

HARVARD INDEPENDENT

THE STUDENT WEEKLY SINCE 1969



MASTHEAD

September 15, 2023

EXECUTIVE BOARD

NOAH TAVARES '24 <i>President</i>	PIPER TINGLEAF '24 <i>Design Editor</i>
MARBELLA MARLO '24 <i>Editor-In-Chief</i>	BELLE BEHRING '26 <i>Comp Director</i>
KATIE MERRIAM '26 <i>Vice President</i>	MADDY TUNNELL '26 <i>Comp Director</i>

EDITORIAL BOARD

LAYLA CHAARAOUI '26 <i>News Editor</i>	MATT SAKTYAMA '25 <i>Associate Arts Editor</i>
ELIZA KIMBALL '25 <i>Forum Editor</i>	MCGAVOCK COOPER '24 <i>Associate Sports Editor</i>
ANDREW SPIELMANN '25 <i>Arts Editor</i>	SACHI LAUMAS '26 <i>Copy Editor</i>
DECLAN BUCKLEY '24 <i>Sports Editor</i>	GAURI SOOD '26 <i>Copy Editor</i>
REBECCA ACKERMAN '25 <i>Crossword Editor</i>	LUKE WAGNER '26 <i>Archivist</i>
KATY LIN '26 <i>Associate News Editor</i>	JONAH KARAFIOL '26 <i>Archivist</i>
AMIYA TIWARI '26 <i>Associate Forum Editor</i>	

BUSINESS BOARD

ELLA HILTON '24 <i>Head of Operations</i>	JULIA MACIEJAK '26 <i>Subscription Director</i>
MIR ZAYID ALAM '25 <i>Head of Business</i>	KEVIN BLANCO '26 <i>Merchandise Director</i>
ALMA RUSSELL '26 <i>Publishing Director</i>	MICHAEL OVED '25 <i>Sports Business Director</i>
ALEX CARLIN '26 <i>Website Director</i>	LAUREN MURPHY '25 <i>Social Media Director</i>
ALLEGRA WONG '26 <i>Website Director</i>	OLIVIA CALENDAR '26 <i>Podcast Marketing Director</i>

BOARD OF ADVISORS

CARLI COOPERSTEIN '24
GOGO TAUBMAN '24
ISAIAH LEE '24
GRACE VON OISTE '24
WILL GOLDSMITH '24

STAFF WRITERS

ADEDOYIN ADEBAYO '26	JUDE HERWITZ '26
CARLY BRAIL '26	KATE KADYAN '26
MAGGIE BUCKLEY '26	ALICE KHAYAMI '25
KYA BROOKS '25	SAMANTHA MOSCONI '25
KENDALL CARL '26	SOPHIA MORA-ORTEGA '26
ANDREW CHRISTIE '26	KATE OLIVER '26
CLARA CORCORAN '25	ADAM PEARL '26
HANNAH DAVIS '25	OLIVIA PASQUERELLA '26
ALEXANDRA DOROFEEV '25	LULU PATTERSON '24
AISSATOU DIALLO '25	KAYLA REIFEL '26
ALEXANDA FRIEDLANDER '25	ABRIL RODRIGUEZ-DIAZ '26
ILANA FEDER '26	MATTHEW SHUM '24
CAROLINE HAO '25	CHARLIE STEINBAUM '24
SANTIAGO SALAZAR '26	

DESIGN STAFF

ISABEL EDDY '24	ANNELISE FISHER '26
CANDACE GARDNER '25	EL RICHARDS '26
SEATTLE HICKEY '25	ALMA RUSSELL '26
DAVID LI '25	REEVE SYKES '26

BUSINESS STAFF

LILY BARTLETT '24	CHINASA OHAJEKWE '26
RIVA KAPOOR '24	FRANCES CONNORS '26
CLAIRE BEDDINGFIELD '25	JENNIFER YU '26
FREDDIE LIU '25	KATIE LE '26
GEORGINA YOUNES '25	ALEXANDRA LENZO '25
SEATTLE HICKEY '25	LAURA RIKKERS '26
GRACE BOLNER '25	LIZA DE FIQUEIREDO '26
MIMI KOENIG '25	PATRICIA HALLIDAY '26
AVA STONE '26	SOFIA BORSATTI '26
MARY CIPPERMAN '26	

THE SUSTAINERS

The Sustainers are a group of Independent alumni committed to supporting our mission by funding one month of office rent each year for at least five years.

MARK SHIELDS '70
JIM VASEFF '71
DAVID SMITH '75
RANDY BUCKLIN '82
MARK PELOFSKY '84
JULIE DAM '93
WILL RECKLER '99

CONTENTS

- 3 THE IMPOSTER AMONGST US
BY MIA TAVARES '27
- 4 CLUB COMP RUNDOWN
BY CAROLINE HAO '25
- 6 CLASSES YOU NEED TO TAKE BEFORE YOU GRADUATE 3.0
BY HANNAH DAVIS '25
- 7 POINT-COUNTERPOINT: TO DITCH OR NOT TO DITCH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART
BY ADEDOYIN ADEBAYO '26 AND ANDREW SPIELMANN '25
- 8 FRAGMENTS OF INDYLOVE
BY CANDACE GARDNER '25
- 10 THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS BEYOND GENED 1025
BY ALICE KHAYAMI '25 AND ALEXANDRA DOROFEEV '25
- 11 SATIRE FROM ARROW STREET: CLAUDINE GAY'S AFGHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL MOMENT
BY CHUCK STONE
- 12 THAT GUY WHO SINGS "SUNROOF"
BY ILANA FEDER '26
- 13 INDY SPORTSBOOK: PICK ON THE NEW KIDS
BY BEN MILLER '24
- 14 STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS: JOSIE HASBO
BY KATE OLIVER '26
- 15 BLENDED
BY REBECCA ACKERMAN '25

THE IMPOSTER AMONGST US

An exclusive interview with an illegitimate member of the Class of 2027.

BY MIA TAVARES '27

Note: The student mentioned throughout this article agreed to be interviewed by the Independent under the condition that they remain anonymous in print. In order to respect their wishes, the Independent has replaced their name with the pseudonym Jane.

The December date of early acceptances marks a routine pattern each year, and the Harvard Class of 2027 was no exception—forming Facebook pages, Instagram groups, and many virtual friendships. For many, it was an exciting time, with everyone open to meeting new people and getting to know their future classmates. By March, it was clear that one student stood out. With a blue verification check (that later disappeared) and a sizable following of thousands, this student was unusually active in group chats and appeared to have quickly made many friends. “They seemed to be online 24/7,” recalled first-year Elson Bankoff '27. Nat C. '27, who preferred not to disclose their last name, described them as “seemingly the most social person at Harvard.” Who was this new, rising star?

As it turns out, they were a fake student. Soon after arriving on campus in August, the new first-years became suspicious of the person they thought was their friend, and acquired many pieces of evidence in order to form their case. The Class of 2027 used platforms like Sidechat and Instagram to circulate news of this “fake freshman,” citing screenshots of edited images, stories about interactions with Jane, and supposed confirmation by Harvard administration. However, the administration has yet to provide a comment for this story. To this day, Jane has disputed these claims and remained steadfast in their allegation that they were a student all along.

“My parents went to the Ivy League,” Jane asserted, discussing their choice of choosing Harvard. “I could have gone to Stanford or Yale, but [Harvard was] just a bit different, because I decided to go a different path rather than my entire family.” They looked at the applications and decided Harvard was going to be a challenge. “Harvard is the toughest school on here,” Jane concluded. “Let’s give it a try. I actually did the early action round and I got the acceptance in December.”

Upon arriving on campus for the second time (the first time being Visitas in April), the “fake freshman” quickly solidified their relationships, interacting with “all of us that did pre-orientation,” Nat C. observed. Jane became a microcelebrity, unfazed by their fame.

“There’s people who went up to me, saying ‘Oh my god, are you [name redacted]? Oh my god, you’re Harvard famous!’” Jane recalled, describing their early interactions with fellow members of their class. “I am social. It’s a new experience...How else are you going to get the connections and move forward in life and meet new people with different experiences? Because every person you meet, I feel like you learn something new every single day.” After making it

onto Dean Khurana’s Instagram, helping students move in, and attending a variety of Harvard events, it seemed that this student was integrated well within the Harvard community.

Then the rumors started spreading. Despite every single one of their social media accounts listing Harvard in the bio, countless posts on their own (and family members’) accounts, and even their old high school’s account alleging that they are a part of Harvard’s Class of 2027, multiple pieces of evidence surfaced which suggested that this individual did not actually attend Harvard. In the interview, the *Independent* presented Jane with the evidence, citing their inability to provide proof of acceptance or a verified Harvard ID, and their absence from the printed or online registry.

“I’ve heard those untrue accusations about my actions on campus, particularly regarding accessing certain facilities. I want to clarify that I always swiped my own ID... and, you know, I never photoshopped anything, which is kind of annoying. But I guess [people] say that because I do photography and all that,” they said. While Jane did confirm they were not in a pre-orientation program, apparently already having “dropped out” despite being on campus at the time they were being run, they declined to elaborate on which one or why.

Social media also perpetuated allegations of sexual misconduct. In the document being circulated on Sidechat, students anonymously gave testimonies that “[They] sexually assaulted two people on campus,” and “[They] walked with me and my drunk friend home who threw up in my dorm, and the proctor asked who [they were], [the proctor] couldn’t find [their] last name.” Jane declared that these allegations were all very untrue. “I find that really offensive if I’m being honest. I would even say the opposite, actually, that there were like a couple of students who reached out to me, before we even got on campus, and asked to hook up.”

Jane elaborated on the situation that she had called “really annoying,” explaining that “one night, I was walking back from Wigg [a first-year dorm]. One person had their arm around me. And they’re like, Hey, I like you...And then they like, kiss me. And I kiss back, obviously.” Jane also admitted to sexting a Harvard freshman, but maintained that she did not engage in physical sexual relations with them.

After some time, when the rumors regarding their status as a student became commonplace, Jane completely disappeared from campus. By August 30th, they were gone, entirely hidden from the public eye. In a few texts

sent to various friends sourced from a group chat, Jane promised to return in time for convocation and the rest of the school year. In their words: “I had to leave campus on [August] 30th due to family issues in New Jersey...I received a difficult

call from Harvard during my time in New Jersey...about the rumors, etc...That [call] led me to withdraw [as a student from Harvard].”

When asked to comment on the fact that they were not actually ever accepted or enrolled, Jane declared, “I will not be willing to comment on that. No, that was a conversation between [Harvard administration] and me. And I don’t want to comment on that.” At the time of the interview, “Harvard” remained in their Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter bios. The “fake freshman” explained that it was because they “deleted their socials.” Two days later, “Harvard” was replaced by “MA.”

In terms of future plans, they confirmed that they would not reapply to Harvard. “I wouldn’t transfer back to Harvard. Can I see myself maybe still forging the connections that I had? Maybe, because again, I’ve no hatred towards them. But the people that I was close with, I don’t know if they’d still talk to me.”

In several conversations the *Independent* had with various Class of 2027 members, it became clear that one final question had to be answered: *Why* did the “fake freshman” do it? With this in mind, a segment of the recorded interview has been transcribed below:

MT: Hypothetically speaking, if you *had* faked being a Harvard student, what did you gain? Why would you be compelled to do something like this?

Jane: As to why there really isn’t a why, I don’t understand why someone would do that. I feel like my only reason would be my father. But again, I’m not gonna go into that. Sorry, what was the other part of the question?

MT: Hypothetically speaking, what would be a motivation to act in that way?

Jane: There is none.

MIA TAVARES '27 (MIATAVARES@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) ONCE SAW THE “FAKE FRESHMAN” WANDERING THE HALLS OF LOWELL DURING VISITAS AND PROMPTLY EXITED THE BUILDING.

GRAPHIC BY PIPER TINGLEAF '24

CLUB COMP RUNDOWN

Interviews with members of various student organizations to get you inspired for comp season.

BY CAROLINE HAO '25

With more than 450 student organizations at Harvard, it can be hard to narrow down your search. So, to help you get ready for comp season this fall, the *Harvard Independent* reached out to students in various pre-professional, academic, creative, athletic, social, and service groups and compiled a (nonexhaustive) list to help you get ready. The following organizations are chosen and listed in no particular order.

Pre-Professional and Academic

Harvard College Consulting Group (HCCG)

The Harvard College Consulting Group, or HCCG, is a student-run consulting club. The comp process starts with an application of short essays about yourself and why you want to join. Next there is a behavioral first-round interview where you talk about yourself and meaningful experiences you believe have prepared you for HCCG. Lastly, the second-round interview requires you to prepare and present slides to respond to a business problem and give advice to a mock client. “The work we do at HCCG has been interesting and has taught me a lot, but the best part of the club has and will always be the people (and the food!),” said Abdu Sahibousidq '25.

Harvard Student Agencies (HSA)

Harvard Student Agencies is the world's largest student-run business and is the umbrella company for various branches such as The Harvard Shop, Cleaners & Dorm Essentials, and Trademark Tours. The comp process at HSA involves a short written application and two rounds of in-person interviews.

“I love HSA for many reasons. The opportunity to run a multi-million dollar business as a 20 year old, the 800+ jobs we create for our fellow Harvard undergraduates, and most importantly the people. I've met some of my best friends at HSA and it is definitely where I have found my home on campus,” said Juliet Fitzgerald '25, the incoming HSA President. “From leading strategic planning sessions about the future of our company to carrying microfridges up flights of stairs, working at HSA has made me grow as a young professional and as a leader—I can't imagine an office I'd have more fun going to every day.”

The Harvard Crimson Business Board (CrimBiz)

Comp for the Harvard Crimson Business Board, or CrimBiz, starts off with an Intro Cocktail, which is an introduction to the Business Board and a meet-and-greet with Board members. CrimBiz then hosts three skill-centered workshops to display different departments within the Business Board. These workshops are group-oriented and emphasize teamwork. Cof-

fee chats and daymanning (office time) happen throughout the comp. Finally, compers apply through an application form, and the Board holds two rounds of interviews.

“I like CrimBiz because it's a very scrappy and innovative environment where an entrepreneurial spirit runs a 150-year old institution. I love that I get to play a part in strategically supporting the mission of a student-run newspaper that has the power to change the future of Harvard,” said Libby Wu '24, a Marketing Manager on the Business Board. “I met some of my best friends through the Business Board, and I've gotten great professional experience from here, but most of all, it's a place where I can always laugh and be myself.”

Intercollegiate Model United Nations Team (ICMUN)

ICMUN, the Intercollegiate Model United Nations Team, is Harvard's competitive Model UN team. The comp process is competitive, where compers submit a written application through the International Relations Council. Next, they go through an interview process with a panel of ICMUN board members. Finally, compers attend a full day mock conference in which they compete against other compers. The process is split between experienced and new MUN competitors to create a fair process.

“For me, ICMUN has been an incredible social community, bonding with people from all around campus of all years with unique backgrounds and interests,” said Alice Yang '26, a member of ICMUN. “Through weekly themed socials and free travel to conferences, I've met and bonded with these amazing people from Harvard and colleges across the US. It is a family that has your back no matter what happens. It is a place where you are encouraged to be who you are and to do what you want, whether it be real or in your imagination.”

Creative and Performing Arts

The Harvard Crimson Arts Board (Crimson Arts)

To join the Harvard Crimson Arts Board (or Crimson Arts), compers take part in a completion-based comp where they write a total of 6 pieces during the semester and attend weekly meetings. Each compers' portfolio must cover a variety of arts topics, including (but not limited to) Film, TV, and an Artist Profile (an interview and write-up).

“The comp isn't strenuous if you're good about writing pieces consistently throughout the semester, and it's really cool that your pieces get published, even as a compers! As a Staff Writer now, I particularly enjoy writing reviews every so often on movies or TV shows I watch. One of my favorite Crimson Arts experiences was an Artist Profile I wrote after interviewing

the writer of a new Star Wars TV show on Disney+,” said Kieran Farrell '25.

The Harvard Lampoon (The Lampoon)

The Harvard Lampoon, founded in 1876, is Harvard College's humor magazine. “Comping was a movie. Comp if you're funny,” said Caden Heiser-Cerrato '26. (Apologies if you were looking for insights.)

The Harvard LowKeys (The LowKeys)

The Harvard Undergraduate LowKeys is an a cappella group that holds a multi-round audition process every fall with preliminary auditions open to everyone. Then, there are three rounds of cuts. If you make it to the final night of callbacks for the LowKeys or any other a cappella groups, you have the opportunity to preference your remaining groups in your preferred order. All the a cappella groups sort their remaining auditionees based on both auditionee and group preferences.

“A cappella at Harvard has not only been a transformative musical journey but a wonderful way to meet other members of the Harvard community who will have shaped my experience here in such a positive manner,” said Emily Hansen '25.

Athletic

Harvard Men's Lacrosse Club

Harvard Men's Lacrosse Club is open to players of all experience levels, including people who have never seen the sport. To join, send a message via SOCO and you will be added to the GroupMe, where they communicate the practice schedule, game schedule, and social calendar.

“I've been part of Club Lax since freshman year and have yet to find a more laid back and welcoming group of guys on campus,” said Chris Doyle '25. “The team borders on being a social team that happens to play lacrosse, but that's what I love most about it. No one on the team takes themselves too seriously, as evidenced by some of our ridiculous inside jokes like wolf-and-sheep-themed mixers and wearing fedoras...everyone knows how to have a good time.”

Harvard Women's Lacrosse Club

Harvard Women's Lacrosse Club is a completion-based comp. They host two practices each week, and members must attend at least one per week. There is a “tryout” period at the beginning of the season where attendance is taken. They do not require a certain level of skill; anyone is able to join. “Club has been a great way for me to meet new people, broaden my horizons, and get to continue playing the sport I love,” said Katharine Forst '25.

Harvard Men's Club Soccer

Harvard Men's Club Soccer is a competitive club team that holds two rounds of tryouts on the first weekend of school. "It's a great environment that's a home for me on campus while still being a very competitive team. Club Soccer has been my favorite athletic space on campus," said Thomas Garity '25.

Social and Service Organizations

Crimson Key Society (Key)

The Crimson Key Society is a community service organization that guides tours and hosts events for Harvard visitors. Key comp is split into two rounds. The first round is a presentation of a single tour stop of the comp'er's choosing, and the second round is a presentation of the entire tour to a current member. The goal of this is for the tours to be special for each person, as they ask compers to write their own scripts based on a list of facts Key provides. "We're really looking for your unique voice to shine through," said Rick Li '25, a member of Key.

"One of the biggest reasons I love Key is because of Project Teach. We give tours to middle school students from Cambridge and Boston Public Schools and then eat with them in Annenberg afterwards," Li said. "It's the smiles on the kids' faces as you show them the conduit of sound at Sever or the way their eyes light up when they see the 'Harry Potter cafeteria' for the first time. It's worth every single 8AM Friday morning."

Asian American Brotherhood (AAB)

To join the Asian-American Brotherhood, or AAB, all recruits are required to get a one-on-one meal, or alternatively a one-on-one event, with every brother in the organization. Additional, large-group events are hosted as well for recruits to get to know brothers in different settings, such as service events, outings, basketball, and more.

"AAB has been one of the most impactful groups I've joined on campus," said Aidan Chen '26. "It functions as its own tight-knit community in that everyone is family to you. In promoting Asian American solidarity, it has also allowed me to engage in service and activism with other like minded individuals."

Organization of Asian American Sisters in Service (OAASIS)

The comp process for Organization of Asian American Sisters in Service, or OAASIS, is open to students of all genders and racial identities. The comp takes place over the course of four and a half weeks in which compers must meet three requirements: meeting one-on-one with every current member in the organization, engaging in various group activities (volunteering, casual hangouts, and deep discussions about the Asian experience in multi-generational terms), and a written application in which compers are

to reflect on their experience with comp and how they envision themselves contributing to OAASIS. At the end of comp, the members of OAASIS will gather to vote on each comp'er, and those who receive a unanimous vote will be extended an invitation to join OAASIS. While there is no hard cap on the number of people accepted in each comp class, the nature of the unanimous vote does form an organic upper bound.

"Growing up in a predominantly white neighborhood, I was rarely given the platform or opportunity to explore my identity, or what it even means to be 'Asian,'" said Ally Chun '25, the Sisterhood Chair for OAASIS. "Entering Harvard, where I was exposed to so many different cultures and walks of life, motivated me to actively seek out organizations that allowed me to explore my Asian-American identity. In my freshman year, I decided to comp OAASIS, and I met a group of extremely interesting and empowering Asian-American women who have provided me with lasting wisdom and advice both within and outside of the Harvard bubble, and have allowed me to become more comfortable in discussing difficult topics surrounding my identity."

And last, but certainly not least...

The Harvard Independent (the Indy)

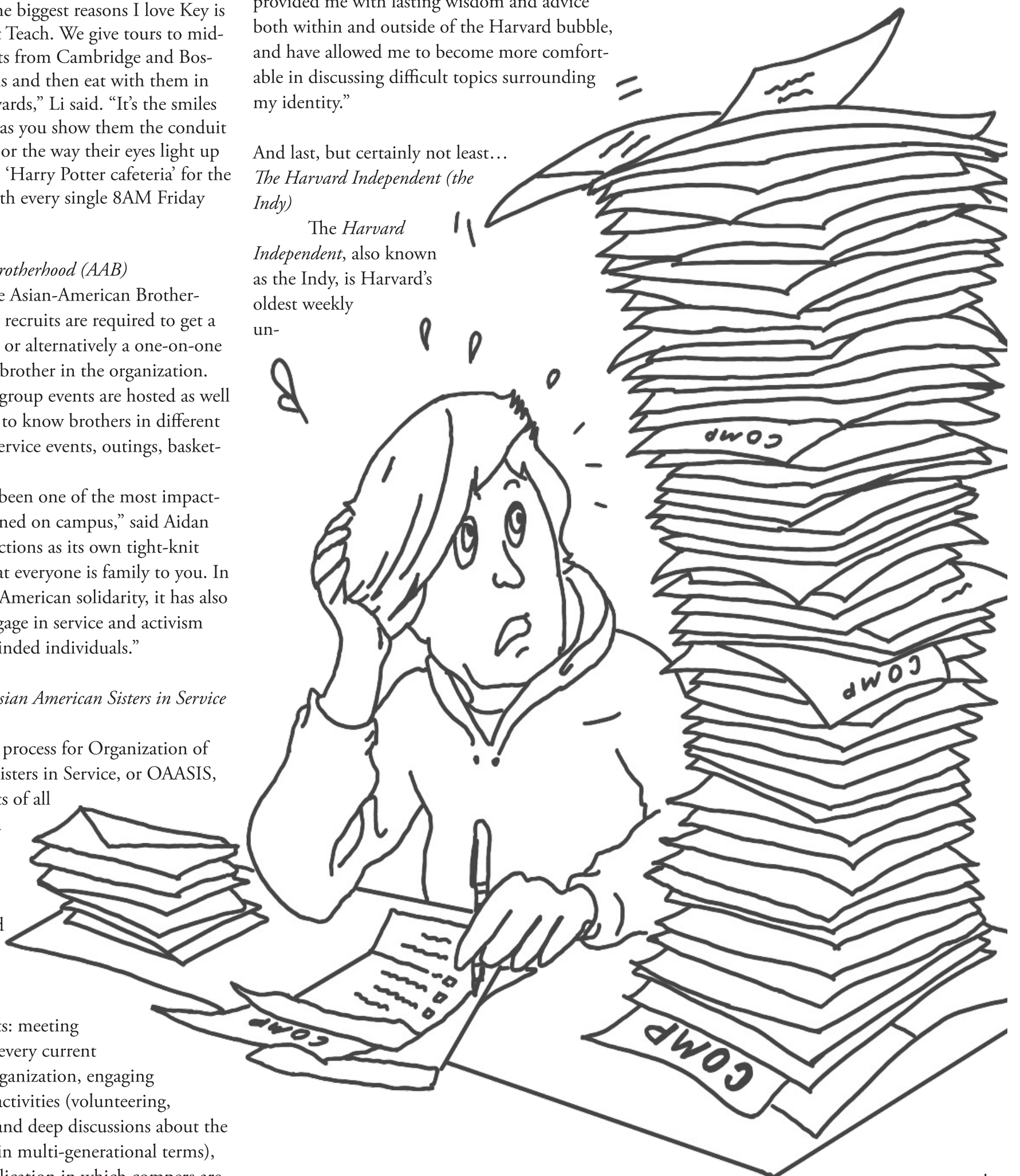
The *Harvard Independent*, also known as the Indy, is Harvard's oldest weekly un-

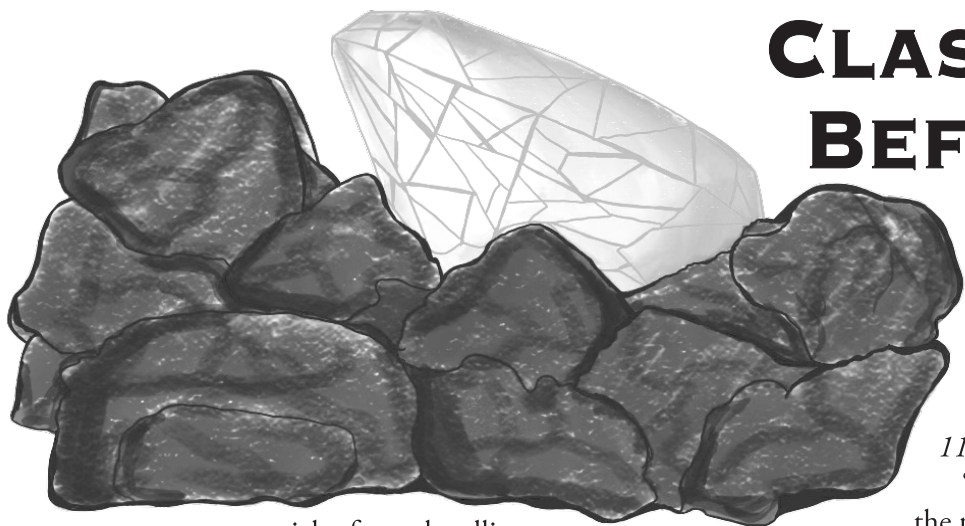
dergraduate newspaper founded in 1969. There are three boards: editorial, design, and business, and compers are able to try out more than one at a time. Compers attend weekly meetings, get to know board and publication members, and immediately have the opportunity to contribute to the *Independent* through writing published articles, contributing art designs, and completing business tasks.

Writer's Note: I think what differentiates the Indy is its open-mindedness and creativity. The editors I have worked with are incredibly supportive of any ideas you want to pursue and topics you want to write about. I'm grateful to the Indy for giving me a space to stay in touch with my love for writing and journalism and for the wonderful people I've met through the club.

CAROLINE HAO '25 (CAROLINEHAO@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES NEWS FOR THE INDEPENDENT.

GRAPHIC BY REEVE SYKES '26





CLASSES YOU NEED TO TAKE BEFORE YOU GRADUATE 3.0

Underground must-take classes, according to The Harvard Independent Staff.

BY HANNAH DAVIS '25

11:45am Fall 2023

"I like the small class size and the personal discussions we are able to have. Our professor explains the overlap and disagreements between two theologies well. Take this class if you're interested in theology and how it liberates (or does not liberate) different groups of people. This is also a great course if you're curious about different perspectives in religion. You do not have to be religious/theist to enjoy this course. Avoid this course if the walk to the Divinity School is too far for you."
—Adedoyin Adebayo '26

With weekly introductory videos and required readings centered around classical liberal theology ideas, this class is perfect for students looking for an escape from problem set courses. The course's combined seminar and tutorial style promotes learning, discussion, and a close-knit environment. Before each seminar class, students submit a 300-word completion-graded reading reflection focused on insights, critiques, responses to other students, and questions that arise from the reading. The reading list features Latin American, African American, and feminist liberation theology in addition to liberal American theology.

ENGLISH 178X: The American Novel: From Dreiser to the Present

MW 10:30–11:45am Spring 2024

"One of my favorite classes that I have taken so far at Harvard was called 'The American Novel: From Dreiser to the Present.' It was a fascinating class taught by a professor who has been teaching it for many decades. It provides a unique perspective on American history and culture through literature and it was fascinating to explore what defined 'The American Novel' and how it changed at different points in time over the last 120 years. The class is very accessible for non-English concentrators and it gives students who haven't taken English classes since high school a refreshing reacquaintance with the subject."
—Candace Gardner '25

This class mandates students read approximately one book a week, complete worksheets and short assignments due in section, write two 7-page papers, and submit a final project. Despite the daunting weekly readings, students speak highly of the class in the Q-guide. Of 2023 enrollees, 80% recommended the class with enthusiasm, and 88% spent 3-8 hours on coursework outside of class each week. If you regret not taking Hum10 freshman year or want to rediscover your adolescent love of reading, take English 178X.

ECON1042: Sports Economics

TTh 1:30–2:45pm Spring 2024

"If 'Moneyball' were a class, Sports Economics would be it. And if Adam Schefter were a professor, Judd Cramer would be him. Though, don't take it if you don't know how many points a touchdown is worth."
—Charlie Steinbaum '24

Though widely popular among Harvard undergraduates, ECON1042 might not be for everyone. The Q-guide reports difficult but manageable problem sets where students use Stata to run various sports analytics. Luckily there are no weekly problem sets, but sports enthusiasts willing to do the work and pay attention often root team ECON1042. 69% of students spent 3-5 hours per week on coursework outside of class, which is reasonable for an economics elective. Biweekly lectures cover topics such as baseball, football, game theory, sports gambling, basket-

ball, the Olympics, and the NCAA. The only major assessments are a midterm and a final.

HIST1029: Early Modern Britain, 1485-1714

MW 1:30–2:45pm Spring 2024

"Early Modern Britain is fantastic for both history concentrators and those just looking for an elective. The course takes a deep look at how England went from one of the most Catholic countries in the world to an extremely Protestant one. The work is mostly essay based and is very manageable. Flynn Crattys lectures are very interesting and offer a comprehensive view of one of the most tumultuous chapters in England's history. I would recommend this course to anyone interested in history, but particularly those who want to learn about the shifting perception and role of religion in the public sphere."
—Declan Buckley '24

This course is the perfect introduction to the History department for first-years or other potential History Concentrators because it does not assume students have taken any previous college History classes. Weekly discussion topics focus on the formation of ideas and institutions in Britain, such as religion, the English and Scottish Reformations, scientific culture, Puritanism and Arminianism, the Civil Wars, the public sphere, and Britain's political constitution. 73% of students in 2023 spent 3-5 hours on coursework outside of class, representing a decrease in courseload from the 2022 Q-guide reports. Last spring, the course required two essays, a blue book style written final, and a group project reenacting a 17th century coffeehouse discussion.

GOV94GD: Africa: Power and Politics

Th 9:45–11:45am Fall 2023

"Dr. Rhodes is so kind, welcoming, and knowledgeable! I feel like I have already learned so much. It is the perfect class. Dr. Rhodes picks a fantastic assortment of articles and readings that pair very well with his lectures. While you are covering a large landmass and a lot of history, the content flows really well and the professor is really accessible. You feel like you're learning a lot in this class and you feel like the professor really cares about you."
—Alex Carlin '26

This course compares the colonial history, governments, politics, religions, state violence and economics of African countries through case studies, academic scholarship and journalism. The 4.71 course and instructor mean respectively rank significantly above the FAS means despite the heavy workload in this seminar. In 2023, six students spent 3-5 hours, four students spent 6-8 hours, and one spent 9-11 hours. Each student is assigned a country to research over the semester, perhaps contributing to a self-selection of students who intend to research Africa for their focus field or thesis. Over the semester, students must write three 5-page papers, present in-class about their assigned country, and write a 10-page final paper. Anyone interested in a comprehensive overview of African history and politics and not afraid of hard work would delight in this course.

For more class ideas, check out "The Classes You Need to Take Before You Graduate 2.0" and "The Classes You Need to Take Before You Graduate"

HANNAH DAVIS '25 (HANNAHDAVIS@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS ADDING THESE COURSES TO HER COURSE LIST.

GRAPHIC BY ALMA RUSSELL '26

Are you sick of people telling you to take CS50 with David Malan? Upset that you did not win the lottery for "Meritocracy and Its Critics" with Michael Sandel? Tired of perusing the course catalog during your DIY shopping week trying to find the perfect 4th class?

Harvard students commonly have three classes per semester that fulfill some requirements but often scramble to find a final course that balances their course load and academic interests. This year's edition of *Classes You Need to Take Before You Graduate* features some of the most underrated, might-never-have-heard-about-others classes at Harvard that could be the final piece in your academic puzzle.

English 90QM: Metaphysical Poetry

M 3:45pm–5:45pm Fall 2023

I took this English seminar last fall with Professor Teskey and absolutely loved it. Despite being one of two students not declaring an English Concentration or Secondary, I felt welcome and encouraged in the class. Teskey's knowledge of physics, religion, and mythology supplemented his expertise in poetry. Each week, you read a selection of metaphysical poetry from the 1500s and 1600s, submit a short, completion-graded analysis of one poem, and write a poem of your own. The final and only major assessment of the course is your choice of a collection of poems or a long form poetry explication. This class was the perfect creative outlet for an otherwise problem set filled semester. I highly recommend this class for anyone interested in poetry and writing in a low stakes environment. Don't take this class if you're uncomfortable sharing your work with your peers.
—Hannah Davis '25

GENED 1006: Music From Earth

MW 10:30–11:45am Fall 2023

"GENED 1006 has very entertaining content and an amazing professor and TFs. You can tell that both the students and the teaching team are engaged with the course and its content, and I am really excited to see where it goes this semester. Each week, I look forward to attending lectures and sections where we have meaningful discussions about a wide array of topics, and I am able to think and analyze outside of my comfort zone. The class is a great combination of music, space, intellect, history, theory, and other aspects, with unique projects, exciting class visits, and a syllabus that is well-thought out and filled with enthusiasm. I was lucky to receive a spot in the class through the GENED lottery."
—Layla Charaoui '26.

If you need an interesting, low-commitment class to fulfill your Aesthetics and Cultural General Education requirement, look no further than "Music From Earth." This course centers around the question: "How can music help us in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence?" The overall Q-guide rating of 4.34 and average instructor rating of 4.61 place it well above other undergraduate FAS scores. Each week, students tap into their creative side with writing prompts or artistic projects. There is no final exam. 25% of your grade is participation. And 92% of students spent 0-5 hours per week on coursework outside of class, making this a hidden gem in both senses of the word.

RELIGION 1538: Liberal and Liberation Theologies in Dialogue

FORUM | 6 MW 9:00–10:15am or 10:30–

It is safe to say that the majority of Harvard's students are fueled by their ambitions for great academic and career success. This drive to overachieve remains unbridled by many of the "distractions" associated with college life. From pulling all nighters instead of finally meeting up with that friend we swore we "had to catch up with sometime," to missing a call from our parents while sending our 100th internship application, it is easy to see how even the thought of maintaining any additional relationship is daunting to the typical student.

However, allowing one's decisions to be guided by fear would be one of the greatest disservices a college student could commit against themselves. While long assumed to be an obstacle to growth and achievement during college, your high school sweetheart could actually be the one who helps you feel sane (and loved!) at Harvard.

Can your high school love be true love? You will never know unless you try to make your relationship work. Many students enter Harvard without knowing any of their peers. College is a new world with a fresh start to determine the type of person we are and the type of people we want to befriend. A romantic partner may seem like an anchor pulling you away from new relationships and opportunities on campus and towards an old life you wish to depart from. In reality, a partner from home is a lifeline, maintaining your connection to the memories and environment that molded you into the person you are today. Especially if your partner is living at home, they may relieve your homesickness by keeping you abreast of changes in

your town and the lives of people you grew up with.

When you face imposter syndrome (the feeling that you are undeserving of your accomplishments and opportunities, a common sentiment for students at schools like Harvard) your lover will remind you of everything that makes you worthy and deserving. When you worry for your family, that special someone may visit or keep in touch with them, providing much needed emotional and physical support. The times you feel misunderstood by peers will become irrelevant when you feel seen and heard by one of the greatest people you know.

The pessimism of staying with one's high school sweetheart often dismisses the fact that nurturing meaningful relationships makes us better people. We are meant to experience the joys and challenges that come with maintaining relationships, and learning how to communicate our needs effectively is most productive with people that know us best. But how can Harvard students subvert the anxieties that come with just the thought of a long distance relationship? The solution is clear: remain steadfast in prioritizing time for each other while effectively communicating when time is needed for oneself. Even the strongest couples may have to face the reality of temporarily living in different time zones. It is unlikely that your schedules will perfectly align. You may be in classes while she is on break. Or perhaps your finals are the only

POINT: DON'T DITCH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART

Why breaking up for the sake of breaking up is overdone.

BY ADEDOYIN ADEBAYO '26

time he will be at home before his study abroad trip.

Fortunately we have modern technology on our side. Our devices keep us connected and knowledgeable about each other's lives from afar. May I suggest a Zoom date? Even from hundreds of miles away, you can be each other's cheerleaders as you pursue individual goals in school (e.g. they will root for you through punch while you support them during rush). Make sure to debrief each other during phone calls on all the drama on campus and who your new friends are. Then, when time and finances permit, make the flight or drive to reunite with your greatest friend.

While long distance relationships with high school sweethearts are challenging, it is worth your time to try for the one you love. After all, when has it been the nature of Harvardians to give up easily?

ADEDOYIN ADEBAYO '26 (AADEBAYO@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WANTS YOU TO INVITE HER TO YOUR WEDDING.

COUNTERPOINT: DITCH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEART

Save yourself some trouble.

BY ANDREW SPIELMANN '25

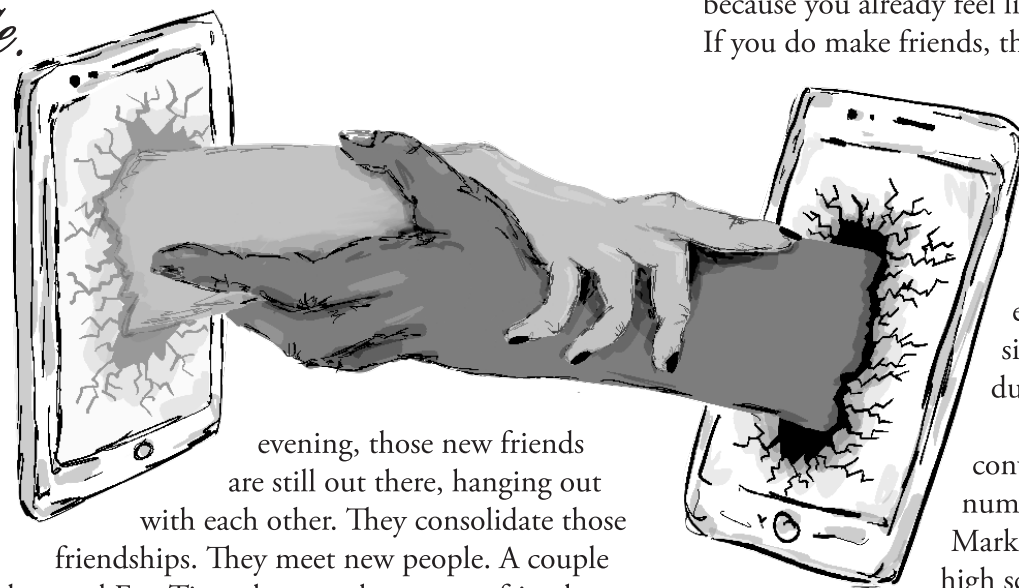
College is, for most people, your first time out in the world as an adult. You're independent, living without parents and the rules and supervision that come with them. And you simply can't fly the nest if you've still got one wing caught in the twigs.

That's what your high school sweetheart does. They hold you back. You may hear people talk of being held back from the "college experience"—this is an accurate line, if often misguided. It need not be about wanting to explore other relationships in college, but is instead about the experience of starting your new life. You are now an adult, settling into a new place, free to make your own decisions. While you can make the decision to continue to date the person you decided to spend all your time with as a child, you must recognize that in doing so, you limit your ability to grow and to invent yourself which is the true essence of the college experience.

Let's consider the two different scenarios you may be in and how they are indeed not so different after all.

Scenario 1: Long Distance. You are going to different colleges, perhaps an hour or more away from each other. This makes you both upset, not wanting to leave each other after having a carefree, memorable summer together. The excitement of college move-in is thwarted by the reality of a goodbye much more painful to the average teen than any family member could possibly induce.

Maybe you try to make friends in the first few days. You explore campus, go to your exciting new classes, and meet some cool people. Your first thought is that you simply can't wait to go back to your dorm later and tell your partner all about it. But while you're happily FaceTiming away all



evening, those new friends are still out there, hanging out with each other. They consolidate those friendships. They meet new people. A couple days and FaceTimes later, and your new friends have already forgotten all about you.

Maybe your sweetheart is out there making friends too! They can't call you back because they've made other plans. What if they like their new friends more than they like you? What if they are better off without you? You begin to overthink. Your imagination fuels the horrible dread that you're growing apart and powers the jealousy for the person who gets to sit next to them in their college chemistry class. Before you know it, you don't have friends here, and you feel like you're losing your special faraway friend, too.

When you eventually visit each other, you realize your relationship has taken a turn for the worse—you are each strangers in the other's life and have become absent from your own.

Scenario 2: Short-distance. You are going to the same city, or maybe even the same college. Yay! So exciting! You will be together forever! NO.

You think you have a constant friend now. You'll never be lonely. What you really have is a constant distraction, even worse than the one that is far away. Now you can confidently hang out with your sweetheart all day long and not feel bad about it. You can neglect to make new friends entirely

because you already feel like you're being social. If you do make friends, they will know you as a

couple, not as an individual. Maybe they actually like your partner better than you, and when you two do break up, everyone rushes to their side, leaving you in the dust.

If you still aren't convinced, look at the numbers. Brandon Gaille Marketing states that 2% of high school relationships result in marriage. While everyone thinks they could be part of that 2%, in reality, there's a 98% chance that you will be a part of the 98%. If you do somehow make it to the altar, there is still a 54% divorce rate among those marriages. So, less than 1% of high school relationships result in a lifelong marriage. It'd be great to beat the odds, but get real: if you've kept reading this far into this article, you're clearly having some doubts.

You know nothing in high school. As an 18-year-old senior in the same school you've been at for years, in the town in which you've grown, you feel on top of the world. You are not. You think that person you've been dating since you sat together in chemistry class freshman year is your future spouse. You are wrong.

Save yourself some pain. Nip it in the bud. Drop the dead weight. Get active.

ANDREW SPIELMANN '25 (ANDREWSPIELMANN@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS ACTUALLY A ROMANTIC AT HEART BUT JUST LOVES TO PLAY DEVIL'S ADVOCATE.

GRAPHIC BY ANNELISE FISHER '26





THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS BEYOND GENED 1025

The search for happiness at Harvard, and how The Human Flourishing Program is finding it.

BY ALICE KHAYAMI '25 AND ALEXANDRA DOROFEEV '25

Happiness is an elusive concept. Although it is studied by many, we are no closer to unlocking its mystery. Why is this? Can humans even define happiness well enough to chart a concrete path to its achievement? Though seemingly impossible, humans have continued in their attempt to outline and define what exactly happiness is, and how we can achieve it. One such quest lies here at Harvard.

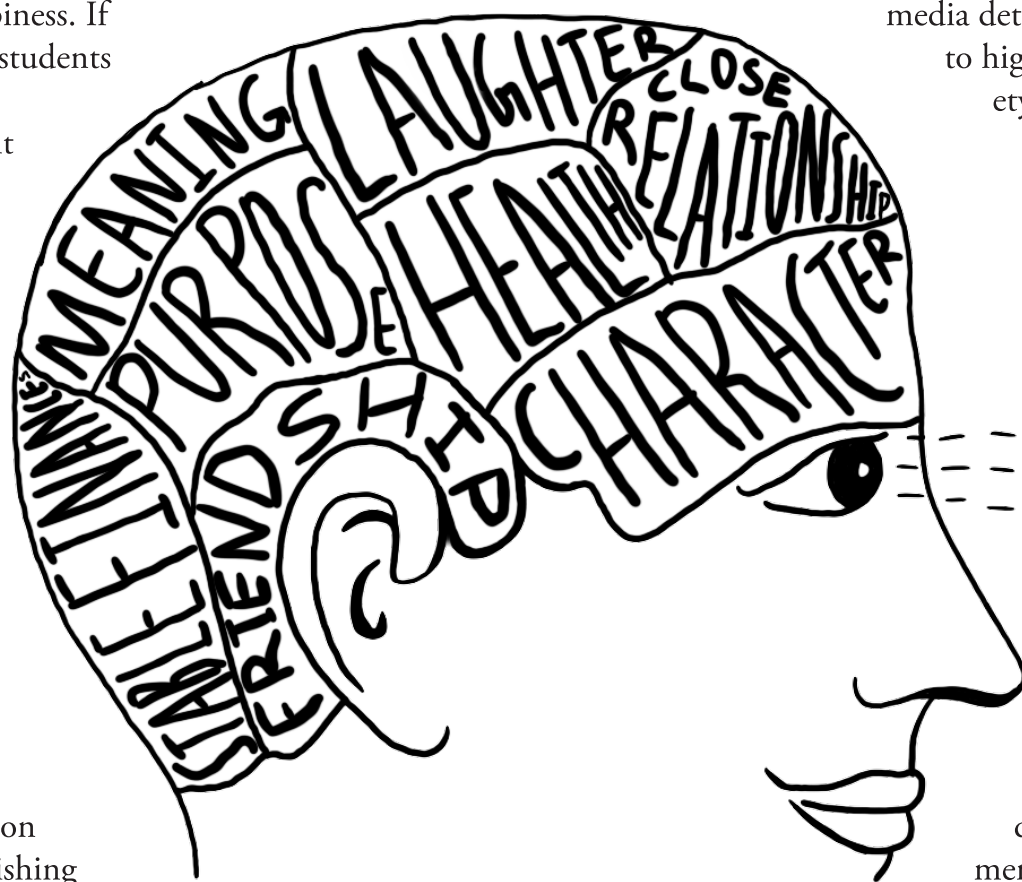
Students searching for the pursuit of happiness might go back to the Ancient Greeks in search of a sound definition. Aristotle and Plato argued that intellectual ambition is the key to permitting true human flourishing. Rather than being governed by emotion, one should use reason as their guide in all decision making. Pursuit of knowledge and virtue, they argue, are keys to happiness. If that is the case, shouldn't Harvard students be the happiest? Maybe not.

Beyond the scope of Ancient Greek rhetoric, the Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science's Human Flourishing Program is developing a new view on happiness. According to Program Director Tyler J. VanderWeele, happiness is an arguably narrower concept than flourishing, a more holistic measurement. Indeed, Dr. VanderWeele argues that while happiness is part of human flourishing, it only captures a small fraction of it. While happiness is a "positive affective state," the working definition of flourishing at the Human Flourishing Program is "the relative attainment of a state in which all aspects of a person's life are good." In addition to the inclusion of happiness, The Human Flourishing Program qualifies happiness as a measurement of "health, meaning and purpose, character, close relationships, [and] financial stability." Flourishing is not just growth, but growth into a better version of oneself. The program's flourishing index is a contemporary version of what the Greek philosophers defined as the active journey towards knowledge—more particularly, knowledge of oneself.

So how do Harvard students fare with the Human Flourishing Index? Being completely satisfied is difficult. At Harvard in particular, the ceaseless overloading and over-achieving makes satisfaction seem impossible. It's easy in Harvard Yard to approach life with a "glass half empty" rather than a "glass half full" approach. Imposter syn-

drome is a real thing, especially on a campus where you can't help but feel overwhelmed—by the ample opportunities to pursue, but also by the incredible accomplishments of peers that urge you to take on more challenges.

Researchers with the Global Flourishing Study have found that happiness and life satisfaction tend to demonstrate U-shaped curves: the youngest and oldest people are generally happier, while middle-aged people are less-so, likely due to career challenges, starting families, etc. More so, the left part of the U curve has been flattening, indicating that young people are not as happy as they used to be. If achieving happiness is becoming more difficult, how can Harvard students seek out happiness?



Close social relations are a measure of flourishing that appear to be common denominators among students. Junior Tommy Barone '25 emphasized the importance of balancing career goals with happiness, stating that he guards time for pursuing only those passions that are most fulfilling to him, and those that he is sure are directly benefiting the lives of others.

Not only is it important for students to pursue activities meaningful to them, but it is equally important for them to share those moments with others. Junior Reza Shamji '25, one known to brighten a room with his cheerfulness, reiterated this sentiment, stating that "inclusivity is one of the best parts of life." For Shamji, sharing moments of life with others is how he pursues happiness. Inclusivity, he believes, permits people to uncover new per-

spectives and find joy through the discovery of new people, cultures, places, and activities.

As demonstrated by Shamji's value of personal connection, it's human nature to rely and depend on others for the fulfillment of genuine happiness. Sophomore Mitchell Callahan '26 attributes his father as the key to his happiness; weighing each life event, good or bad, against the things that truly matter in life. He explains that by putting the small problems into perspective, we become grateful for what we have, and we never see ourselves as ever having major problems, thereby experiencing less stress.

While sharing moments with others permits happiness, oversharing also leads to harm. Even Dr. VanderWeele noted that some of the best studies have indicated that social media detracts from well-being and leads to higher levels of depression and anxiety. Social media has revolutionized happiness, allowing us to instantly compare our *perceived* levels of happiness to those of others for the first time in human history. We have access to unlimited amounts of gratification—a like on Instagram, an overnight purchase on Amazon, a laugh at a fifteen second TikTok. In this environment, it is easy to see how one could confuse temporary joy with true happiness. While social media does not necessarily lead to this facade, the temporary displacement of face-to-face engagement and relationship formations can trick our minds into thinking we are truly happy.

It is clear that Harvard can be a wonderful place for students to flourish. Harvard can enable students to grow their learning, knowledge, capacity for critical thinking, and more importantly build strong relationships. Prioritizing one's most important relationships is both gratifying in the short term, and vital for wellbeing in the long term. Certainly problem sets and long nights in the library may contribute to momentary unhappiness, but it is precisely in embracing such a challenging and stimulating environment with others that we can work towards flourishing together.

ALEXANDRA DOROFEEV '25 ALEXANDRADOROFEEV@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU AND ALICE KHAYAMI '25 ALICEKHAYAMI@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU ARE ON A JOURNEY TO BECOME HAPPIER.

GRAPHIC BY ALMA RUSSELL '26

SATIRE FROM ARROW STREET: CLAUDINE GAY'S AFGHANISTAN WITHDRAWAL MOMENT

Too many MW classes are causing an administrative and logistical nightmare. Can President Gay ever recover?

BY CHUCK STONE

In August 2021, Biden's political fortunes fundamentally changed. To those in the administration, it became clear that this late-summer snafu—just two hundred days into his presidency—would mark the end of his “honeymoon period.” The polls show that Biden's approval rating hasn't recovered since.

When the president decided to pull out of Afghanistan that August, he likely did not anticipate the impending logistical nightmare nor subsequent public backlash. Ending an unpopular war that cost taxpayers trillions *should* improve any president's popularity. But in execution, the withdrawal was no “Wilmington Cakewalk.” Instead it was a “Kandahar Doozy,” proving irreparably consequential to his popularity and his presidency. One could say that prematurely pulling out ended Biden's honeymoon.

God-Prof. Blitzstein once told me that “the nouns change, but the verbs stay the same.”

And so today President Claudine Gay faces a similar dilemma, brought on by yet another administrative and logistical nightmare: there are simply too many Monday-Wednesday classes. Students are spending countless hours meeting with both advisors and peers to search for classes that do not overlap.

One 25-year-old duper-senior (double-super senior) said he “has not seen anything like this” in his seven years as an undergraduate at

our institution. Rumor has it that SFFA (Students for Forthright Agendas) will be filing a case in the Fifth Circuit.

Even the naysayers must concede that in scope and scale, President Biden and President Gay's fiascos have remarkable similarities: at the time of the withdrawal, 8,000 U.S. personnel were stationed in Afghanistan. There are currently 7,000 undergraduates at Harvard College. Biden's withdrawal caused C-17's to scramble over the skies of Kabul; Gay's blunder caused students to scramble for classes. Biden's pull-out occurred around day 200 of his presidency; Gay's scheduling apocalypse roughly 200 days after she was

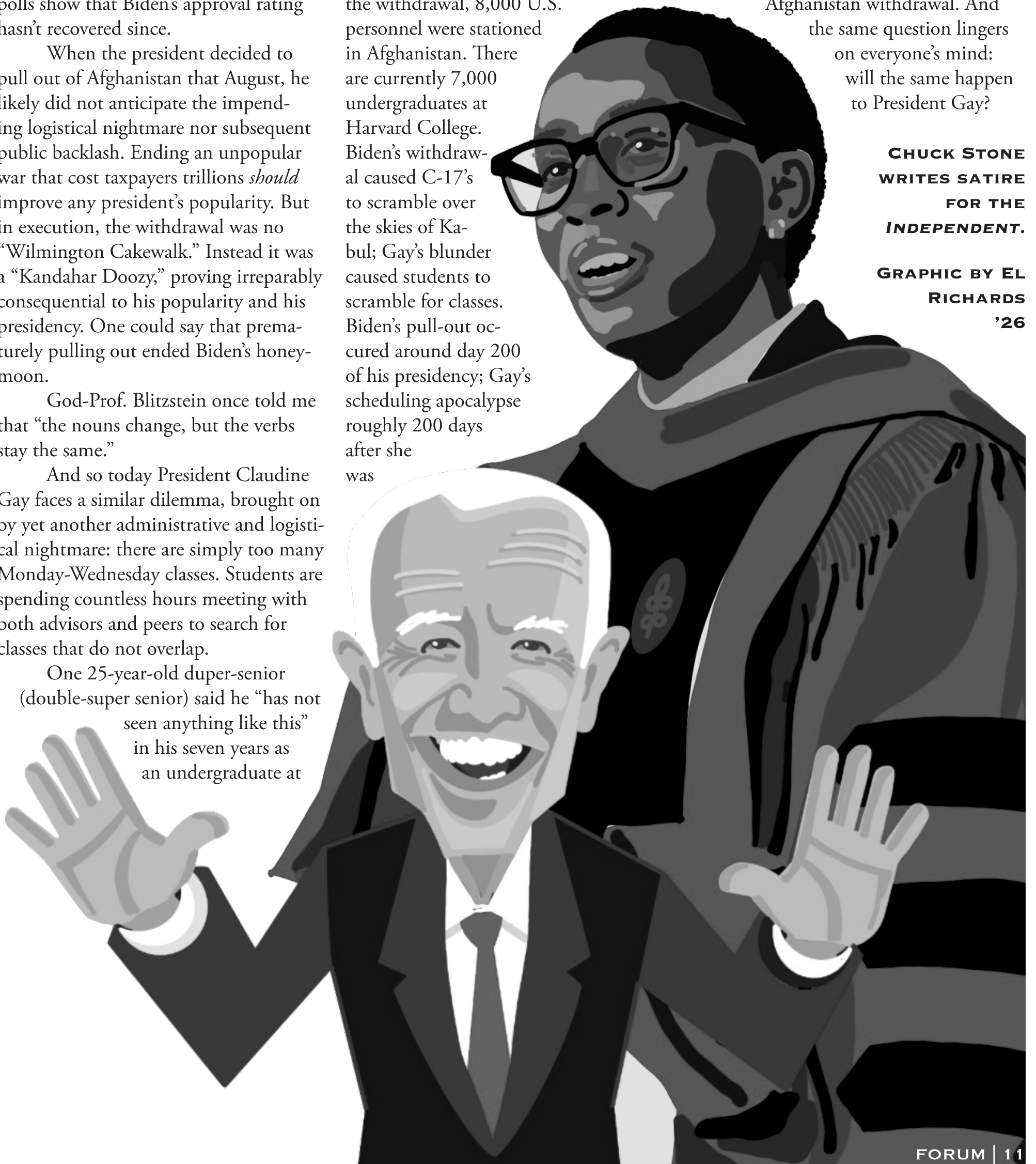
announced as Harvard's president. “Joseph Biden” and “Claudine Gay” both have 11 letters.

While we don't yet know the full fallout of the FAS's scheduling catastrophe, we *do* know what happened to President Biden's political fortunes after the

Afghanistan withdrawal. And the same question lingers on everyone's mind: will the same happen to President Gay?

CHUCK STONE
WRITES SATIRE
FOR THE
INDEPENDENT.

GRAPHIC BY EL
RICHARDS
'26



THAT GUY WHO SINGS “SUNROOF”

A Review of Harvard's Crimson Jam.

BY ILANA FEDER '26

It's the first Friday of the semester. The air is hot and smells like a freshman who hasn't learned how to properly use deodorant. It's Crimson Jam.

Each year, the Harvard College Events Board (HCEB) organizes a welcome back concert for undergraduate students. The announcement of the performers came 3 days before the event. Although it was yet another disappointment seeing that Drake or Ice Spice were not the headliners, we got the next best thing: Nicky Youre!! According to my Google search, which I immediately had to do after seeing his name, Nicky Youre is a one-Tik-Tok-hit-wonder known for his 2021 single “Sunroof.” HCEB also announced the three student performance groups opening for the semi-famed artist including Wesley Wang, STRYKE 9, and Yard Bops.



In addition to the music, Crimson Jam offered dinner, a photo-booth, and a fairly confusing kiddie train that made loops around the Yard.

The jamming kicked off with sophomore singer/song-writer Wesley Wang. Wang opened with the cult-classic Grouplove's “Tongue Tied,” followed by other fan-favorites. When asked about how he chose his setlist, Wang explained, “I always wanted to do an original...and I love classic punk-rock.” Wang's original is called “Runaway,” which has around 70,000 plays on Spotify. I thought all of Wang's song choices were really well thought out as they got a good portion of students jumping early on in the night.

The next student performance was by the punk rock band STRYK9. The group played five original songs and three covers. “Songwriting and playing our own original songs is really important to us, but we usually throw in a few popular covers for fun.” STRYK9's performance was my personal favorite as they showcased my favorite genre of

think it's more fun to hear all different types of voices, especially those with an edgier tone like their band members. The growing crowd who were especially throwing their heads back and forth to the band's cover of “You Really Got Me” by The Kinks.

The last, but arguably, the most popular student performance of the night was the Yard Bops. They jumped right into it with Guns N' Roses' “Sweet Child O' Mine,” or that song from the car scene in the movie *Step Brothers*. The vocals were uniquely accompanied by not your typical band instruments, including trumpet and saxophone. Their instrumentals were especially spotlighted during the band's performance of Earth, Wind & Fire's “September.” All members of the group revealed some real gifts and if I were a judge on America's Got Talent, they'd have my Golden Buzzer.

As the sky grew darker, the Yard became more crowded. Some hit songs played from the speakers between the opening acts and Nicky Youre, creating a perfect opportunity for newly freshmen couples to showcase their dancing and PDA. There's something about a boy putting his hand on a girl's lower back, her shirt reading the numbers 27 for graduating in 2027, with Lil Uzi Vert's *Just Wanna Rock* on full blast. Crimson Jam, also known as a romantic first date.

Finally, the stage was surrounded by students just in time for Nicky Youre to pop out. Youre started out with some catchy originals and got the crowd fired up when he switched shirts with one of the students in the front row, putting on a pretty cool looking Harvard jersey. At one point, he complained that the jersey was too “wet” and asked the audience whether he should take it off or not. I was unsure if I was watching a Crimson

Jam performance or *Magic Mike*. But, I thought he had a good sense of humor and was able to get the audience more engaged, something I think is a crucial aspect of being a great performer.

Some of Youre's originals included “Eyes On You” and “Sex and Lemonade.” Youre also covered some crowd favorites including “Everybody Talks” by Neon Trees and an “Ice Ice Baby”/“Tongue Tied” mash up. Youre continued to blue ball the audience as he waited to play the most anticipated song until last. When the moment finally came, the crowd delivered. All the students had their Snapchat cameras open ready to get the perfect clip of “Sunroof” since it would be the only song their Snapchat story viewers would recognize. It was totally worth it in the end though. I think it's important to just make the best out of these types of events, whether you know the artist or not, since we rarely have them.

When interviewing some fresh-



men about how they enjoyed the show, one responded, “I liked it. I think I would have enjoyed it more if I had pregamed harder. Now I know for next year.” Another freshman shared, “It was so fucking fun. I was shitfaced in the front row.”

It seems that Crimson Jam 2023 was a success and that most had a great time. The student performers were all spectacular and Nicky Youre put on an entertaining show. But, don't feel too bad if you couldn't make it. There's always next year if you're not a senior. And if you get there early enough, you can even ride the mini train!

ILANA FEDER '26 (ILANAFEDER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES ARTS FOR THE INDEPENDENT.



INDY SPORTSBOOK: PICK ON THE NEW KIDS

The best bets to place before the upcoming NFL season.

BY BEN MILLER '24

First-year NFL quarterbacks may not don red lanyards or abruptly stop walking to take selfies and update their vlogs like some Harvard newbies we may know, but let me assure you that they do stand out. This year's NFL season boasts three rookie quarterbacks who will make their inaugural starts in week 1: Bryce Young with the Carolina Panthers, CJ Stroud with the Houston Texans, and Anthony Richardson with the Indianapolis Colts. Past seasons have taught us that rookie quarterbacks have generally struggled to find their footing out of the gate. If you looked strictly at the aggregate win-loss record for rookie quarterbacks drafted in the first round over the last five seasons, you would find that they have a combined record of 80-139 during their premiere seasons, per Statmuse.

This low win percentage of roughly 37% can be attributed to a number of different factors. Firstly, the jump from college football to the NFL is enormous—imagine watching a class on double speed for an entire semester, not doing any of the optional problem sets, and then cramming a semester's worth of dates, formulas, and quotes into a hectic night of studying before the biggest test of your life. This is essentially what rookie quarterbacks have to do every week to adjust from college to the pros, where they are exposed to the incredibly complex coverages and defensive schemes the NFL has to offer.

Additionally, many teams begin to rebuild their franchises with the selection of a rookie quarterback in the NFL draft. This usually results in these quarterbacks being thrust into situations where they are hard-pressed to succeed. Most franchises with top selections in the draft are marred by poor coaching, underperforming offensive lines, and poor skill position groups. This is all topped off by the incredible pressure and scrutiny these rookies are under to perform at high levels and elevate their franchise to new heights. When accounting for all of these factors, it becomes clear that growing pains are not just common for rookie quarterbacks but are more of a right of passage

when stepping into one of the most complex and difficult positions sports have to offer.

As bettors, we need to account for these hardships and look to strike when the prices get juicy. Look to open by taking the team under on wins for the Carolina Panthers, Houston Texans, and Indianapolis Colts, which stand at 7.5 wins (-122), 6.5 (-142), and 6.5 (-104) respectively.

NFL teams operate very similar to Section at Harvard. Some teams are primed

to enter a rebuild and cross their fingers in the Caleb Willams sweepstakes, I expect the 49ers to sweep their division again this year. Additionally, the Niners have been gifted the 7th easiest schedule by Pro Football Focus (PFF) metrics and should be able to put teams away with their elite defensive unit and Kyle Shanahan's offensive scheme consisting of elite skill position players. Feel confident betting on the 49ers to reach their over at 10.5 wins and win their division at (-165).

Pick: Atlanta Falcons Over 8.5 Wins (-132): This win total really comes

down to the Atlanta Falcons' schedule this year and their ability to run the football. Belonging to the NFC South division, the Falcons will face off against the Saints, Buccaneers, and Panthers twice this year. These three teams were all within a game of .500 last season, and with the Buccaneers downgrading from Tom Brady to Baker Mayfield and the Panthers working in Bryce Young, I could easily see the Falcons getting to five division wins this year.

Besides favorable division matchups, PFF has the Falcons ranked with the second-easiest schedule in the NFL. The addition of Jessie Bates, Bud Dupree, and Jeff Okudah should work to bolster the Falcon's defense, but the addition of generational RB prospect Bijan Robinson playing behind

Arthur Smith's hyper-efficient run scheme makes me think this team will find ways to win football games, albeit in ugly fashion, all year. I'm playing the over of 8.5 wins and sprinkling a half unit each on the Falcons to win the division at +210 and Arthur Smith for Coach of the Year at +1600.

In short, make sure to take advantage of the NFL's new kids and punch your ticket on the reliable 49ers and up-and-coming Falcons.

BEN MILLER '24 (BENMILLER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES SPORTS FOR THE INDEPENDENT.

GRAPHIC BY ISABEL EDDY '24



to succeed and have been preparing all summer to dominate their fellow compatriots. Using past performances, team additions, and this upcoming season's schedule, I will try to point out a few teams that are looking to outperform their expectations for this upcoming season.

Pick: San Francisco 49ers Over 10.5 Wins (-162): If the San Francisco 49ers were a section kid, they would have already audited the course and would be bringing in your TF's laundry alongside the lesson plan for the day. The 49ers are as dependable as teams get in the NFL, reaching the NFC championship game in three of the last five seasons. With the Rams and Falcons prepar-

STUDENT-ATHLETE SUCCESS: JOSIE HASBO

How one Harvard junior juggles more than a soccer ball.

BY KATE OLIVER '26

It's such a beautiful thing that this ball can connect people," Josefine (Josie) Hasbo '25 stated to the *Harvard Independent*.

If you were scrolling through Sidechat over summer break, there is a high chance you came across a post about this soccer phenomenon. A junior on Harvard Women's Soccer, Hasbo was recently selected to represent Denmark at the recent FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia. She appeared in all four games, including their round of 16 loss to the host nation. What those Sidechat posts did not show you is the sacrifice and dedication Hasbo has put into her soccer career as well as her pure love for the game.

Hasbo's first team at age seven was coached by her best friend's father, but as she grew older, she needed a much more serious (ergo less convenient) option. Starting in 2013, she needed to commute an hour to train at the Ballerup-Skovlunde Football Club, a much more elite program located in Ballerup, Denmark. This switch enabled her to join the national team system as only a select number of club programs in Denmark have the ability to recommend players for national team tryouts. Hasbo stood out from the start, beginning with the U-15 regional team, and eventually earned her spot on the Danish National team after years with their junior squads.

Hasbo set her aspirations to Harvard for the first time after an international travel trip with her club team to Texas. After going through the recruitment process, Hasbo said that Harvard allowed her to "get the best of so many worlds in one place." While the cross-country relocation and shift to collegiate-style soccer posed numerous challenges for her national team schedule, Hasbo emphasized the importance of "trying to do what she can do within her control." Last semester, Hasbo was absent from campus around 25% of the time because she was traveling back and forth between Denmark to compete with the National Team. Reflecting on her two years of experience, Hasbo says she is grateful that she has "managed to compete on the world stage while being part of this fantastic place."

"The Harvard women's soccer program and coaching staff [have] been fundamental for my transition here,

coming from speaking only Danish into a new environment with new people, new language, new cultures," she said. "I'm very grateful for having that as a core here."

She began her World Cup journey with a qualifying game against Montenegro in September 2022. After being released by the Harvard coaches to go compete, Hasbo made a significant impact, playing 45 minutes of the game and scoring the 5th goal in Denmark's 5-1 win. She continued to attend training camps in France and Denmark and scored in Denmark's game against Norway at the Tournoi de France. After



finishing the semester in May, Hasbo returned to Denmark to train with her club team and the larger World Cup roster before making the final selection at the end of June.

Hasbo was on a plane to Australia 14 days before Denmark's first match against China. While adapting to the weather and time difference in Perth, she attributes much enjoyment to her ability to gain new cultural experiences off the field. After Denmark's 1-0 win against China, the team moved to Sydney, where they played and lost to England in front of 45,000 fans. Following a 2-0 victory over Haiti, Denmark moved into the knock-out rounds where they faced host nation Australia. As Hasbo shares, with "75,000 people in the stands, all in yellow," she felt "the culmination of how well the women's game has progressed through this tournament." The team was on a plane back to Denmark within ten hours of the final whistle-blowing.

When describing the environment after



leaving Australia, Hasbo stated that in the midst of the Cup, "everything is magnified—your feelings, your thoughts, because everything matters so much. You fight for your country, you go all in, and you want to perform at your best." Now that she has been able to spend time with family and friends back in Denmark, she has returned to Cambridge to begin training with the team again in hopes of an Ivy League championship and NCAA Tournament berth.

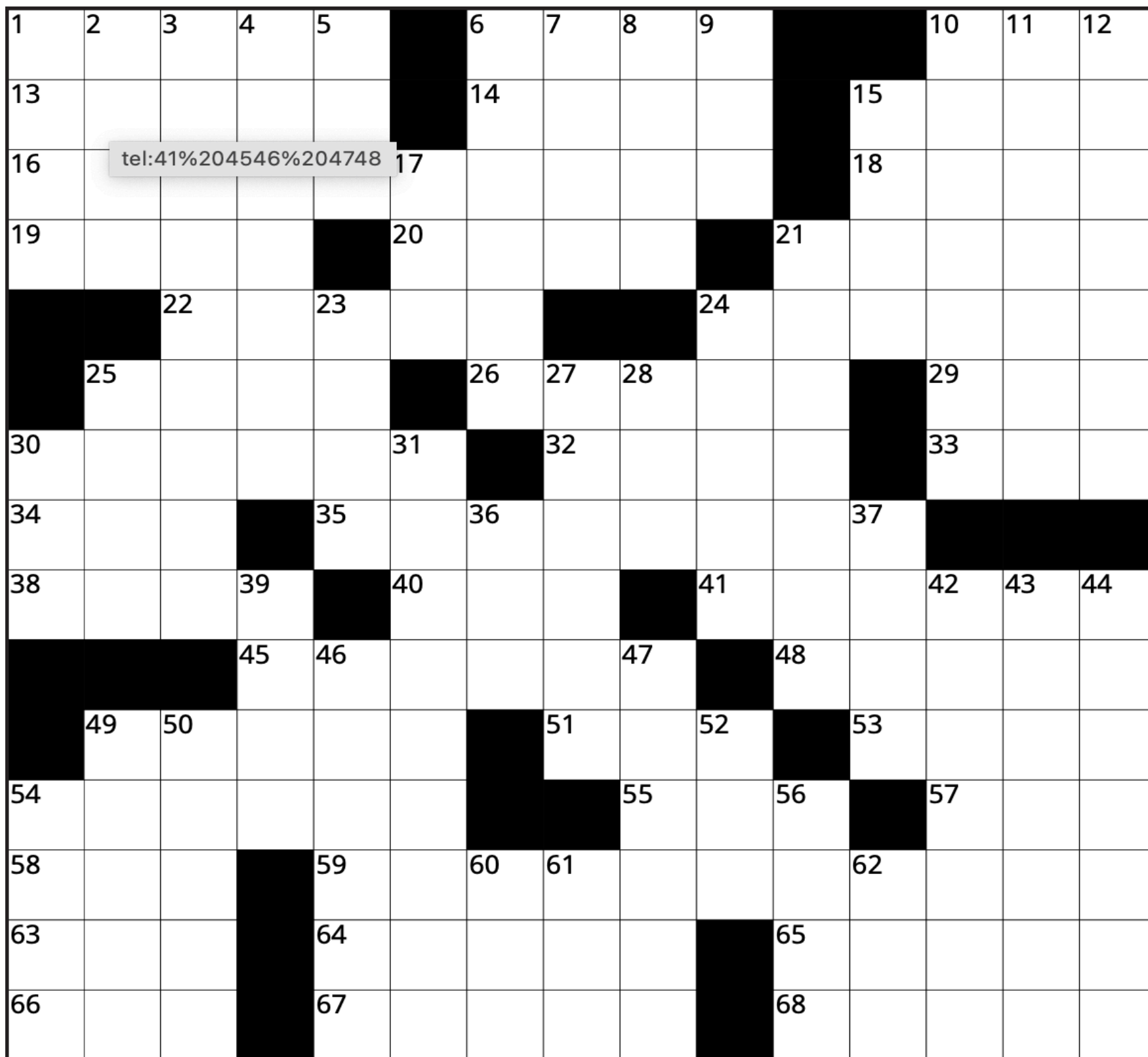
Despite participating in one of the most spectated and high-level athletic events, Hasbo's college experience resembles many of ours. She balances her schoolwork with her personal and sporting schedules and articulates that there is no right way to be a student (or athlete) here. Her words of advice are, "Seek inspiration but also be mindful that the things people are doing around you are not necessarily what will work for you. Take time out of your fast-paced schedules to reflect and try out things you wouldn't do, because that is where your development and growth take place. I have been so out of my comfort zone [at Harvard] but I have also grown so much. Enjoy the ride!"

KATE OLIVER '26 (KOLIVER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) CANNOT JUGGLE A SOCCER BALL.

PHOTO CREDITS (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) TO BALLERUP-SKOVLUNDE FOOTBALL CLUB AND HARVARD ATHLETICS

BLEND

BY REBECCA ACKERMAN '25



ACROSS

- 1 Wild guesses
- 6 Wire fence feature
- 10 Suffix with multi- and cocka-
- 13 Enough, to a mensch
- 14 Epithet of Athena
- 15 Have a knish, say
- 18 Those, in Tijuana
- 19 Pepper's partner
- 20 Soaks, as flax
- 21 "Taxi" mechanic
- 22 Strive mightily, with "out"
- 24 With 41A, predecessors of 13A, 15A, 45A, 54A, and 68A
- 25 Millennium divs.
- 26 Google rival
- 29 Colony member
- 30 Overtakes
- 32 High schooler
- 33 Hush-hush org.
- 34 Dernier ____ (latest fashion)

- 35 Vouch for
- 38 Linebacker Junior
- 40 Surgery sites, for short
- 41 Torah tongue
- 45 Sweat, to some
- 48 The "m" in the equation $y = mx + b$
- 49 Magazine revenue source
- 51 In the trenches
- 53 French friend
- 54 Lug
- 55 Not, to a Scot
- 57 Comic strip cry
- 58 From ____ Z
- 59 Controlled
- 63 Believer's suffix
- 64 Lyric poem
- 65 "I Love It" duo ____ Pop
- 66 "Heck, yeah!"
- 67 Descartes and Russo
- 68 Kvetcher's cry

DOWN

- 1 Some NCOs
- 2 Trillion: Prefix
- 3 One effect of marijuana
- 4 What the Other Mother has instead of eyes in "Coraline"
- 5 Cpl.'s superior
- 6 Only just
- 7 Touched down
- 8 Actor Stephen et al.
- 9 Undergrad degs.
- 10 One pushing the envelope?
- 11 Many visitors of Sumiyoshi Park
- 12 Mariah Carey holiday song that was a #1 Adult Contemporary hit
- 15 Close by
- 17 Magic, on scoreboards
- 21 "A Winter's Tale" king
- 23 Cruising
- 24 "Pride ____ before..."

- 25 Give a hoot
- 27 Bikini events
- 28 "For ____ a jolly..."
- 30 Windows boxes
- 31 Lincoln trademark
- 36 Prefix meaning "three"
- 37 It precedes di or da, in a Beatles song
- 39 Failed '80s gridiron org.
- 42 Russian czarist dynasty
- 43 Unisex
- 44 One of five every seven
- 46 One who minds
- 47 Wild sorts
- 49 "Don't ____ surprised"
- 50 Hindu loincloth
- 52 High-five relative
- 54 Spoken
- 56 Oliver's lover in "Call Me by Your Name"
- 60 Holy trinity part
- 61 Three after B
- 62 Needing salt, maybe

COVER ART BY CANDACE GARDNER '25

LAYOUT BY PIPER TINGLEAF '24

OPINIONS OF FORUM PIECES BELONG ONLY
TO THE WRITER AND DO NOT REFLECT THE
VALUES OF THE *INDEPENDENT*.

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 