collegiate football draws tens of thousands of fans each week of the fall football season, and even some smaller, liberal arts schools with strong athletic teams, like Duke University, generate a strong sense of school pride through spirited dress.

As a result of our relatively low emphasis on sports and outwardly exclusive perception, this trend is hardly present at Harvard. It even affects those loosely

SCRUMS, SONGS, AND SOLIDARITY

On the anniversary of Title IX, the Women's Rugby team is fiercer than ever

BY KATE KADYAN '25

Last Friday, after the Harvard Women's Rugby team tackled, blocked, and ultimately beat Sacred Heart University, they serenaded their opponent with a song that both uplifted their rivals and promised future scrimmages: "here's to Sacred Heart, we will play you ever more." This scene encapsulated the spirit of the team, one that balances tackling and singing, tenacity and camaraderie.

Harvard's 27-5 defeat of Sacred Heart coincided with the 50th anniversary of the passage of Title IX, the act which prohibits sex-based discrimination in activities receiving federal funding. The continuation of the team's winning streak on a historically salient day reminded players and spectators alike of the inroads the women's team has made in recent years.

40 years ago, women fought for entry onto Harvard's rugby pitch. Now, they are leaders in that arena. "In a world where you're used to the men being in the spotlight, it is the Women's Rugby team who are dominating out there," said team member Lennox London '26.

The players credit this success to sport's distinctly physical nature. Many other female sports, compared to their corresponding male leagues, impose restrictions on the level of permissible physical interaction between opponents. Rugby, however, allows full contact. It allows women to display aggression and develop strength often associated only with male sports and athletes.

Team captain Alex Pippin '23 was encouraged to start playing rugby after accumulating many yellow cards playing soccer. Meanwhile, London tried out lacrosse and co-ed football before finding rugby. She found tackling incredibly empowering and discovered that "women are a lot stronger than they

think they are."

At Harvard, individual strength and respect for teammates develop in tandem. According to Pippin, the physical contact in rugby automatically gives players respect for the power of both their teammates and opponents. This mutual esteem is also rooted in the legacy of Women's Rugby at Harvard.

After meeting the founding members of the Harvard Women's Rugby team at the team's 40th anniversary last week, Pippin said, "Rugby culture here is very much grounded in gratitude and knowing that everybody fought to get to the point where we have this beautiful pitch... and amazing resources."

The players are translating this gratitude into empowering other young women to enter the sport, a number of whom approached the players after their game eager for autographs. "The women do a better job of lifting each other up because there's less

opportunities for women to play rugby," said Pippin.

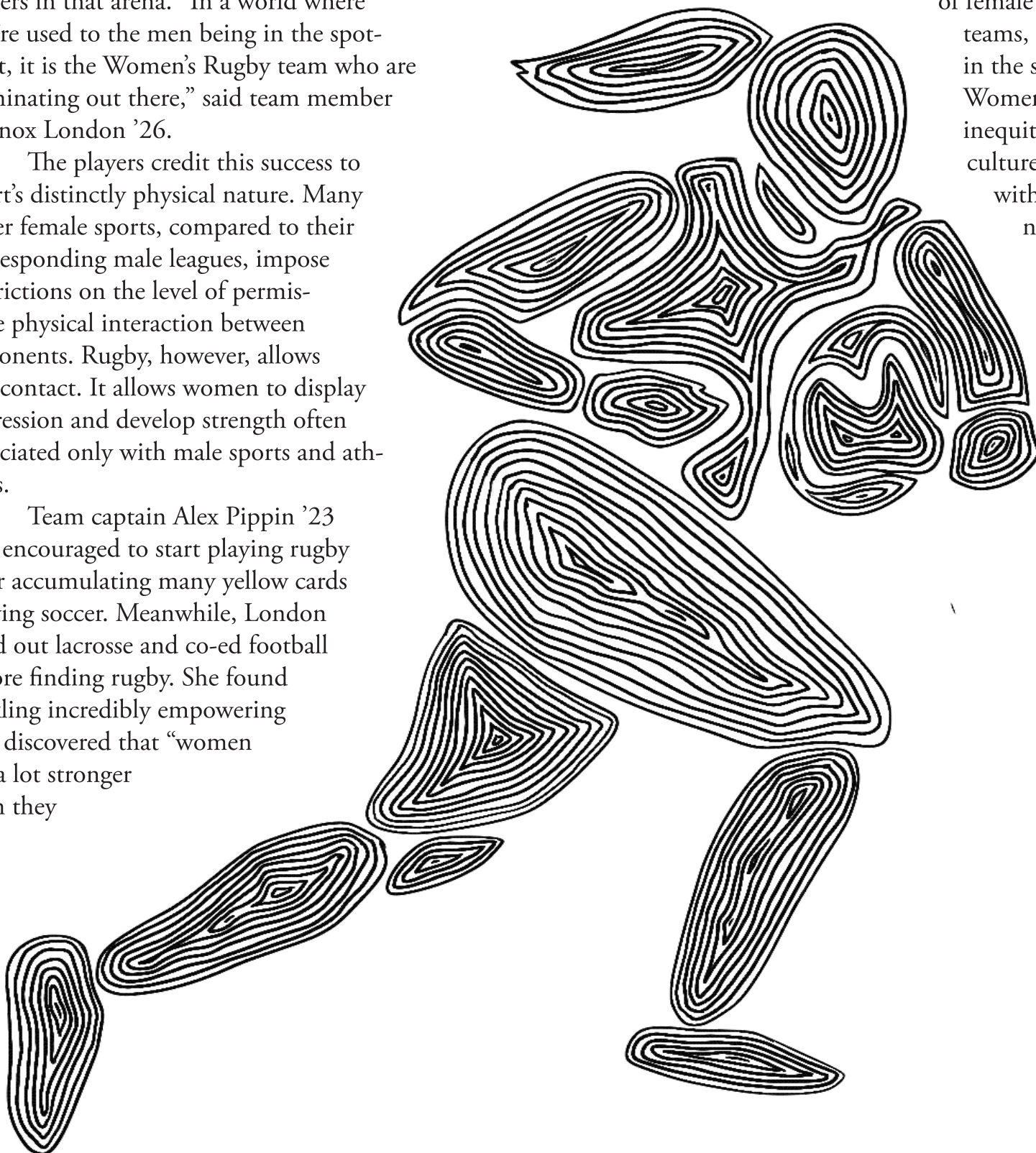
Cassidy Bargell '23, a scrumhalf on the team, agreed that the intimacy of the community fosters bonds between teams. "You make friends anywhere you go playing rugby," she commented.

Unlike other sports which often prescribe the body type necessary to be a top player, rugby teams encourage diversity in body size, strength, and agility, creating a culture which appreciates and respects difference. In some sports, "everybody kind of has to be built the same way, or think the same way to be good," Pippin said. "You can't have that in rugby. You have to respect people who aren't like you and people have to respect you for what you bring to the table."

The inequality which necessitated Title IX is still felt by the players on the team today. Pippin noted that until the number of female rugby players equals that of men's teams, there will still be a gender gap in the sport. Despite this, the Harvard Women's Rugby team has turned past inequities into fuel for a thriving team culture. Their ability to pair ferocity with mutual admiration is inspiring not only to budding players, but to women's athletics at large.

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