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The Tribulations of Tailgating

WHY HARVARD ADMINISTRATION MAKES HAVING FUN AT GAMES HARD.

By Ava Rem '27

It's clear from the low attendance at football games that Harvard is not as full of sports or tailgate fans as most other D1 colleges in the country. Go to any home game or read any of the *Independent's* articles citing the general lack of school spirit, and you will get a glimpse into the disappointing sense of apathy that seems to run rampant among our student body.

Because Harvard Athletics offers forty-two Division I intercollegiate varsity teams for women and men—more than any other DI college, we have constant opportunities to showcase our pride at athletic events. Still, we do not. While many factors contribute to this issue, the College's strict tailgate guidelines may explain why students have historically found it hard to enjoy themselves at games.

Last year's Harvard vs. Yale game, held at Harvard Stadium, offers an especially disappointing look into Harvard's subpar tailgates and strict tailgating policies. Leading up to the game, Associate Dean of Students Lauren Brandt informed students that only Harvard-provided food and drinks would be allowed at the College-sponsored tailgate.

As a final blow, Brant announced the prohibition of other alternative pregame or tailgates, something which House Committees had previously been allowed to do before The Game. Needless to say, Harvard students left the stadium that night feeling jilted over having lost twice to Yale: both during the game in the realization that Yalies can host better tailgates.

In response to these tailgating setbacks, there seems to be a new wave of enthusiasm and dedication to improving gameday spirit at tailgates on campus. The student-led Harvard State account on Instagram, in particular, has gained popularity for consistently organizing tailgates before home games and urging fans to show up to games in theme. Albeit well-intentioned, this effort at generating more school spirit seems to still be overshadowed by Harvard's limiting tailgate policies.

Harvard's "Go Crimson" website, which lists pertinent gameday information from parking to concessions,

takes a clear stance on tailgating. "Harvard University is a great place to tailgate; however, rules are strictly enforced!" Such rules include only being able to tailgate before the game, having to end right as the game begins, and not being able to be in possession of items that "promote the rapid consumption of alcohol."

This no-nonsense approach to tailgating leaves both Harvard and non-Harvard students feeling disappointed. "I was expecting a little bit more energy there... If I remember correctly, [the tailgate] also got shut down pretty quickly which was definitely sad," said Isabel Coxe, a Dartmouth junior who commuted to Harvard for the October 28th football game against Dartmouth.

In comparison to schools with a heavier Greek life campus, Harvard's tailgate scene proves to be quite different—but not always for the worse. In fact, because of our lack of Greek life, Coxe notes that Harvard's tailgates resemble the more traditional image of a tailgate than exclusive Greek parties. Although there is "certainly still drinking and events around the [Dartmouth] football games," Coxe explained that Dartmouth tailgates "aren't quite tailgates, so in that sense, Harvard gets bonus points for their tailgate culture."

Additionally, for Boston College Sophomore Evan Buckley, it is clear that Harvard surprisingly wins out against other colleges for its centralized, student-focused tailgates. Whereas at Boston College "there are at least six major spots for tailgating that are pretty much run by parents out of their cars," as Buckley explained, "at Harvard everyone is generally in the same spot" which allows the student body to gather in one space. So, while we may be quick to judge ourselves and believe that, as Julia Downey '27 succinctly put it, "Harvard is not 'all that' when it comes to tailgating," it's important not to be entirely pessimistic about the potential we have to create enjoyable tailgate events.

"The Harvard vs. Brown tailgate was much better than I thought it would be, and even felt more like a fun concert or music festival than a tailgate," Downey described. Even though the Harvard vs. Dartmouth tailgate proved "less exciting"

than the Harvard vs. Brown equivalent, Downey says she's still optimistic about Harvard tailgates, as long as we make it a priority to increase our collective spirit.

"I'd like there to be more underclassmen or representation from all grades because having two freshmen in a sea of seniors is not fun, nor is having the visiting students' section always be more enthusiastic than ours," Downey explained.

Overall, despite the administration's clean-cut stance against tailgating policies, it is still more than possible to create memorable tailgating events throughout the year. Something as simple as encouraging your friends and classmates to show up at every game with the same spirit and passion as they would at the Harvard-Yale game is a great first step toward creating consistency at our tailgates. Maybe then other colleges will start to believe that it's possible for us to work hard and play hard.

AVA REM '27 (AVAREM@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS HOPEFUL THAT THE HARVARD VS. YALE TAILGATE THIS WEEKEND WILL NOT BE LIKE THE TALE OF LAST YEAR'S.

GRAPHIC BY CHRISTIE BECKLEY '27



Living in New Haven May Not Be That Bad

A CRITICISM OF HARVARD'S HOUSING SYSTEM AND WHY IT SHOULD ADOPT YALE'S.

by Sara Kumar '27

“ Say WHAT? SAY-BROOK!”

From the nostalgic cheer of Saybrook College to the newer formation of Benjamin Franklin College, Yale's housing system has evolved to aid in the growth of its student body through forging unique social and intellectual communities. And although Harvard's fated rivalry often leads to the condemnation of everything associated with Yale University, their housing system may be a model we should emulate.

Though Harvard first-years relish in the spring semester ritual of the infamous Housing Day before discovering their home for their next three years on campus, Yale freshmen receive their residential colleges a few weeks before move-in, reaping the benefits of having a community from day one. This year, incoming Yale students were seen rushing to social media platforms once assignments were released, hoping to bond with incoming first-years over their shared future living accommodations. Swarms of “Davenport,” “Trumbull,” “Branford,” fill the social media feeds of incoming students, as future Yalies revel in the strong sense of community the school cultivates so early on.

From the Red Lions in Timothy Dwight to the Spiders at Jonathan Edwards, Yale's residential college mascots are the face of the fierce and traditional camaraderie within each building and between its students. A 2004 Harvard review even acknowledged the benefits of such a system, commenting that Harvard should adopt a similar practice to improve the College's “sense of community.” Though both Harvard and Yale have their students complete surveys about their living preferences and daily habits to ensure they are assigned compatible suitemates, Yale's housing system goes one step further.

From Berkeley to Brandord, FORUM | 4 Yale's fourteen residential

colleges each boast unique personalities that offer entire houses of similar peers. Enjoying a black box theater movie night at Pauli Murray or a late-night band session at Benjamin Franklin's recording studio poses infinite excitement and ease, especially during a freshman's first few weeks on campus where friends and the social scene remain nebulous.

Recognizing these benefits and seeing the clear discrepancies at Harvard, alumni have commented on the lack of organized social life in the Yard, with a poor party scene posing inevitable isolation for the College's newest students. The communal anxiety only worsens as the Thursday before spring break approaches, with Harvard's students often scrambling to solidify their blocking group amongst a class of around 2,000 students. Furthermore, with “linking” groups (a process where two blocking groups of up to eight could match with one another to ensure they were placed in the same neighborhood), now suspended for the upcoming 2024 housing season, the pressure to only fraternize with select students in close proximity increases.

Harvard's present housing system poses a social nightmare for many: the question of who students live with often trumps the excitement of house assignments. Sometimes it takes months to determine and form blocking groups at the College, and the process is often regarded as stressful. Unfortunately, this pressure rushes students into finding a defined friend group when first stepping foot on campus, inexorably leading to artificial relationships and last-minute exclusion.

Yale, in contrast, has students select sophomore roommates from their respective residential colleges, offering the chance to pick from a significantly smaller pool of peers with seemingly compatible living companions. It is important to note that this predetermined system of housing does



not pose unwanted dividers, with Yale students commenting on the campus' range of classes and clubs presenting enough inclusivity to allow for a thriving social life both within and outside one's residential college. Beyond the clear social and emotional benefits of the Yale residential college system, their model is more academically pragmatic. If Harvard adopted the Yale model, first-years would have the freedom to utilize house-specific advising resources. Tutors and graduate students from almost every department often live in the houses for an entire year, allowing students to access mentorship before having to officially declare their college concentration, presenting the opportunity to deepen a student's exploration of curricular offerings.

From upperclassmen mentorship and a place to call home from the start, Yale's housing system offers a community and peace of mind that Harvard College lacks. If the University seeks to improve both first-years' sense of belonging and upperclassmen camaraderie, they should prioritize a shift to Yale's residential college model. Otherwise, being Bulldogs might just become more desirable than Crimson.

SARA KUMAR '27 (SJKUMAR@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) STILL BELIEVES IN YUCK FALE. GRAPHIC BY NATALIE MENDEZ

To Infinity and the Quad

IN DEFENSE OF HARVARD'S HOUSING SYSTEM.

by Rania Jones '27

Can you imagine what it would be like living here next year? Hey, knock on wood – don't jinx us getting quadded.

Conversations centered around Harvard housing dominate Harvard first-years' lunch conversations, text exchanges, and dorm hang-outs. The prospect of finally escaping the confines of Canaday's red carpets or Straus' slanted ceilings is oh-so appealing for the first-year Harvard student. First-years spend their spring semesters finalizing blocking groups, participating in drinking rituals to game the randomized upperclassman housing assignments, and eagerly awaiting their fate on Housing Day. Finally being able to participate in Harvard's housing system is a treasured right of passage.

While different from each other, Harvard and Yale's housing systems are unique from most universities around the world. Both systems randomly sort students into one of 12 dorms which are called "Houses" at Harvard and "Residential Colleges" at Yale. Similarly, both universities cluster their freshmen dorms in a central location on the campus—the Yard for Harvard and the Old Campus for Yale. Broadly speaking, these systems are nearly identical, but the two housing models differ in significant ways, with Harvard's residential system allowing for more freedom, flexibility, and fun.

On Housing Day, Harvard first-years anxiously await a knock at their door to signal their housing assignment for the next three years. But for our Yale counterparts, their housing fates are decided long before they embark on their freshman year. In Yale's model, freshmen are notified of their four-year housing assignment weeks before move-in day. Harvard's housing system beats Yale's tradition of residential colleges, which both limits student choice and has a negative effect on freshmen integration with the student body.

Yale's housing system requires students to spend all four years living along their randomly assigned cohort. Most first-years reside on Old Campus in dormitories designated to specific colleges. Students live in their Colleges starting sophomore year. Yalies assert that students should only be allowed to find "your people" within the confines of a Residential College. On the other hand, Harvard first-years are able to choose their sophomore living companions, known as their "blocking group." Yet the beginning of our Harvard careers are *supposed* to be uncomfortable and messy. Pushing ourselves to meet new people outside of our entryways and dorms is what allows us to find meaningful, true connections with people we are compatible with. Blocking groups are self-selected groups of one to eight first-years who are guaranteed to be placed into the same house come Housing Day in the spring. "Blocking groups" allow for more natural friendships unconstrained by the College.

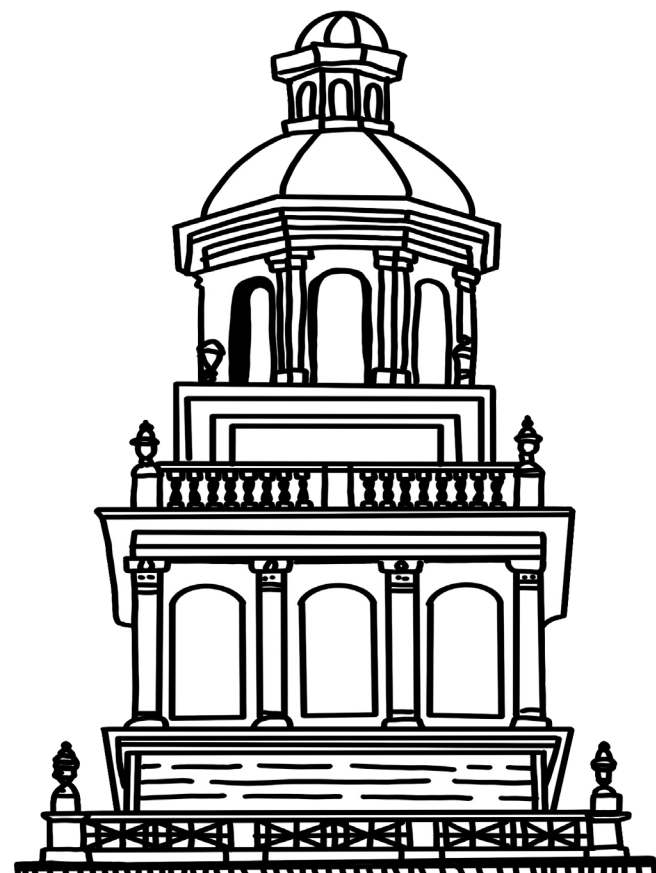
With proctors, residential deans, and peer advising fellows who solely focus on the first-year experience, Harvard's current housing system places an additional, intentional emphasis on taking care of their students, especially first-years, throughout the undergraduate experience. There are advantages to having resources and staff dedicated only to first-years—something Yale doesn't offer. One of the more significant differences in the Yale Residential College model is their undergraduate advising system. Instead of living alongside graduate students, as Harvard first-years do, Yale freshmen reside with freshman counselors ("FroCos") who are seniors at the College. There is an inherent lack of authority placed within these proctors as a result of the small age gap.

Undeniably, it's hard to not acknowledge the isolation that students without blocking groups may face, es-

pecially with the recent decision to eliminate linking groups. Yet Harvard students ultimately will interact more than just blocking group mates. While it is true that blocking groups aim to create communities, it is also a process that offers a broader, more exciting college residential experience. Yale doesn't require students to live on campus for all four years, and while for some, this provides an increased degree of flexibility, for most, they are isolated from their peers in an immense way. Juniors and seniors at Yale have the availability to choose to live off campus. Harvard's housing system allows for students of all grades to fluidly interact, something Yale's Residential College system doesn't offer.

Considerations and comparisons like this are important as we reflect and grow as an institution, but, generally, as I look towards the spring semester, I couldn't be more excited to proudly engage with the College-wide celebration of Housing Day, an event that I'm sure Harvard students would be reluctant to give up.

RANIA JONES '27 (RJONES@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HAS AWKWARDLY BEGUN INITIATING BLOCKING GROUP CONVERSATIONS. GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26



Harvard vs Yale: The Game's Weekend Experience

DO THE BULLDOGS DO IT BETTER?

by Julia Torrey '27 and Hannah Davis '25

On November 17, 2023, thousands of Harvard students and alumni will trek to New Haven, Connecticut for a weekend of school spirit, tomfoolery, and camaraderie. This Harvard-Yale football game marks the 139th game between the famous Ivy rivals. The game starts at 12pm this Saturday, but most students kick off their H-Y weekend on Friday for sleepovers in Yale dorms, hotels, and parties with their (or their friends') friends.

Harvard-Yale weekend is a marathon, not a sprint. After driving, busing, and training down to New Haven, hordes of energized, freezing, and intoxicated college students will populate Toad's, Yale's college bar, or buy \$42 tickets to attend a party with Yale's favorite up-and-coming DJ. After passing out on random Yale students' floors or in an overpopulated hotel room, they will jolt awake at 7 AM to pregame and head to the tailgate. After drinking the day away, they will attend—hopefully—some part of the game.

We know who wins each Harvard-Yale game. But who wins the Harvard-Yale weekend? Surprisingly, and perhaps upsettingly, Yale.

At Yale, Greek life, secret societies, and the notorious undergraduate bar, Toad's Place, dominate the social scene. Yalies love Woad's, the affectionate term for Wednesday Yale-only night at Toad's. Opportunities for a good time don't stop there—Yalies also enjoy Greek life parties or, for the few second-semester juniors selected, secret societies.

Meanwhile, on a typical Harvard weekend, students flock to final clubs and student organization parties in Cambridge. Students over 21 can enjoy Boston's nightlife for a change of pace.

"Yale has more diverse options for socializing at the game because you have Toad's, and you have societies, and you have Greek life," said Chloe Kimball, a Yale alum who graduated in 2019.

During years in which the Game is hosted at Yale, Harvard and Yale students often race to Toad's on Friday or partake in Yale's fraternity or society parties. Conversely, final club lists and ticketed events in Boston make Harvard-hosted years tough for college students who aren't of age or don't have connections to the final club scene. Last year, clubs co-hosted events at Boston sports bars or nightclubs, restricting access to students over 21 or those who could purchase tickets ahead of time. Many final clubs were unable to host in their respective spaces because of alumni in town for the weekend.

Nico Checa, a junior at Yale, described Yale students' trouble finding a social outlet Friday night at Harvard.

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"A lot of [Yale students]

found the tickets for these events to be financially prohibitive or morally prohibitive; they just didn't want to pay. Typically, people don't pay for these events at Yale. And if they are, the price is typically much lower."

"Most of my friends agree that the game was so much more fun [at Yale]. And that we also have better parties," said Yale junior Evita Thadhani. "There was one frat [at Yale], and it was just crazy. The party was so crowded, and it was so fun. I feel like at Harvard, it didn't feel like there was one particular place where people were."

For Harvard first-years who have yet to cement their roots in clubs and organizations, attending the game at Yale is arguably much better. "Freshmen wouldn't probably have anywhere to go out; so yeah, [the game at Harvard] would suck as a first year," said Kieran Kelly '25.

Kelly also reflected on the novelty of being in a new environment when the game takes place at Yale, particularly for freshmen. "It was so fun to be in a new place. Also, I think it felt more spirited because we were at Yale, so we felt like we needed to, like lean into it more."

Many Harvard upperclassmen who have settled into their niche social scene prefer the Harvard-hosted games.

"Now feeling more comfortable at Harvard and within a Harvard social scene, I think that I would be more excited about a game and tailgate at Harvard. While it does have the potential to be really exclusive, I think that if leaders of social organizations on campus made an effort, the game at Harvard could be really fun," said Abby Fennelly '24.

"As an underclassman, I think I would have preferred Yale. Harvard's social scene really excludes freshmen for the most part. So I think that it was nice knowing that like, everybody could go to Toad's. If I were a first-year at Harvard, I don't know that I would have [had access to parties]. But now, I would definitely say I prefer Harvard," said Fennelly.

While some might argue that Yale wins the nights of HY, who rules gameday?

Both schools' pregames and tailgates begin early. Students barely settle into their hangover before starting again. "I woke up at 7:30 on Saturday morning and took a shot," said Kelly, reflecting on his experience at the Yale-hosted game his freshman year.

After finishing their pregame, students rush to tailgate.

"There was a lot of running around [at Harvard], trying to find a place where everybody could congregate," Fennelly stated.

In years since COVID-19, Harvard did not allow organized student tailgates until this year. Thadhani corroborated the fractured feel-

ing of the Harvard-hosted tailgates. "Because [the tailgates were] so spread out, it made it difficult to coordinate with friends. It was hard to find the community that I felt at Yale the previous year," said Thadhani.

The lack of organized student tailgates at Harvard contributed to the feeling of exclusivity at the Harvard-hosted game that lingered from the night prior. "I think that [the disorganized nature of the tailgates] made [Harvard's social scene] feel more exclusive because there was no intentional space for a tailgate, so people were fractionating off," said Fennelly.

While the social scene in the game varies between Harvard and Yale, a contagious energy permeates both. This energy of running into old friends and acquaintances, sleeping on strangers' floors, and navigating foreign campuses is exactly what differentiates the Harvard-Yale game from other college football games.

As you eagerly await the potentially superior Harvard-Yale weekend—both Friday night and Saturday morning—at Yale, take a final few notes from upperclassmen who've been there before.

Fennelly shared, "Make sure your phone is charged. There's no cell service anywhere in the bowl, so make sure you have a plan with your friends of where you're going to meet up. It's going to be really hard to contact them once you're in the stadium."

"Stay at the game until the end," Kelly shared, as he reminisced on missing Harvard storming the field in 2021. "This year I'm going to stay until the end."

JULIA TORREY '27 (JULIATORREY@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HOPES SHE WILL BE ABLE TO WAKE UP AT 7AM SATURDAY MORNING, AND HANNAH DAVIS '25 (HANNAHDAVIS@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) JUST FINALIZED HER YALE HOUSING.

GRAPHIC BY ISABEL EDDY '24



Crossing Enemy Lines

A HARVARD-YALE LOVE STORY—A CREATIVE WRITING PIECE.

by Meena Behringer '27

He is so indulged in revelry that she almost does not realize when her boots dig into someone's foot in the crowded room. She turns to sincerely apologize before she's swept into them, narrowly tripping over herself; a split second of a forgettable interaction. Until a hand stabilizes her.

"Wow those boots are a bit much. Don't know why you're so proud your mascot is an ugly color."

Her eyes whip around to stare down the boy standing above her, gripping her hand tight. He was stifling a smirk, staring at her with a judgemental face that she was already sick of as he pulls her up. Classic Yale. She quickly glances down to her beautiful cherry red knee-high boots, which she bought just for The Game tomorrow and probably would wear once a year, at most. She had no interest in entertaining him, but it was too late for her to think, and tonight she was a bit too careless.

"Because an ugly dog is so much better?!" she impetuously quips, in shock of his bluntness. She personally did find bulldogs repulsive, and he was no different. She dropped his hand.

Yes, she would admit the boots were a touch obnoxious. But they weren't nearly as obnoxious as his navy sweater emboldened with a white Yale logo—which there was literally no reason to be wearing at midnight on a Friday. There he stood in his preppy sweater that did, at least, complement his khaki pants and sleek blond hair. She decided he probably was obsessed with philosophy and played golf or some other pretentious hobby. She wanted to leave.

"The real shame is that you're sporting the worse team." He shoots back. His eyes soften just the slightest bit when he meets her gaze. She can't resist responding to that. She's the most competitive person you'll ever meet. And so is he.

"We all know Harvard is going to win."

"No shot. They lost last year."

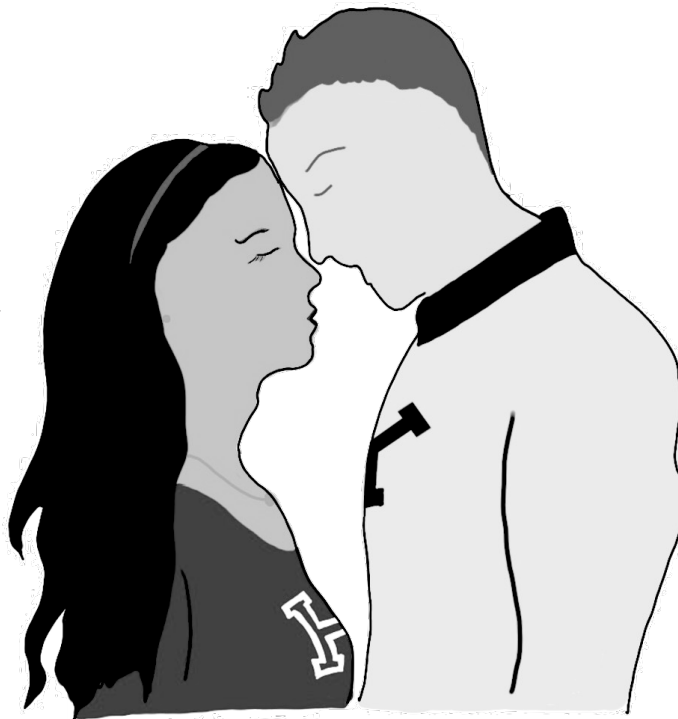
"I don't even know why I'm still talking to you. I can't be seen fraternizing with the enemy." She's half joking and half not as she pretends to turn her head away in disgust, but he grabs her wrist and pulls her back laughing to himself, revealing his genuine smile.

"Too late. I can't wait to see you tomorrow—when you lose" he jokes. And so begins their night full of debates and arguments over which really was the better school. They fight over who has more p-sets

and whose clubs are more impressive. She, with much satisfaction, has the higher grade in their shared CS50 class. He claims Cambridge is overrated, and she scoffs and claims Connecticut as a whole is irrelevant. They argue over who has better parties and prettier architecture until their fighting eventually turns to conversation of their ambitious dreams. And, putting aside the staggering difference in their quality of education, they were truly one of the same; they were both Econ majors after all.

They trickle outside at some point, too absorbed in themselves to say goodbye, and he walks her back in the brisk November night. They're almost as tipsy as they are stubborn.

"I'd offer you my sweater, but I'm assuming you wouldn't take it." He points to the 'Yale,' faintly illuminated in the moonlight, as she shivers slightly in the breeze.



"God no. That would be treachery." Her deadpanned face tries to hide her grin as she crosses her arms.

"As if navy isn't the prettier color anyway."

Somewhere they are being made fun of, and in a week she might be horrified by this night, but for now she brushes aside their rivalry. They inately argue over the better color (crimson, obviously). Their hands dance around each other, pleading to intertwine. They inch towards each other, they wish tonight was endless. And for just one fleeting and ridiculously embarrassing moment, she can't help but wonder how navy would look on her.

See you tomorrow. She falls asleep, holding onto the promise of his words,

knowing she shouldn't. He was a preppy Yale boy after all.

Football had never been more enjoyable to her—she watched passionately, eyes glued to every play, all in anticipation of the satisfaction of being able to rub it in his face when Harvard won. The game itself was a back and forth fight. No one would be the first to slip, biting back at each other for control. Across the field, he watched too, wondering where she was in the stands. He decided to slip out, too distracted when all at once, Harvard scored the winning touchdown with sixteen seconds left.

It was an uncontrollable frenzy as the crowd made its way down the stands. Euphoric chaos erupted to surround her, but it was the thrill of finding him that ran through her until she heard his unmistakable voice.

"I knew I recognized those boots." This time she ignored his preppy outfit when she turned to look at him, a laugh escaping her grin before they could even lock eyes. He stood at the other end of the steps, calling up towards her.

"And I knew we would win." She beams with the greatest accomplishment as if she had scored the winning touchdown herself.

"Oh please. We'll crush you next year." He's decked out in even more Yale apparel, and she is drowning in crimson.

"You can dream." She blows him a kiss, and then she's swept away with the crowd, and he remains standstill, faintly blushing, and then they were both gone. Back to rivals and strangers.

Until next year.

MEENA BEHRINGER '27
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10/10 RECOMMENDS FINDING
YOURSELF A YALE LOVE STORY
THIS WEEKEND.
GRAPHIC BY ISABEL EDDY '24

Hamlet at Harvard

STUDENTS RUSH TO SEE A RETELLING OF SHAKESPEARE'S GREATEST PLAY AT HARVARD.

By Adedoyin Adebayo '26

Sunday, November 5, 2023. Just after 2pm, the last few audience members enter the packed Loeb Experimental (Loeb Ex) Theater for an afternoon of dark humor and heightened emotions. Located in the back of the Loeb Drama Center, this smaller theater offers an intimate playgoing experience. With the student actors just an arm span away from the front row of the audience, no microphones are required in the Loeb Ex—viewers feel like they are spectating real life rather than a performance. The simple background of four gray-painted pillars is enough to transport onlookers to Elsinore, Denmark. It was the final run of Hyperion Shakespeare Company's production of Hamlet, and few seats were left empty.

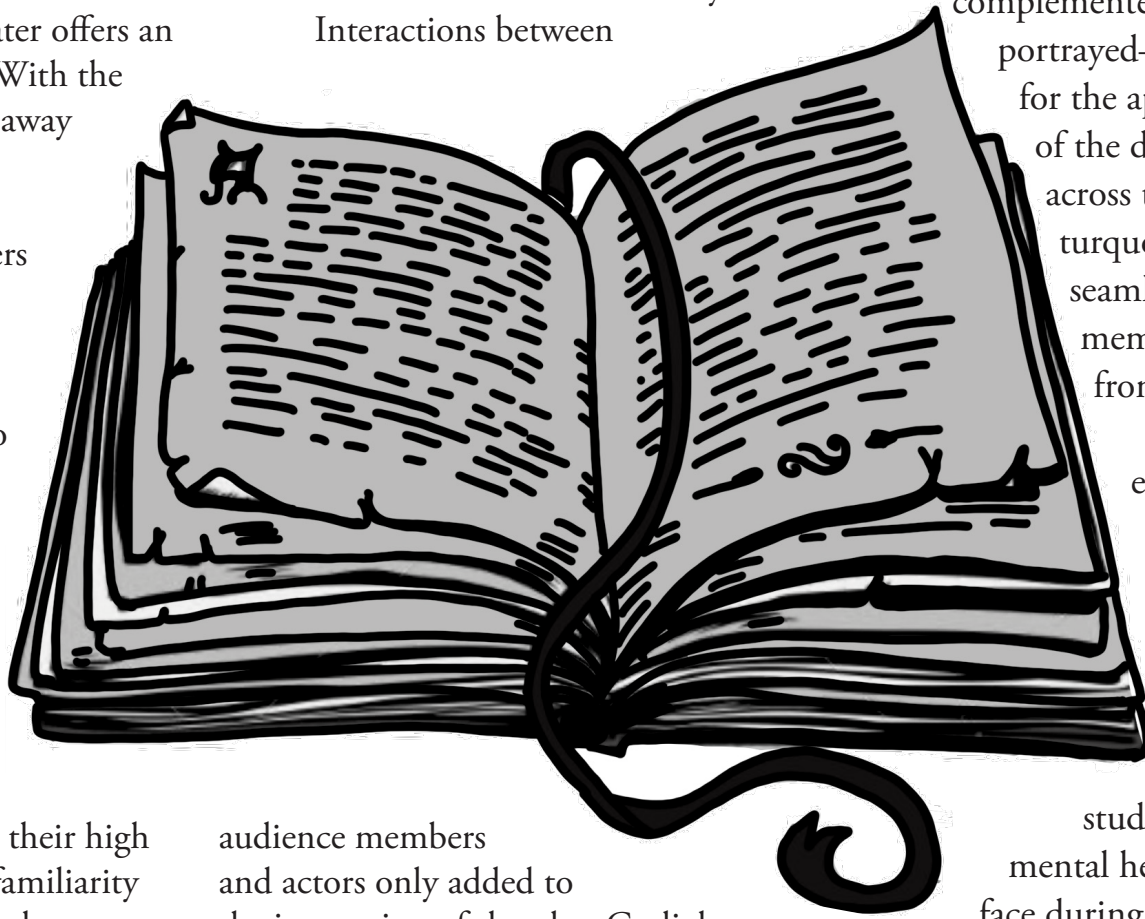
Many attendees might have first encountered the story of the Danish prince Hamlet in their high school English class. However, familiarity with the written play or even Shakespearean English was not required to enjoy this performance. Those who worry about understanding the language of Shakespeare can rest assured knowing that Hyperion's cast conveyed the story with clarity by using clear, deliberate movements and responses accessible to Shakespeare fans (or critics) across a spectrum.

Harvard's production of Hamlet's unique emphasis on "the familial and psychological aspects and less on the political" was intentional, according to Lauren Xu '24 who played Lucianus, an actor recruited by Hamlet to perform a play for his uncle and aunt. Viewers may have seen themselves in the depression of the Danish prince. The death of his beloved father transforms him from an easygoing student to an unrecognizable young man who fixates on death. He develops a morbid sense of humor, joking that the food served at his father's funeral was the same as the food served at his mother's wedding to his uncle, Claudius. Depression grows into righteous anger when the ghost of his father informs Hamlet that his uncle was the one who murdered him. Claudius then replaced Hamlet's father as king and married Hamlet's mother, Queen Gertrude.

Audience members who had not seen or read Hamlet were comforted to hear well-known phrases such as "To be or not to be. That is

the question," "Brevity is the soul of wit," "Though this be madness, yet there is method in't," and my personal favorite, "This above all: to thine own self be true, And it must follow, as the night the day, Thou canst not then be false to any man."

Interactions between



audience members and actors only added to the immersion of the play. Co-lighting designer Jada Pisani-Lee '26 appreciated how the Loeb Ex space allowed the "audience to be on the [the same] level as the actors, allowing the actors to interact with the audience and pass around props and whisper messages to them during the show."

Arjun Purohit '25, who played the wicked King Claudius, noted that there is something "alluring about Shakespeare at his finest." Alluring the show was—it was truly special to see friends and peers bring Shakespeare's text to life and have fun while doing so. Purohit emphasized that there is "a camaraderie in stage acting that is easily overlooked," but attendees of Harvard's Hamlet could easily pick up on the dynamic relationships and trust built between the actors during their many months of preparation.

The sense of camaraderie in the Hamlet team was also felt by Production Assistant and Stage Manager, Carisma Wong '26, who enjoyed "[being part of a group of] people of all different experience levels on the team where everybody was so welcoming. I learned a lot and made new friends. I got to see people in their element, both on and off stage, and I feel really lucky for that." The comfort that actors and crew members had with each other was evident by how well they worked together on stage, contributing their own acting talents and

giving others moments to shine.

While the focus of Hamlet was surely on its talented actors, it is critical to appreciate the skilled efforts of its crew. The lights selected for each scene perfectly complemented the emotions

portrayed—this was especially true for the appearance of the ghost of the dead king. As he crept across the stage, it shone an eerie turquoise. Scene changes were seamless, ensuring audience members were never distracted from the onstage drama.

Besides its entertainment value and talented cast and crew, Harvard's Hamlet highlighted topics that will forever be relevant to the undergraduate experience. Harvard

students are well aware of the mental health challenges that many face during this critical period of life.

Recent years on campus have renewed discussions on mental health, with advocates demanding accountability and change from the University—this is thus the perfect time to engage critically with Hamlet.

Assistant director Hailey Madison "Maddie" Sebastian '24 identified the show's ideal audience as, "Shakespeare nerds, Lion King fans, and anyone who has ever felt angry at the world." Harvard's Hamlet, then, was for practically everyone—and undoubtedly, all who attended are now anticipating Hyperion's next brilliant production.

ADEDOYIN ADEBAYO '26 (AADEBAYO@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WONDERS IF "SOMETHING IS ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF DENMARK."
GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26

Different Schools, Different Languages

DESPITE DIFFERENCES IN HARVARD AND YALE'S SCHOOL COLLOQUIALISMS, THE DIFFERENCES DON'T RUN QUITE AS DEEP AS ONE WOULD THINK.

by Kayla Reifel '26

The Harvard-Yale rivalry is entrenched in everything, not just football. Yale merch is informally forbidden on Harvard's campus and jokes disparaging bulldogs and New Haven are abundant in Cambridge. There are significant differences between Harvard and Yale that are unrelated to football that fuel the rivalry between the schools. Harvard and Yale's differences expand to the popular, school-specific terms used on campus. At the surface level, the differences in slang further the rivalry between Harvard and Yale. But when one looks a bit closer, the linguistic overlap establishes a sense of mutuality, bringing the two schools together.

Yale has quite a few terms to describe places to eat. "GHeav is what we call the grocery store everyone goes to," mentioned Class of 2025 Yale student Diego Aspinwall. According to a list of "Yale Lingo" on Yale's website, GHeav is "Good Nature Market" (formerly named Gourmet Heaven), a 24-hour specialty grocery store." Aspinwall explained, "Many students eat at 'the Commons.'"

With non-equivalent, comparable terms at Harvard being CVS and DHalls, these are clearly notable differences in language and life between the two schools. When asked if Yale referred to their dining services as "YUDS", Aspinwall said, "We don't really have a term like that." Perhaps it is a commentary on the quality of their food that Yale does not need a single-syllable acronym for their dining services like HUDS (Harvard University Dining Services) to blame for all their dining woes.

A rather silly set of terms Yale students use are "FroCo" (first-year counselor), and "CoCo" (two co-coordinators of a student organization.) While it's certainly easy to make fun of these silly abbreviations, Harvard's adjacent terms aren't nearly as fun. With PAF (peer advising fellow) and co-presidents(?), our attempt to make mentors and leaders seem like more friendly resources pale in comparison to Yale's.

Yale's Residential College System has both similarities and differences to Harvard's. At Yale, a student is randomly assigned to their residential college before matriculating, whereas at Harvard a student is placed in one at the end of their first year for their remaining three years. According to Aspinwall, Yale students abbreviate the names of most residential colleges. For example,

Timothy Dwight residential college is often shortened to "TD." Aspinwall noted that Timothy Dwight in particular is often ridiculed, as students think it's a cult. At Harvard, we're no better in this area (Kirkland House). We're also not completely innocent when it comes to shortening house names, particularly in the case of our abbreviating Pforzheimer House to "PfoHo."

Harvard's Quad, known for its farther proximity to Harvard Yard over River Houses, has an equivalent at Yale. Yale's new residential colleges, Murray and Franklin, are often simply referred to as "the far colleges," as explained by Aspinwall. While Harvard tends to use consistent terms across the student body, Aspinwall mentioned there is a bit of a generational war going on with a slang term for the Yale residential colleges. "Younger students call residential colleges 'ResCos' but upperclassmen don't do that, they think it's kind of stupid. It's a newer term," Aspinwall stated.

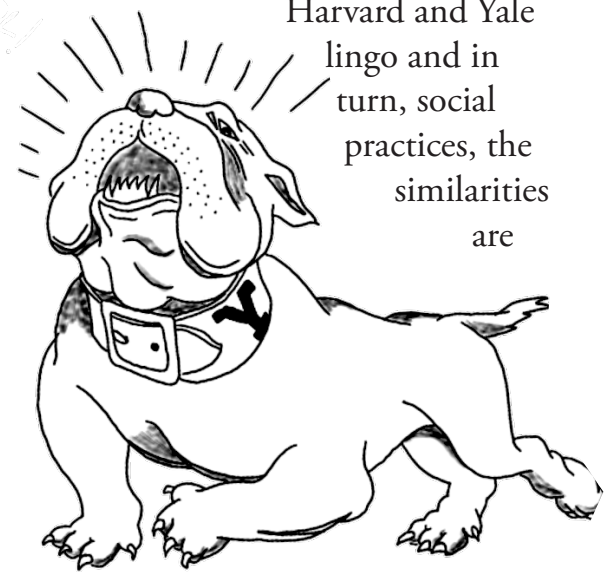
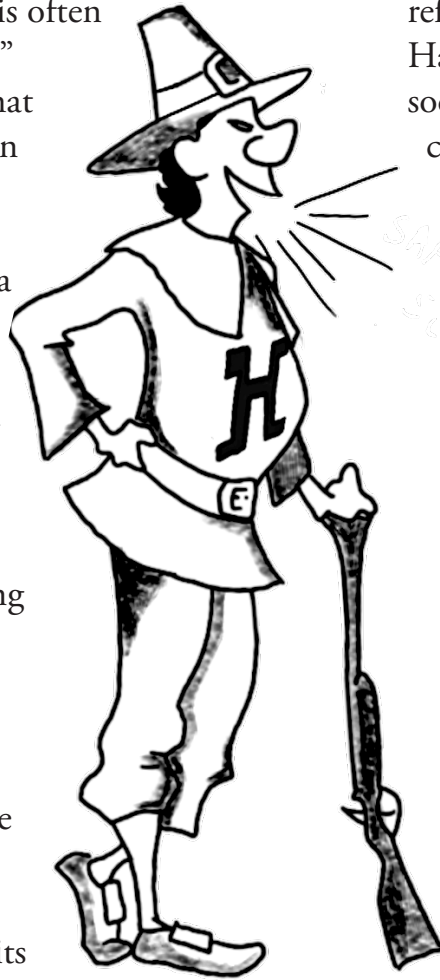
Aspinwall noted that many of the differences in slang lend themselves to and are offshoots of cultural differences between the schools. People whisper about Yale's secret societies, which hold a similar reputation on campus to Harvard's final clubs. He mentioned that students call some of the oldest and top societies "landed societies." Like at Harvard, these terms are completely inconsequential to some, and the pinnacle of social success to others.

Despite having similar exclusive spheres of social life (albeit different names for them), Yale's social scene differs from Harvard significantly. This is apparent in the terms used at Yale relating to social life. The Yale social scene revolves significantly more around Greek life and sports. Aspinwall, a member of the Alpine Ski Team, implied that sports at Yale are also a popular way to carve out a social sphere. At Yale, athletic teams often have houses where they can host parties. The term "crew house" is a phrase

that would never be used at Harvard in reference to the location of a party. Harvard sports teams certainly have a social aspect, but they are never considered as an alternative or replacement to a social club.

While there are both similarities and differences between

Harvard and Yale lingo and in turn, social practices, the similarities are



more numerous than one would expect. We both agonize over "p-sets" and we both have a "reading period" before finals. Many of our traditions are the exact same with different names. We might pride ourselves on the tradition of primal scream, but one Yale secret society, "The Pundits," is also notorious for its naked parties and runs. Additionally, Aspinwall's residential college has the "Saybrook Strip," so keep an eye out for a horde of people suddenly getting naked at the Harvard-Yale Game.

We have one final slang term in common: The Game. While Harvard and Yale may have their linguistic and communal differences, they also have their similarities, and we can certainly find common ground in our annual tradition of going head-to-head on the football field.

KAYLA REIFEL '26 (KAYLAREIFEL@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HAS BEEN TRYING AND FAILING TO THINK OF A WAY TO ABBREVIATE ADAMS HOUSE. GRAPHIC BY ALMA RUSSEL '26

"Frolo"

"PAF"

"Bulldog"



"Primal
Scream"

"Naked Run"

"Gren"



ang Edition

Days"

"Grill"

"Buttery"

"Tap"

"Punch"



ndsdays"



Sweaters, Scarves, and Harvard Hoodies

A GUIDE TO FALL FASHION AT HARVARD.

by Lauren Barakett '27

It all is upon us again, and Harvard students are gearing up to face the cold Boston weather. For most New Englanders, this means basic sweaters, jeans, and boots. Harvard students, however, are notorious for repping their club merch. Whether it is a CS50 t-shirt or a DHA crewneck, students love to boast about their belonging to a group. Here is a guide to keeping up with fall trends and an incentive to toss club merch aside.

If you want to ditch the traditional puffer jacket this fall and embrace a more stylish option, long wool trench coats are a must-have for fall on the East Coast. Layering is critical during the cold months, and a long, cozy coat is an easy throw-on piece that will keep you warm without sacrificing style. With over one million views on TikTok, *_livslooks* discusses the “long coat theory,” in which a long coat will elevate any outfit to look fashionable and model-esque. Whether it’s beige, black, or an eye-catching color, a coat like this is an easy way to elevate an outfit. You can even wear it over your club hoodies!

Ballet flats are making an appearance in fall fashion this year, with students rocking pastel or vibrant primary-colored ballet flats. With jeans and knit sweaters, a bright and elegant shoe goes a long way in boosting an outfit. Influencer Kim J. Brannigan suggests wearing slim-fit jeans that hit above the ankle rather than long, baggy jeans to style ballet flats. As the weather gets colder, there is no need to fear; some influencers wear tiny white socks underneath their flats to keep their feet warm.

Whether navy blue, white, or cream, striped sweaters are trendy and warm and have been spotted being worn by stylish people worldwide. Who doesn’t need a warm, chic sweater as the weather gets cold? There are a variety of stripe widths and colors to choose from, all equally trendy and perfect for fall. Although these could seem preppy, the influx of varieties in sweaters has given striped hoodies a more contemporary look. “Fall is the season of cozy sweaters, pumpkin spice lattes, and the once-in-a-year chance to rock loafers.”

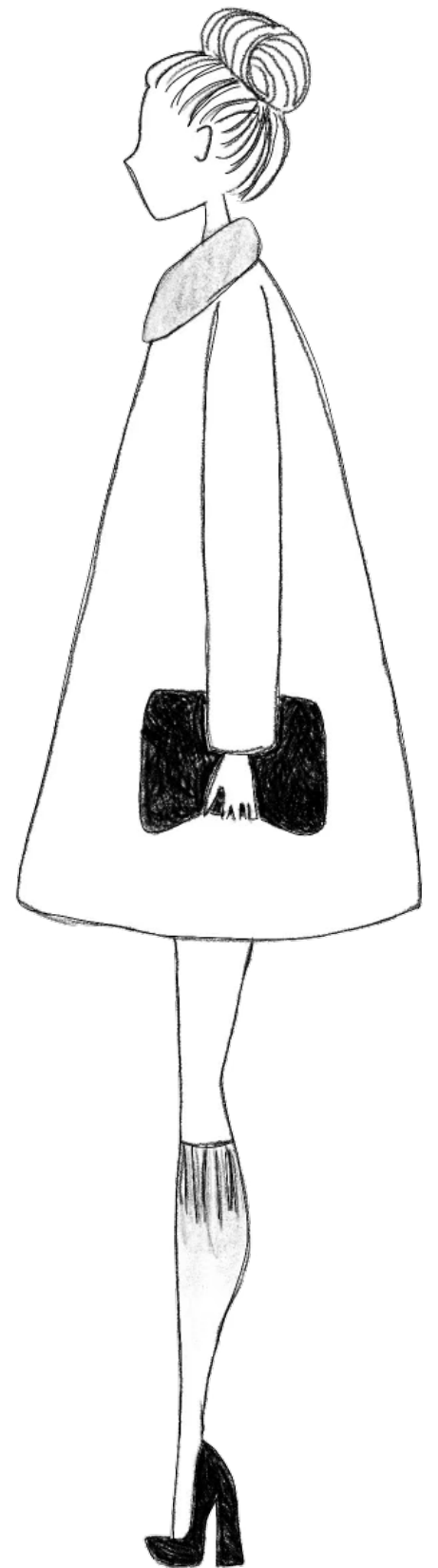
If ballet flats aren’t for you, try loafers. Whether you wear them with jeans, skirts, or a dress, loafers add sophistication to any outfit. Loafers are more comfortable than heels and boots and more stylish than sneakers, making them a worthwhile addition to any fall wardrobe. Influencer Emma Canot offers a variety of loafers that she believes will be the most popular in the fall of 2023, introducing the trend of chunky sole loafers to the picture. Chunky loafers are more modern and comfortable, and I promise they’re more stylish than your grandpa’s.

One trend that will be making a reappearance in fall 2023 is UGG Boots. Last year, ultra mini UGG boots flew off the shelves, making it impossible to secure a pair before they sold out. Get on it early this year by purchasing your UGGs in the fall. If you want a stylish touch or just a boost in height, try the ultra mini-platform boots.

Controversial last spring and likely still controversial in fall 2023: sheer skirts and shirts are coming back this season. Sheer shirts come in

every style: crop tops, button-downs, and even turtlenecks. From mesh to lace, these shirts are an easy staple to incorporate into your wardrobe, no matter your style. This daunting piece is easily toned down; pair them with a tank or t-shirt to limit exposed skin.

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WILL BE WEARING HER
HARVARD INDEPENDENT
HOODIE EVERYWHERE THIS
FALL.
GRAPHIC BY REEVE SYKES '26



The Game Beyond "The Game"

THE PASSION FOR BEATING YALE EXTENDS FAR BEYOND FOOTBALL.

By Declan Buckley '24

The Game needs no introduction. The annual football contest between Harvard and Yale is one of the most historic rivalries in all of college sports. The *Independent* has dedicated plenty of words to Harvard's lack of school spirit, such as our Beanpot article that covered the near-empty student section for the biggest hockey game of the year. The Game is an exception to this phenomenon. It is the flagship event of the social calendar and garners national media attention. For at least one weekend out of the year, the entire student body rallies around tailgating and attending a football game like any Big 10 or SEC school.

While this weekend may be unmatched in its surrounding hype, the fierce competition between these two storied institutions will not end when the scoreboard clock hits zero at the Yale Bowl this Saturday. Athletes in other sports speak about playing Yale with the same fervor, with their own versions of The Game holding an equally special place in their hearts.

"I think just the nature of being at Harvard, one of the best things [as a player] is having that Harvard-Yale rivalry," said Women's Lacrosse captain Ilana Kofman '24. "The tradition really excites us."

Kofman's love for the matchup is well-placed. Just like Harvard, Yale is one of the oldest and most prestigious schools in the country. When coupled with the schools' geographic proximity and participation in the Ivy League, the rivalry seems almost inevitable. Facing off against Yale gives athletes the opportunity to etch their name into the annals of history, something not lost on Men's Soccer captain Harry Moore '24. "One thing that I try to highlight in a team talk before the game is that you're playing for so much more than just the 30 of us in this room," he said. "We're representing all of the people who played before us and the entire University."

The weight of the past may feel especially heavy to Liam Downing '25, who races for the Men's Heavyweight Crew Team. Their end-of-the-season regatta against Yale is the oldest collegiate sporting event in the country, first taking place in 1852. The race is steeped in tradition, perhaps the most notable being the team's multi-week training camp at a racecourse adjacent facility called Red Top.

"It's definitely a very different atmosphere than campus," Downing said. "You're out in Connecticut and really just with the team for nearly a month preparing for the race itself."

Continuing to train for a single event long after other students have started their summers may seem like an impossible commitment, but this dedication is far from unfounded. Downing explained that many rowers on the team view beating their archrivals as more important than winning the National Championship.

Soccer and Lacrosse do not face the Bulldogs under such isolated circumstances, but rather as part of a larger Ivy League regular season. However, this does not mean that the desire to come out on top is in any way diminished. Games between the two schools often have major championship implications, piling the existing stakes even higher. "Sometimes [preparing] takes a little more composure because there is so much emotion and almost anger just from the rivalry, that natural anger," Kofman said. She highlighted the importance of ensuring these feelings do not dominate the entire game.

Moore echoed this sentiment, recalling how his first match against Yale opened with two hard fouls in the first five minutes. "A lot of the soccer playing goes out the window, the tactics and things like that, and it's more of a battle between the two sides," he said.

This intensity is only heightened by the influx of fans a rivalry game brings. "This past year was a huge game. It was by far our largest attendance," said Kofman. She estimated that over 1,000 people packed the stands—a mixture of friends, family, and alumni. Downing stated that the Yale race was second only to the Head of the Charles in terms of support, with designated viewing spots and a large barbecue celebration of the season. Moore also welcomed the hostile environment of away games, crediting the nature of Yale's soccer field. "[It's] pretty much stadium-like, which gives this really cool atmosphere because the sound is closed in and echoes off the buildings," he said.

While the excitement and fanfare

surrounding playing Yale is exciting, only one factor ultimately matters for the athletes: winning. "It definitely means a lot to how you look at the rest of the season," Downing said. "It definitely influences your motivations for the next year, whether you win or lose."

Kofman described her team's win against Yale last spring as "the best moment in [her] Harvard Lacrosse career." In the midst of the fight to qualify for the playoffs after a slow start to the year, her team battled back from an early deficit to beat the #16-ranked Bulldogs by a single goal. "It was just so exciting to see everything come together against our rivals," she said.

Moore has enjoyed victories against his rival the past two seasons in both New Haven and Cambridge. Each game was extremely close, only being decided by late goals from the Crimson. "I think they definitely will have those games in mind coming into [the playoffs] and will be looking to get after us for sure," he said.

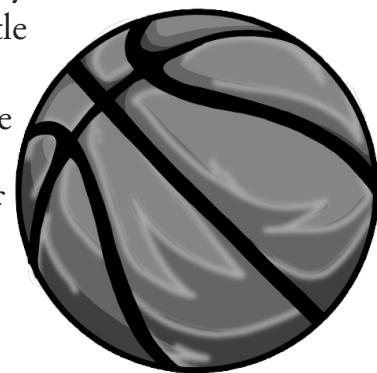
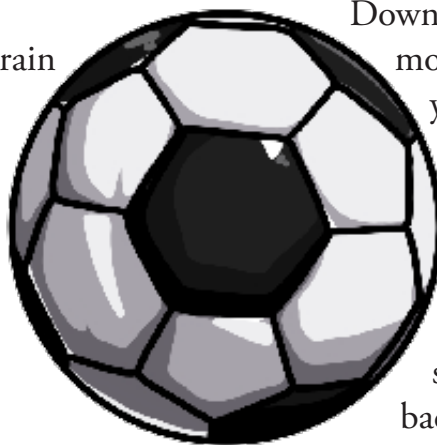
Downing has also seen his fair share of success in the midst of close calls, winning his race in the third varsity boat by just under two seconds. However, he expressed the team's dismay about losing the first varsity race, a victory that has eluded them since 2014. The winner gets to paint the famed "Harvard-Yale Rock" in their school colors, and Downing hopes to see it covered in crimson soon. "Even though last year my boat won, because the better boats didn't win, it didn't really mean anything," he said. "At the end of the day, you want that rock painted in your color."

All three athletes interviewed spoke about facing Yale with an intensity that matches what one has come to expect from The Game every year.

The athletic battle between the Crimson and the Bulldogs is not merely a one-off event, but a never-ending struggle for superiority that materializes wherever there are more points to be scored or more races to be won.

DECLAN BUCKLEY '24 (DECLANBUCKLEY@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HOPES TO WRITE ABOUT MANY MORE VICTORIES AGAINST YALE BEFORE HE GRADUATES.

GRAPHICS BY EL RICHARDS '26
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Harvard Hockey: The Good, Bad, and the Ugly

HOPE IS NOT LOST AFTER HARVARD HOCKEY'S FIRST FOUR GAMES.

by Jordan Wasserberger '27

The Harvard Men's Hockey Team, like much of the Harvard student body, has commitment issues. At least, that is according to coach Ted Donato '91, who, after the team's embarrassing 0-6 shutout loss against Quinnipiac last Saturday stated, "There's a reason they scored six goals, and some of them weren't even on their best chances... we wasted what would've been a really good performance from Derek [Mullahy] '24." When asked about the team as a whole, Donato was even more direct. "Our inability to be patient and our turning pucks over flipped the game around on us... we aren't consistently committed to putting pucks behind them [Quinnipiac]. Until we as a group commit, we aren't going to have the offensive opportunities or production we'd all like to have."

Donato's commentary on Saturday's loss was dead-on. Watching Harvard play against the reigning NCAA champions, I could not tell whether Quinnipiac was simply that good, or whether we were just playing that poorly. The problem wasn't that we didn't score—had Quinnipiac's goalie been lights-out against a deluge of high-danger chances (as both Harvard goalies did in back-to-back games) we would not be having this conversation. Through three periods Harvard recorded less than one-half of Quinnipiac's shots on goal, emblematic of a larger offensive issue. Donato highlighted offense as a potential problem during our conversation last month, when he raised concerns about the team's goal-scoring abilities coming into the season.

As Donato pointed out in our post-game discussion, you cannot expect offensive output when you do not put pressure on the opposing defense, and you cannot do that if you do not get the puck into their zone. Harvard's difficulties Saturday can be principally attributed to that issue, one I am confident will be solved over the coming weeks as the team adjusts to this new system and the younger skaters grow more comfortable in the NCAA.

There are also questions about the solidity of the Crimson's defensive core. Despite a strong showing from Captain Ian Moore '25, Harvard's defense was disappointing in both home tilts, giving up far too many scoring chances and relying too heavily on their netminders. According to Moore, the biggest issue is Harvard's turnovers, particularly in the middle zone. "We were at our best when we kept pucks on the wall and in their end—we need to do more of that and it'll help us," he said. While the start of the season may be disappointing, fans should take comfort in knowing that team leadership is universally aligned on what needs to improve in order to start winning.

In what will likely be a difficult season, Saturday's loss was tougher than anyone expected. But I am hopeful the team got it out of their system and is eager to bounce back. One might ask why I have so much hope, given the last two paragraphs I just spent lamenting the team's poor performance. Well did you watch them play Friday?

Friday's game against Princeton was about as incredible a home

opener as you could ask for. They got the bad stuff out of the way first; the team lost in a shootout after a grueling regulation and overtime struggle. Yes, the team was outshot 2:1, and if not for the stellar play of goalie Aku Koskenvuo '26, they likely would have been blown out of the water. All of Donato's commentary applies here. Too many holes in the defense, not enough time in the offensive zone, and the need to be more aggressive on the forecheck and putting pucks behind the opposing team. Ok, I think we get it. Now, for the good.

After an early goal from Princeton, Harvard responded with two counterpunches from Ryan Fine '27 and Joe Miller '26, just a minute-and-a-half apart. Then, with only 35 seconds left in the first, the Tigers roared back with a tying goal, and so ensued a period of stagnation with neither side giving an inch in the next frame. Just one minute in the third, the Tigers scored again to put them up 3-2, answered by Marek Hejduk '26 five minutes later. Tied 3-3, Princeton took the lead 19 seconds later, only to be tied again by Miller just 25 seconds after that. There were not enough stick taps in the world for the boys in crimson that night—a phenomenal if heartbreaking game punctuated by all-star performances from Koskenvuo and Miller.

But, hockey is a team sport, and as much as Koskenvuo and Miller deserve credit for their play, the entire team deserves a round of applause for the sheer grit and spirit they poured onto that ice. With only two players above 200 lbs (Matthew Morden '27 and Ryan Drkulec '24), the Crimson are not a big team, and yet they play with immense physicality. There were at least five or six different scraps on the ice during the Princeton game alone, with another five to ten against Quinnipiac. Most of those were led by forward Salvatore Guzzo '27, who at one time took on three Quinnipiac skaters after the whistle blew, laughing in their faces as they tried to pull him back. Phenomenal stuff there Guzzo.

For Koskenvuo, seeing that kind of heart from the team is everything. "It fires you up more. It makes you want to push yourself that much harder for the team," he stated. That's great to hear, but with a .907 save percentage (39 saves on 43 shots), Koskenvuo is the last person who needs to worry about playing better.

This is a team with an incredible amount of heart and determination, shown in spades at both home games last weekend. There may be some defensive gaps and some offensive play that needs work, but this is not the San Jose Sharks. This is not a team that is going to go 0-10-1 in the first leg of the season. This is not a team that's going to set a record for the most goals allowed in back-to-back games.



This past weekend, despite losing to Colgate in yet another shootout, Harvard put up a much stronger showing, only being outshot 31-27 by the Raiders and never allowing a lead of more than a single goal. Harvard's first-years were the stars that night, with the only two Crimson goals coming from Ryan Fine '27 and Ben MacDonald '27. Against Cornell, the Crimson pulled off a miracle victory, scoring just 60 seconds into the first period against the #7 team in the nation. For the next 59 minutes, the Crimson put on a clinic of resiliency, able to maintain strong offensive pressure and defensive zone coverage despite the loss of their captain Zakary Karpa '25 after he sustained a concussion in the first period. With a final tally of 3-2 (goals from Joe Miller '26, and Alex Gaffney '25) there's hope yet that the Crimson have found their game, and look to carry it forward into the rest of the season.

The Crimson remains a top ECAC and NCAA hockey team, and I expect that the next time we speak, I will be glowing about some miraculous win or insane goal. "Playing tougher teams is an opportunity to prove ourselves. You learn from your mistakes, you rest up, you forget about tonight and get fired up for tomorrow," said Koskenvuo, regarding the team's intense upcoming schedule. That attitude is exactly why I have faith in this team, and I cannot wait to see them get the job done

JORDAN WASSERBERGER '27
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A Collegiate Couture

WHY FAMOUS FASHION DESIGNERS ARE RETURNING TO HARVARD STUDENTS' STYLE.

By: Savannah Huitema, J.D. '25

Cl in my years spent modeling in the creative capitals of the world, I never lacked inspiration; life working in fashion is hallowed by the haze of an urgent beauty. In New York City, popular restaurants are filled with idyllic voices of artists refining their visions over food with friends. Streets are lined by glass gallery windows through which you might peer into a world of contemporary creations. On every main thoroughfare, you can observe the purposeful walk of locals dressed like they've just stepped off a catwalk. These are the signals that culture is alive—fashion is the coursing lifeblood of the city.

Coming to Harvard Law School, I resigned myself to the idea that I would be taking a sabbatical from such a rich daily aesthetic experience. I'd trade it for a solely left-brained way of being in the world, one characterized by dense legal texts and the rigid structures of formal logic. I was wrong in this assumption. Inspiringly, Harvard is actually one of the places where fashion finds foundation in American culture.

'Ivy League' style is said to have originated on college campuses in the Northeastern United States in the 1950s, characterized by its clean-cut, modest apparel that has since blurred into the popular 'preppy' style of dressing. There is a reason high fashion designers return to 'Ivy-inspired' clothing: Harvard style is a reminder that in fashion and in culture more broadly, although we may welcome ventures into the new, we can always return home to the grounding beauty of that which is elegantly enduring. Set against a tapestry of falling golden leaves overlaying a pale-pallor sky, one can derive inspiration from students wearing classic fall staples as the romantic intonation of the belltower carries across Harvard Yard.

White button-ups, cable knit sweaters, polo shirts, and wool overcoats predominate,

complemented by subtle accessories like vintage watches and leather belts. These pieces are characterized by clean silhouettes and nostalgic color schemes, typically of muted and neutral palettes. The clothes look like they've been in one's wardrobe forever, and because they transcend trend cycles by virtue of their versatility, they can be. If you accuse campus style of being mundane, you aren't looking closely enough—it's simple and hardly adventurous, but it has a timeless appeal that continues to draw designers.

We're seeing this tendency occur this year on the runways, and it's not a coincidence—it's a reaction to the current climate of societal strife. As is posited by some political thinkers, the traditional right is the measured corrective to the innovativeness of the progressive left; the push and pull of old and new maintains an equilibrium that keeps culture advancing without spinning out of control. Fashion is the visual representation of this process. In times of societal upheaval, designers reach for the grounding of conservative styles. The Civil Rights Era was a golden age of 'Ivy' style. Pressed trench coats and Brooks Brothers Suits were worn by leaders at the time to demonstrate power and belonging. In contrast, in calmer times, there is a push in fashion toward more outlandish trends. During the conservative Reagan Era,

fashion became loud, opulent, colorful, and excessive.

Today's world of war and unrest inspires designers to seek grounding through their craft. Fashion has been called a mirror of our times, yet maybe it is more aptly characterized as a negotiation with the present—through fashion, it is possible to communicate a vision of what should be as we reconcile with what is. That's why in this age of turmoil, prominent fashion designers are getting back to the basics, and reaching for the simple, timeless taste found on campus.

It's this pull toward a fundamental foundation that is drawing designers back to the aesthetic often found at Harvard, and maybe it also explains the ubiquity of the current obsession in popular culture with 'Ivy League' or 'prep' style (Miu Miu's latest collection is a testament).

Because there is a tendency in American culture to seek to return to traditional values in times of political and social chaos, campus style will always remain relevant as a sartorial safe harbor.

What we are seeing now on runways is the desire to create a sense of balance by giving in to an impulse to a reassuring nostalgia. As demonstrated in designer clothing collections this year, when life gets uncertain in American culture, expect fashion to be inspired by students' styles on campus. You might allow yourself to feel inspired by it as well.

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GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26

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Indy Sportsbook: The Game Edition

OUTLINING THE BEST BETS TO MAKE FOR HARVARD-YALE.

By Declan Buckley '24 and Luke Wagner '26

We launched *Indy Sportsbook* last January to bring you the foremost gambling content of any student publication at Harvard. In the ensuing months, we have covered everything from the NFL and Women's World Cup to professional cycling and competitive darts. There are picks we look back on with pride and others that we try hard to forget. Yet despite encouraging you to risk your money on nearly everything imaginable, there is one gaping hole in our resume—Harvard sports.

It may seem positively inane that a gambling column for a Harvard newspaper has never discussed the sports of its own school, but there are good reasons for that. First, we know many of these athletes personally, and could not in good conscience give you unbiased predictions about their performance—betting against our blockmates would feel pretty wrong. Second, lines for many college teams come out extremely late, making it impossible for us to both write about them and meet our deadlines. For example, Bovada posts FCS lines (the division Harvard Football plays in) an hour before most games kick-off. You cannot bet on what you do not know.

With all that said, this is no ordinary Harvard sports weekend. This is *The Game*. We could not pass up the opportunity to write about it,

particularly considering it is the theme of this entire issue and arguably the most important Harvard game of the year across all sports. Without further ado, here are our 100% biased picks for Harvard-Yale, complete with entirely fabricated lines.

Moneyline:
Harvard (-130).
Yale, who are 6-3,

have won six of its last seven games, are gearing up for this historic clash, and have been playing some of their best football. While both teams have been playing well as of late, we think that Harvard, having just clinched the Ivy League, has a slight edge going into New Haven this weekend.

However, this affair is not as one-sided as some people think. This season, Yale is ranked second in the Ivy League, and this matchup is always close no matter the year. *Indy Sportsbook* backs Harvard to win away this year and finish the season strong by beating our rivals at their home field.

Spread: Harvard (-1.5) (-105). While we are not huge fans of betting the spread when the line is this close, we do think it is the better value bet. Consider this a moneyline bet with slightly better odds. As long as the Crimson wins by greater than a single point, both bets should hit. Take the spread for slightly more bang for your buck.

Total Points: Under 53.5. The weather this Saturday is supposed to be cold, rainy, and not the best for scoring points. While these teams both have offenses that have been firing on all cylinders as of late, we think that weather can impact play a lot (especially at the collegiate level), and we anticipate the game to have less offense than usual. While there is an argument to be made that this will be a shootout, we

think the game will turn out to be a back-and-forth defensive battle.

Turnovers: Over 2.5. Neither of these teams has been turning the ball over recently, thanks to strong performances by their starting quarterbacks. However, college football can be a bit unpredictable, and we think that the tension of such a big game may lead to one or two mistakes. When coupled with the aforementioned bad weather, we foresee a game where the ball changes hands several times.

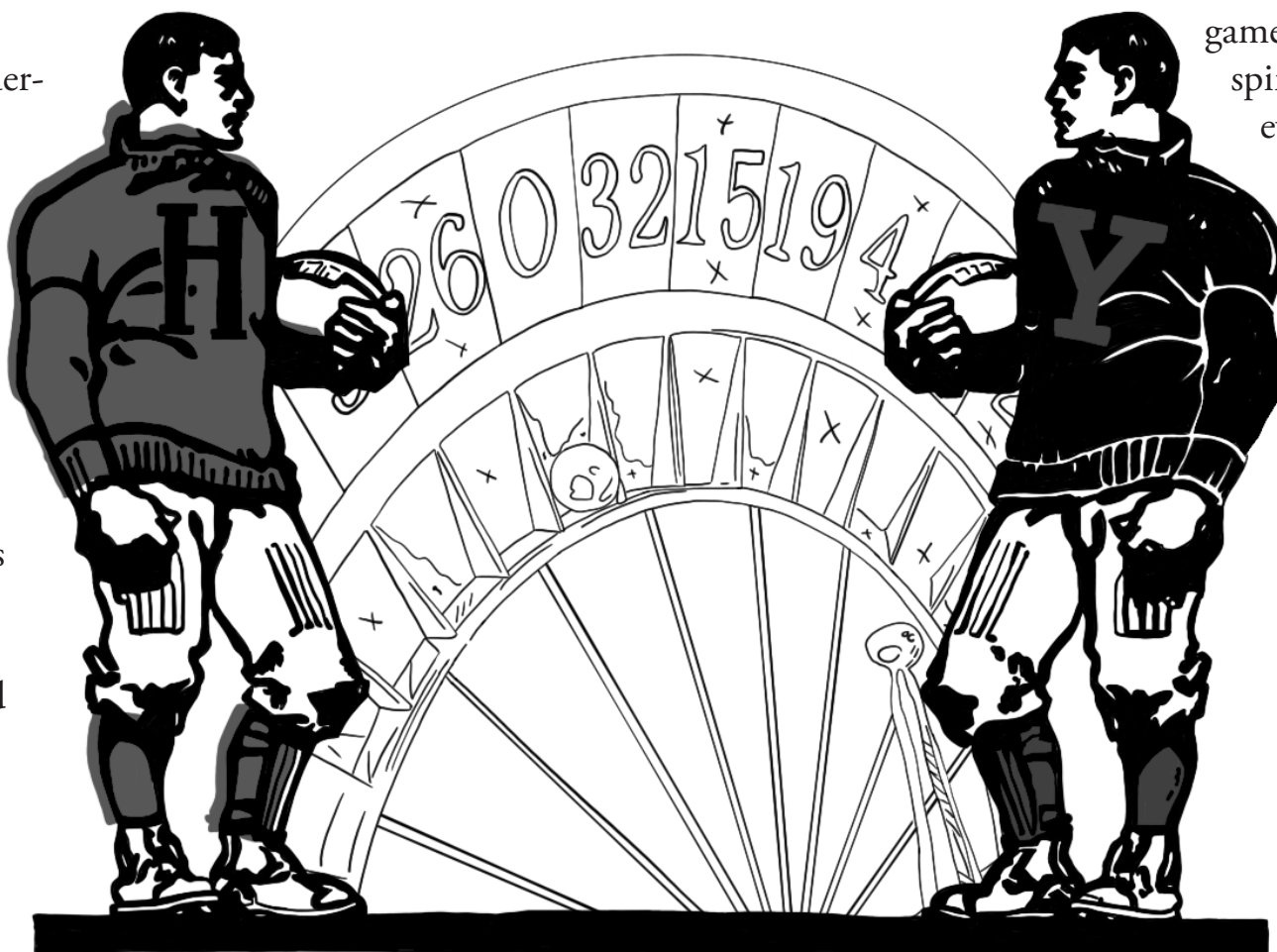
Field Goals: Over 2.5 (-110). The weather is once again at the forefront of our minds here, making us think that Harvard and Yale are going to have trouble punching the ball into the endzone on Saturday. They will have to rely on the legs of their kickers to put them ahead. While college kickers are not always the most reliable, we think that both of them are going to be locked in on Saturday. It is generally tough to kick the ball when it is raining and wet, but we expect to see a lot of FG attempts and end up with over 2.5 field goals.

If all goes well for the Crimson on Saturday, this column will have helped you make up for all the tickets and drinks you bought the night before. Your pockets may sting even more if Yale wins, but we would not have it any other way. At the very least, we hope you use these picks as motivation to leave the tailgate a

little early this year and attend the game. Nothing screams school spirit more than scaring everyone in your section by relentlessly keeping track of field goal attempts.

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THE REAL LINES FOR
THIS GAME TO DROP.

GRAPHIC BY RANIA
JONES '27



139 Years of "The Game"

A COLLECTION OF STORIES THAT HAVE COLORED THE GAME AS WE KNOW IT TODAY.

by Clara Carceran '25

Behind every unseasonably cold, third Saturday in November is the age-old tradition of Harvard and Yale students pinning against one another for the chance to win one of college sports' most illustrious rivalries. This year, "The Game," the infamous football match played between the two schools each fall, marks 139 attempts from the Crimson to crush the opposition in the name of camaraderie and nostalgia. Colored by floods of crimson- and navy-clad students eager to demonstrate their school's authority in every way possible, The Game is not only competitive and marked by a certain nervous game-day energy, but one of the few times during the year when Harvard students unite around a common enemy and, notably, fervently support athletics on campus.

The very first Game took place in the fall of 1875 after Harvard football player Nathaniel Curtis raised the idea of a contest played in the style of a rugby game to former Yale football captain William Arnold. Marked by a desire to dominate both academically and athletically, The Game of 1875 was characterized by a deep-rooted intellectual rivalry between the two institutions that made the pairing instinctive. Despite the newness of the matchup at the time, the respective academic prowess on both campuses made their engagement in football all the more compelling: if one school were truly to be on top, their football team surely would be too. The initial game proved to be a resounding success for the Crimson, though their 4-0 victory in '75 remained unmatched until their second win against Yale in 1890.

Soon after the first Game, the Intercollegiate Football Association between Columbia, Princeton, Harvard, and Yale, was born. However, the association was put to rest in 1894 after nine Harvard and Yale players were taken out of the annual match due to violence on the field: an event nicknamed both the "Hampden Blood Bath" and the "Springfield Massacre." In 1897, however, both teams were back on their feet, and the rivalry was stronger than ever. One year later, the colloquial name for the rivalry, "The Game," was born.

Despite its roots in the spirited tradition of annual football clashes, the Harvard-Yale rivalry extends far beyond the realm of athletics, embodying a not-so-shocking competitive zeal from both campuses in tandem with themes of activism, alumni reunions, and the opportunity for students to come together behind their team instead of their schoolwork. "As a student-athlete, I know we love it when people come to our games, but even more so when it's an Ivy League team," said lacrosse player Maddie Barkate '24. "I'm sure it's the same for the football team, but for us, there's something different about playing Yale. I can't wait to watch the game, especially since they

have the chance to clinch the title outright this weekend!"

Indeed, since its inception, the Harvard-Yale rivalry has firmly anchored itself in the historical fabric of American collegiate sports and represents one of the greatest athletic rivalries in football to date. The pageantry, the halftime shows, and the sheer enthusiasm of the fans bind generations of students and alumni, creating lasting memories and a sense of pride in being part of the Harvard or Yale community.

Now known for the alumni who flock to their home campuses and the fantasy of playing the role of a school known for their prolific love for their sports teams, Harvard-Yale is what many supporters consider the "game of games."

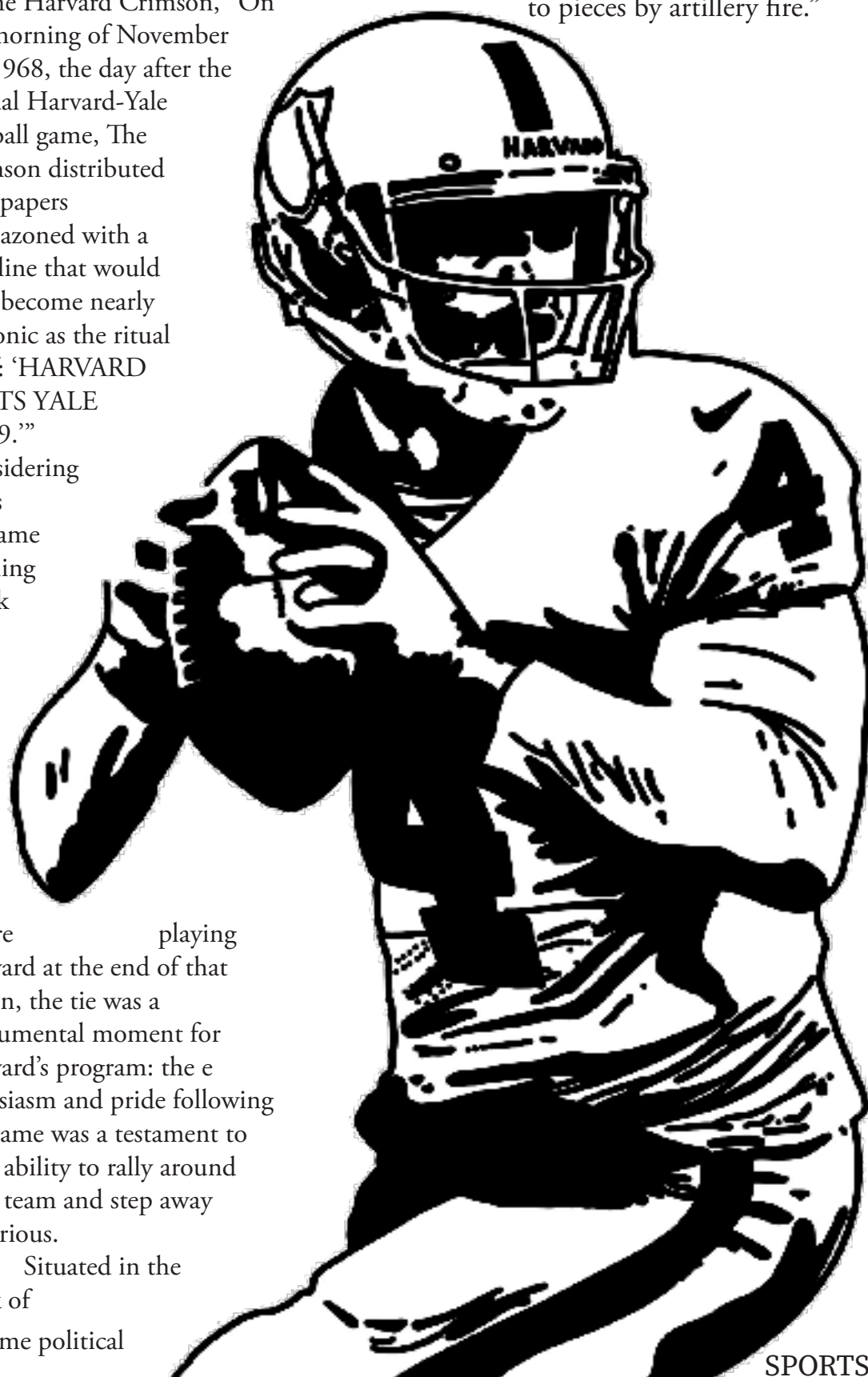
Celebrated for Harvard's remarkable comeback of 16 points in the final 42 seconds of the game, resulting in a tie between both teams, the Game of 1968 is a poignant example of the sportsmanship and history that defines the Harvard-Yale matchup. As reported in *The Harvard Crimson*, "On the morning of November 24, 1968, the day after the annual Harvard-Yale football game, *The Crimson* distributed newspapers emblazoned with a headline that would later become nearly as iconic as the ritual itself: 'HARVARD BEATS YALE 29-29.'"

Considering Yale's 16-game winning streak

before playing Harvard at the end of that season, the tie was a monumental moment for Harvard's program: the enthusiasm and pride following the game was a testament to their ability to rally around their team and step away victorious.

Situated in the thick of extreme political

turbulence as the Vietnam War, Civil, and Women's Rights Movements swept through the United States, 1968 was no small moment in history. NPR stated, "Football doesn't happen in a vacuum," and Harvard was no exception to this: the 1968 football roster held two ROTC students engaged in the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) group on campus. Before his senior year, Patrick Conway '68 left Harvard midway through the year to serve in the Marines. The next year, he rejoined the Crimson's team and played in The Game of 1968. As stated in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, Conway fought for Harvard football, "with reckless abandon, tackling opponents with airborne, helmet-first hits. He figured the risk of injury from such 'spearing' was nothing compared to having nearly been blown to pieces by artillery fire."



The spirit of activism as it pertains to The Game is no small anecdote, and in 2019 over 150 Harvard students disrupted The Game, hosted in the Yale Bowl, to protest the involvement of both Universities in climate injustice. The protest lasted for nearly an hour and signs adorned with slogans such as “Nobody wins. Yale and Harvard are complicit in climate injustice,” adorned the crowd, as reported in an article by NPR. Taken together, these moments shed light on the evolving nature of The Game and how its historical context had colored the event for decades: a confirmation of the withstanding civic engagement present on both campuses.

Despite the intensity that defines many of Harvard’s interactions with Yale academically, athletically, and even politically, the rivalry’s history is also colored by a series of pranks, celebrations, and a generalized free-spirited mindset that is often omitted from students’ day-to-day lives on campus.

Catalyzed by a group of MIT students self-identifying as the “Sudbury four” and keen to leave their mark on the annual Game, the prank that struck Harvard Stadium in ’82 was meticulously planned and, quite literally, out of left field. The concept was simple: bury an inflatable balloon under Harvard Stadium and inflate it mid-game. After months of careful planning and with seven minutes and 45 seconds left in the game’s second quarter, MIT took action, inflating the device right after a Harvard touchdown. Unbeknownst to spectators, coaches, and players alike, a weather balloon reaching eight feet in diameter ejected itself from the field with “MIT” etched on every surface possible. Eventually, the balloon popped. However, its legacy of comedy and absurdity lives on.

The absurdity of the 1982 Game is also channeled in the historic matchup of 1908 where the commonly uttered ‘Beat Yale’ proverb was taken to its limits—in theory. A football urban legend of sorts, Brian Cronin of the Los Angeles Times, stated, “As the story goes, Harvard’s football coach Percy Haughton strangled a Handsome Dan lookalike before The Game in 1908 to get his players riled up. If it’s true, the tac-

tic worked, as Harvard went on to win the game 4-0.” The alleged strangling of Handsome Dan, Yale’s famous bulldog mascot, not only points to the extent of the lore surrounding the rivalry but also the spirited if not provocative way in which the teams continue to attempt to one-up each other.

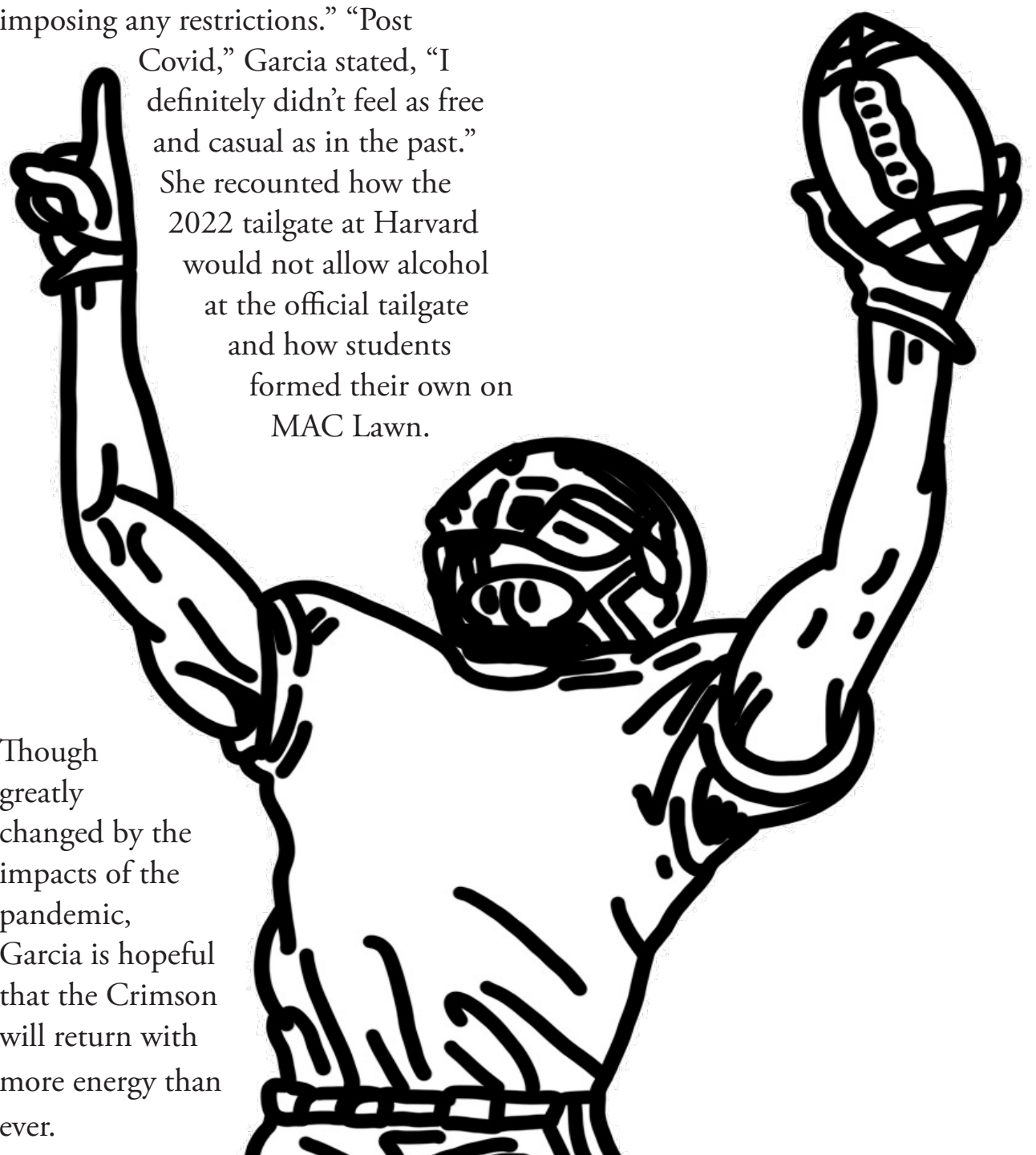
Cronin continues saying “While I found nothing confirming the incident, I did come across a number of later accounts suggesting that Haughton had created a Bulldog doll (presumably out of Papier-mâché), and he had strangled THAT.” Despite the ambiguity surrounding such an urban legend, the story stands as a testament to the zeal and competition that make The Game what it is. Evidently, the scare tactic infused Harvard’s players with a certain sinister karma that was, in fact, effective.

In recent years, Harvard-Yale has been defined by the first cancellation of The Game since 1943 in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions on Harvard’s campus: a decision that was once again made when Harvard was due to host the following year in 2021. Daniela Garcia ’24, who took a gap year during the pandemic, stated that prior to Covid, “Harvard administration was even present at the tailgate and not imposing any restrictions.” “Post Covid,” Garcia stated, “I definitely didn’t feel as free and casual as in the past.” She recounted how the 2022 tailgate at Harvard would not allow alcohol at the official tailgate and how students formed their own on MAC Lawn.

Though greatly changed by the impacts of the pandemic, Garcia is hopeful that the Crimson will return with more energy than ever.

The narrative surrounding Harvard-Yale is shaped not only by touchdowns and victories but by the intangible elements of tradition, community spirit, and the collective pride of two institutions linked by collegiate sportsmanship. The Game represents a rich history of school spirit that both institutions, for better or for worse, often don’t embrace. Marked by unpredictability, passion, and what George Howe Colt calls “a clash of civilizations that seemed no less than that of Athens and Sparta.” The Game is dynamic, enduring, and a chance for Harvard to once again mock Yale students in whatever way possible.

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HAPPY HARVARD-YALE!
GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS ’26



Game On

By Han Nguyen '27

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ACROSS

- 1 Loses one's footing
 6 Harvard Color for short
 10 Fourth-down option
 14 Team trainer
 15 Listening devices
 16 ___ in the Pod (maternity clothing store)
 17 Nellie Melba, for one
 19 Biennial games org.
 20 Social reformer Jacob
 21 "___ the season..."
 22 Thump
 23 Doctrine
 24 Three-star commissioned officer rank
 27 Strange things
 29 Children's author Asquith
 30 Version forerunner
 31 Opponent
 32 Moroccan city

- 33 Chow chow
 34 Predator of the Jurassic period
 38 Feet, slangily
 41 Fair-hiring abbr.
 42 Fiji neighbor
 46 Spring mo.
 47 Qty.
 48 Start the football game
 50 Advocating for
 53 Modern digital asset, in brief
 54 French heads
 55 Every, in an Rx
 56 Micro- ending
 57 Proto-matter of the universe
 58 MGM
 61 Old Italian money
 62 Wings
 63 Final notices
 64 Back talk
 65 Back talk
 66 Be silent, in music

DOWN

- 1 More frightening
 2 15th-century King of France
 3 1994 sci-fi 57 memoir
 4 Poll amts.
 5 Stock unit: Abbr.
 6 Toyota until 2006
 7 Salary increase
 8 Roth___
 9 Yahoo alternative
 10 Eighth-century pope
 11 Sudden spike
 12 Newborn
 13 Took down, in rugby
 18 Idiom ending?
 22 There are 91.44 in a yd.
 24 TV handyman Bob
 25 Greek god of war
 26 Pancake served with sambar
 28 Tic___: mints

- 32 Enemy
 33 "Battlestar Galactica" expletive
 35 Do ___...
 36 Say ___ (refuse)
 37 Search and rescue org.
 38 Three-syllable feet
 39 Lumineers' Song
 40 Kitchen tools
 43 Like some Greek odes
 44 Not held at the office
 45 Farthest back, in the main
 47 Courses for coll. credit
 48 Host opposite Colbert and Fallon
 49 Bed-and-breakfasts
 51 Viral Internet jokes
 52 "Congress shall make ___..." (Bill of Rights)
 56 Castro's country
 58 Groovy
 59 Worldwide workers' gp.
 60 Little one

COVER ART BY ANNELISE FISHER '26

LAYOUT BY PIPER TINGLEAF '24, EL RICHARDS '26, AND ANNELISE FISHER '26

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