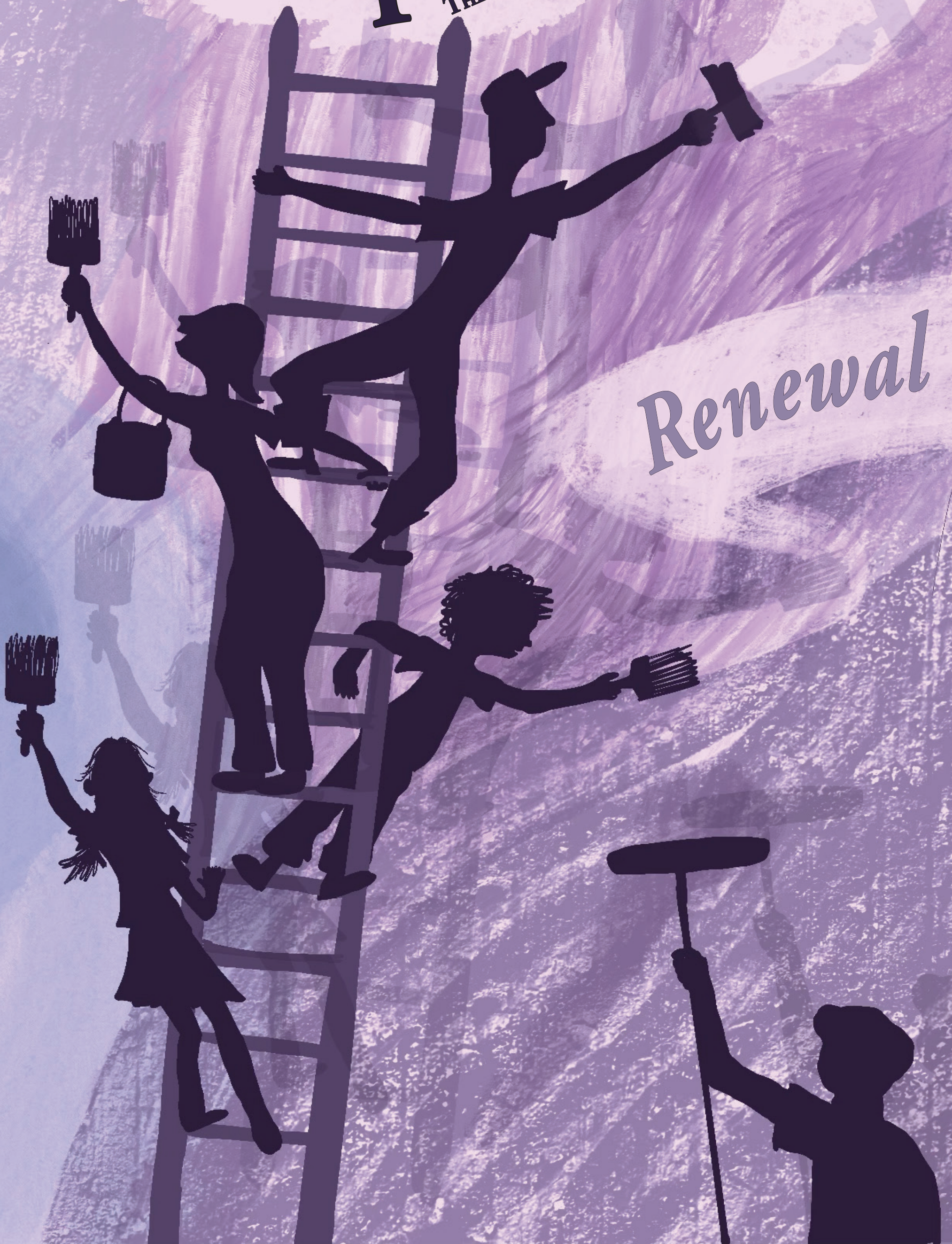


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# HARVARD *independent*

THE STUDENT WEEKLY SINCE 1969



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February 1, 2024

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# 2024 Letter From the Editor

ANDREW SPIELMANN '25 ON LESSONS LEARNED AND LESSONS IN PROGRESS.

The *Harvard Independent* is proud to present our first issue of 2024, “Renewal.”

When I first walked into the Indy offices, I was simply looking for something interesting to keep me busy. I wanted to use my writing skills and find a creative outlet while I focused my academics on Applied Mathematics. I also wanted a community. Two years later, I have found all of these things and more. I am, therefore, very proud to take over as Editor-in-Chief from Marbella Marlo '24, whose guidance and leadership has been inspirational.

This is, however, a tricky time to be running a student-led newspaper at Harvard. Our school has been overrepresented in the headlines for the last couple months, for controversies surrounding our leadership and the culture on campus, particularly in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Peoples' sense of safety and belonging has been called into question. Amidst a bid to support free speech, animosity has instead been freely thrown around, pressuring platforms like ours to let the world know what we think.

These formative months have taught me some important lessons which reinforce the importance of what we do, remind me why I love the Indy, and teach us as both students and an organization to do better.

I've witnessed firsthand the pressing need for unbiased and representative news sources. Having spoken with friends and relatives from different parts of the world over break, I was surprised to hear about the simplified perceptions of Harvard that they had recently gained. Some believed Harvard to be a deeply unsafe

place, rampant with violent attacks, while others entirely dismissed reports of hatred or only certain forms of it. While each student has experienced something different on campus, external media has tried to tell our story for us—this has led perceptions of the reality to be warped, filtered by the passing of information through the public sphere, and further skewed by political sources.

The Indy does not have a political affiliation, nor do we publish institutional stances on public issues. Our news is long-form, investigative, and firsthand reporting. Opinions in our Forum pieces belong to the writer, and we are proud to give all students the space to make their voices heard—in fact, we encourage opposing opinions within the same issue. This allows us to stay true to our commitment to unbiased reporting, where the focus is on revealing overlooked aspects of Harvard, rather than telling our readers what to think.

As part of the conversation about bias, we have learned the need to champion student voices. Since our founding during the Vietnam War, the Indy has allowed those marginalized by mainstream media to be heard, and we will continue to do so. We will support students as they share experiences with our readers, so that they will not be drowned out by the plurality of louder voices out there.

As questions have been raised about academic integrity at Harvard and other colleges, we have learned the importance of honesty and accuracy. The Indy's recent growth in staff allows us to create new positions each semester and increase the number of eyes on each article, as well as in-person interaction between editors and writers. This will maintain the

integrity of our material, but I also hope to be held accountable by our readers.

Nevertheless, we should not always take ourselves too seriously. I joined the Indy specifically for its creativity, and I became Arts Editor last year in order to celebrate artistic expression. Our design, creative arts pieces, and videos are some of the things that give us our distinctive flair. This does not exempt us from journalistic standards, but enhances our ability to find beautiful ways to tell weird and wonderful stories—we are proud of the Indy's artistic brand.

At the Indy, I have learned the importance of good journalism. I have learned what it means to tell a good story. I have learned to edit and to teach others. I have learned to collaborate with a close-knit group to create something valuable each week. I look forward to the many lessons ahead, and I could not be happier to strive for a renewal of the Indy's mission alongside this new team.

In 2024, the *Independent* is in a better position than ever to make important contributions to campus life. We have our largest masthead in recent years with 107 staff, compared to around 30 when I joined. We have an incredibly talented team of editors and an experienced board of executives. I have made many of my closest friends at 12 Arrow Street, including our new President, Eliza Kimball '25, who will lead the organization with passion and poise. The Harvard community is reading our words, and we at the *Harvard Independent* intend to use those words carefully.

Yours,  
Andrew Spielmann '25  
Editor-in-Chief

# A Conversation With Dr. Carol Swain

DR. CAROL SWAIN IS ONE OF THE SCHOLARS WHOM FORMER HARVARD PRESIDENT CLAUDINE GAY IS ACCUSED OF PLAGIARIZING.

BY LAYLA CHAARAOUI '26

Dr. Carol Swain was initially shocked to find out that former Harvard University President Claudine Gay had been accused of plagiarizing her work. “I was willing to give her the benefit of the doubt,” she said in an interview with the *Independent*. Dr. Swain, a political scientist and educator from southwestern Virginia, began researching the allegations to form her own conclusions. “At that time, I was willing to entertain the possibility that it was just an accident... People would say, ‘What’s wrong with you? Aren’t you upset?’ No, I was not upset at that point.”

Her feelings quickly changed. After finding multiple instances in which she felt Gay had not only copied her language, but her research agenda, she became “very disturbed.” “For me, it was a lot more than just the two places where you have verbatim language that she took,” she said. “Her whole research agenda [and] her dissertation draws heavily on my work, and even how she frames the questions, yet there are no citations.”

“Lots of scholars, many of the ones that she cites, actually did studies around my conclusions in *Black Faces*, *Black Interests*. But what I found was, I would find her framing her research questions and things around my ideas, but not citing me,” Swain explained. “It would have been fine to me if she had actually included me in a literature review where she just mentioned my work, what I said, and either challenged it directly, affirmed it, or expanded it. That’s how you do research.”

Dr. Swain’s emotions turned to anger when it became clear that the Harvard Corporation would not fire Gay. On December 12th, the Corporation released a statement that they “unanimously stand in support of President Gay” and that they have “confidence that President Gay is the right leader to help our community heal.” Though Claudine Gay formally resigned not long after, both her resignation statement and that of the Corporation’s were not sufficient enough for Swain.

“Neither statement actually acknowledged the plagiarism. They didn’t apologize,

and they tried to characterize everyone who questioned her academic integrity as being motivated by racism or right-wing extremism,” Swain said. “Nothing could be further from the truth for me because I care about the whole academic enterprise. I care about education K-12, as well as what’s happening in colleges and Universities. That’s what is motivating me to not let it go.”

Swain also expressed disappointment in the scholars who have defended Gay or dismissed the plagiarism allegations. “[They] have said, ‘It’s okay, that she plagiarized,’ ‘Oh, I don’t consider that plagiarism,’ ‘It’s fine with me.’ It’s not fine,” Swain said. “Harvard University at this time is trying to redefine plagiarism because what happened at Harvard will impact all the colleges and Universities and will also impact K-12. The American educational system is already in serious trouble.”

Now, Swain and her legal team want answers. In a document obtained by the *Independent*, Swain and her attorneys asked the Harvard Corporation and the Fellows of Harvard College to “provide clarification,” listing various questions. “What is ‘duplicative language,’ and how do verbatim copying and duplicative language differ?” “Under what circumstances would the retroactive insertion ‘of citations and quotation marks that were omitted from the original publications’ be permissible in an academic setting?” “How many instances of duplicative language in a scholarly work constitute plagiarism? Would five instances of duplicative language constitute plagiarism? Would 50?”

Swain and her attorneys gave the Harvard Corporation until January 8th to respond. “Harvard needs to clarify what its stance is on plagiarism. Are they just going to change it for Claudine Gay or would they change it for students and faculty in the future? Does plagiarism mean anything in 2024 or 2023?” Swain asked. “We need answers to those

questions because Harvard has been such a leading institution in the world,” she explained. “I think Harvard has harmed its faculty... I’m wondering how are they going to look their students in the eye when they encounter a student that takes a shortcut? How will

they hold their students accountable? I don’t

think they’ve thought it through.”

Swain has yet to speak to Gay about what happened. If she had the opportunity to, Swain said she’d first express that she’s sorry. “I take no pleasure in what she’s had to experience,” Swain said. “For myself, I feel like my life was upended December 10th, and so it’s not been very pleasant for me, and it’s really not been very pleasant for her. I wish she had done the right thing from the very beginning, and I believe that would have been to resign. She could have resigned, she could have issued an apology, and she could have done it for the sake of institution.”

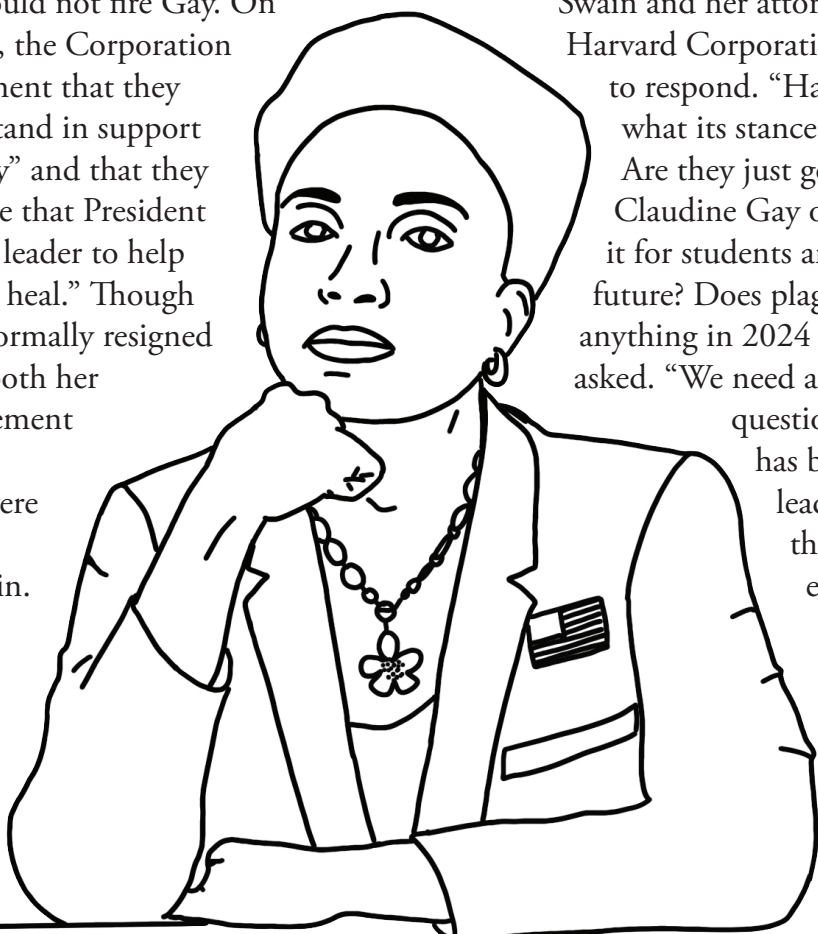
“When she says she’s committed to excellence, and then you look at her academic record and whether you want to call it sloppiness or duplicative language, to have 50 incidents of duplicative language, that doesn’t show a commitment to excellence,” she said. “I felt like that I had been cheated and part of feeling cheated is in academia. Your statute depends on how many times people cite your work. If the profession or if particular scholars that are working in your area are not citing your work, then you’re not getting citations. And those citations matter.”

The situation has heavily impacted Swain, who expressed sadness and emotional difficulty over what has happened. “I wish it wasn’t happening but it is... Throughout my life, I have often been a person standing alone fighting, and that’s how I feel right now,” she explained. “There’s a lot of support from people saying ‘Go, Carol,’ and ‘We’re behind you,’ but it feels like I’m standing alone.”

Despite how the situation has affected her, Swain is motivated by her passion for education to continue in her fight. She comes from a family of 13 children born into poverty. Initially a high-school dropout to take care of her siblings, Swain went back to school, eventually graduating high school, attending community college, and receiving her Bachelor’s from Roanoke. Swain went on to receive her Master’s from Virginia Tech, Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, and became a professor at prestigious universities such as Princeton and Vanderbilt. This background, she believes, is relevant to who she is today and why she refuses to give up defending her work. “I’m doing it not for Carol’s fight, but for American higher education, as well as K-12.”

LAYLA CHAARAOUI '26  
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HARVARD.EDU) IS THE MANAGING  
EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT.

GRAPHIC BY REEVE SYKES '26



# “Dissent, Disagreement, and Democracy”

JFK JR. FORUM KICKS OFF 2024 WITH A DISCUSSION IMPORTANT TO CAMPUS LIFE.

BY JUDE HERWITZ '25

As Harvard grapples with the fallout from responses to the Oct. 7th attacks against Israel, the campus has become a microcosm of global discord. The recent months have been tumultuous, marked by Claudine Gay's resignation as University President, the controversial exposure of pro-Palestinian students' personal details, and relentless advocacy from both pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian factions. Amidst this maelstrom of dissent, Harvard's prestigious position in the national and international spotlight magnifies every nuance of the debate. This backdrop made the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum's discussion at the Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics on dissent and democracy an especially fitting way to kick off its Spring 2024 programming.

Harvard's landscape is a battleground of opinions, underscored by a unique blend of academic fervor and political activism. Yet, amidst this division, a consensus emerges: there is an urgent need to elevate the quality of discourse on campus. Balancing the sanctity of free speech with the principles of effective academic inquiry becomes a challenge too essential to ignore.

The Forum's discussion, on January 25th, featured six intellectual heavy-weights from the Kennedy School's faculty. They shared findings from their research and personal experiences on the importance of fostering productive disagreement in democracies generally, and Harvard specifically. However, the Forum notably fell short of offering convincing solutions to these challenging issues. Instead, the speakers mostly provided guidance on how individuals might engage in more constructive one-on-one dialogues, highlighting the personal responsibility in fostering better communication.

Professor Cornell Brooks, who formerly served as president of the NAACP and is an ordained minister, focused his remarks on the three pillars he abides by when engaging in difficult conversations. First, especially when trauma is involved, genuine dialogue demands mutual respect and good faith. To establish this trust, one must focus on the feelings involved, especially grief and/or trauma, before discussing public policy. His second pillar clarified, though, that experiencing traumatic effects of bad policy must not be considered a prerequisite for talking about the policy—personal experience does not provide a right to silence others.

“If you've been stopped, as I have, 25 to 30 times by the police without getting a ticket for the crime of driving while Black, walking while Black, maybe I have an epis-

temological advantage—maybe—in terms of understanding policing at a certain level,” Brooks said. “But I don't have an epistemological monopoly.”

Third, Brooks argued against engaging in performative speech. He suggested instead to trust one's power of persuasion—to enter hard conversations with the purpose of making an impact on the other person and to engage for long



enough to achieve one.

While beneficial for personal engagement on contentious issues, student perspectives indicate that meaningful change requires substantial institutional action in addition to individual action. At Harvard, where isolation from opposing viewpoints is challenging, one-on-one dialogues across differing perspectives happen but are insufficient to significantly improve campus discourse.

Violet Barron '26, a Social Studies concentrator in Adams House, is a member of Jews for Palestine—an anti-Zionist group on campus formed in the aftermath of the October 7th attacks—and is currently facing disciplinary action before the Ad Board for having occupied University Hall with eight other students in November. One of her close friends is pro-Israel, and the conflict invariably arises in conversation. While she thinks this helps her protect against falling

into an echo chamber, she wishes there were also opportunities for more structured dialogue.

“I know there's no organizational level dialogue between students with very different views, which just has to be a bad thing,” she said. “Everyone, including myself, has their qualms with Harvard, but I think it could be, perhaps, the most nonpartisan way to get such a space off the ground.”

Alex Bernat '25, a Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering concentrator in Lowell House, agrees with Barron on the need for and use of dialogue, though he holds very different views on the Israel-Palestinian conflict. He has been involved in efforts on campus to draw attention to the plight of the hostages still being held by Hamas, the group that has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2006 and which organized the October 7th attacks.

“I consider myself a free speech absolutist, but do worry about time, place, and manner,” he said. Some pro-Palestinian protests have disrupted classes, which he condemned as a threat to academic inquiry. He hopes that the administration does more to facilitate productive dialogue on campus, perhaps by hosting public conversations between faculty members with strongly pro-Israel views and those with strongly pro-Palestine views.

Despite widespread dissatisfaction with the performance of the Harvard community during the tumultuous last few months, doing better is no simple task. “There is a real hunger for being able to marry protection of free expression and mutual respect,” University Professor Danielle Allen said at the Forum. “It's a ‘how’ question, not a ‘whether’ question.”

**JUDE HERWITZ '25 (JHERWITZ@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS FASTER THAN 99% OF PLAYERS ON SUDOKO.COM, AT MEDIUM DIFFICULTY.**



**PHOTOS BY JUDE HERWITZ '25**

# An Ode to the Freshman Rooming God

HARVARD, YOU MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING.

BY RANIA JONES '27

*Can we watch “Glee” on the projector tonight? You guys, you’ll neverrrr guess who I saw today. Rania, can I borrow that sweater again? Who’s playing the “Funny Girl” soundtrack, and can you queue “Don’t Rain on My Parade?” Come home quick, we’re debriefing.*

Olga Khazan, a staff writer at The Atlantic, writes, “if the people around us influence our personalities and health, the people living five feet from our twin dorm bed do so all the more.”

Meeting your first-year roommate has always been a suspense-filled rite of passage for new college students. At most universities around the country, students have the ability to take advantage of social networks and online platforms to select their own roommates. At Harvard, students do not get to choose. To assist in the matching process, incoming freshmen are asked to complete a First-Year Housing Questionnaire.

The form asks students to list everything from their academic and extracurricular interests to their taste in music, and the number of roommates they would prefer. The form also asks students to write an essay describing themselves and what they want in a roommate. Are you a morning person? A definite night owl? Clean or neat? Noisy or loud? The goal of the survey is to help the assignment of roommates and entryways for the year.

\*\*\*

## January 25th, 2024

I’m walking home after a night out, choking back tears. As I approach the steps of Holworthy East, I am greeted by my roommate Victoria, who is sitting eating Joe’s on the front steps at 1:45am. I can’t help but laugh as she explains how she couldn’t find her ID and was just waiting for someone to come home.

\*\*\*

Harvard rooming assignments are finalized just before they are sent out to freshmen in mid-August. Similar to Harvard, other universities like Duke and Dartmouth enforce random roommate policies in hopes of ensuring that students are interacting with peers across all backgrounds.

There is an inherent comfort to being able to pick your own roommates. Often, we gravitate toward people with similar regional or cultural backgrounds and those with similar interests. On the other hand, college student bodies, composed of vary-

ing nationalities, ethnicities, religions, and languages, offer us the unique opportunity to meet people across a multitude of different backgrounds. The random rooming process helps with this ability college provides us to meet new people as we aren’t necessarily matched with someone exactly like us.

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## December 6th, 2023

It’s 3am on a Wednesday, and Riley and I are both completely awake. As I string up fairy lights around our windows and Riley tapes bottle caps and dried flowers above her desk, we sway and hum old Christmas carols together.

\*\*\*

If students gravitate towards others with similar backgrounds and interests, it could exacerbate existing social divisions at Harvard. Wealthier students from “feeder schools” or those belonging to exclusive social circles would form clusters, creating an even more stratified social landscape. This would undeniably alienate students from less privileged backgrounds or with less common interests, hindering the potential for diverse interactions and cross-cultural learning.

Harvard prides itself on the strength of its residential communities. If self-selection becomes the norm, these communities could lose their diverse energy and become less vibrant and dynamic. The sense of shared experience and common ground that often emerges from living with a variety of people could be lost, impacting the overall quality of the residential experience for all students.

Admittedly, for many people, the random rooming situation doesn’t always work out in a built-in best friend sort of way. It’s important to remember, however, that once a student receives their roommates, it’s up to them to cultivate a relationship. As with most things in life, it is what you make of it.

\*\*\*

## October 14th, 2023

In our dimly lit room, I find myself dozing off to the muffled sounds of Love Island coming from Della’s laptop computer. I’ll hold on to the warmth of Saturday after



noons at Harvard, shared in our little double, near to my heart for a while. I’ll hold onto her “I’m the One x Marimba” morning alarm for a while too.

\*\*\*

As I reflect back on my first semester at Harvard, I can’t help but feel an unwavering sense of gratitude. I’ve learned so much about people and myself. From understanding how to effectively communicate to developing patience and tolerance, my roommates and I have become a lifeline for one and other. I have found myself constantly confronted with needing to step outside of my comfort zone to understand and appreciate my roommates’ perspectives and experiences. Together, we have helped each other cultivate empathy.

There is no version of me at Harvard that doesn’t include my three roommates—Della, Riley, and Victoria.

There is not one linear thing to derive about our relationships to one another. We are messy, chaotic, and loud, but nonetheless, the shared love and compassion that we have developed for one another is understated, and that’s what makes it so special. The relationships that I have cultivated, tethered to Holworthy 23’s brick walls, are different, and I’m grateful for that. These relationships that we get to make with each other are one of a kind, because these people were placed into our lives, not by choice, but by chance.

And that’s the magic of it all—the authenticity that can only come from randomness.

**RANIA JONES '27 (RJONES@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY. GRAPHIC BY ANNELISE FISHER '26**

# Just Say You Go To HARVARD

STOP LETTING THE AGE-OLD STIGMA AROUND THE H-BOMB STOP YOU FROM LIVING YOUR TRUTH.

BY MIA TAVARES '27 AND JONAH KARAFIOL '26

In a 2022 interview with *The Harvard Crimson*, Dean Rakesh Khurana was asked to share a piece of advice with graduating seniors. His words of wisdom? “Don’t gratuitously drop the H-Bomb.”

Upon acceptance to Harvard, most pre-college students are given that same advice. Do not tell people you go to Harvard or risk looking like a pretentious schmuck. What no one mentions is that you risk looking even worse if you spend five minutes tiptoeing around the question. You will be forced to lie flat-out or reveal in an embarrassed whisper that yes, indeed, that “liberal arts college outside of Boston” is actually the famous Harvard University. Dancing around the topic will, ten times out of ten, make it seem a bigger deal than it is. The truth always tends to come out one way or another—do not let yourself be singed by a bomb you should have dropped long before.

In a podcast episode for the Higher Ed Marketer, the Chief Marketing and Communications Officer for Harvard Business School, Brian Kenny, said, “people think about [Harvard] as an elitist brand.” It is fair to be worried about being perceived as a fool who has bought into the idea of pursuing useless academia. Perhaps you do not want to be seen as a product of an elitist institution or be grouped with a socioeconomic class that you do not identify with. Right now especially, going to Harvard carries a stigma—everyone wants to know your personal opinion on anti-semitism at Harvard or Claudine Gay’s resignation.

But what Kenny failed to acknowledge is that our own students forge and reinforce this perception. When we dance around the name “Harvard,” we assume that those who did not attend our

institution. By sheltering those around us from the H-Bomb, we decide that dropping it would be that big a deal.

The reality is, they don’t care (at least in the way you might think). Other college students played the same admissions game we did. They too compressed 18 years into a tiny PDF and shipped it off to colleges around the country. They rolled the dice—they got in some places and were rejected by others. Many of them did not even want to go to Harvard—of the nearly four million annual high school graduates, less than 60,000 apply to Harvard. When we use a euphemism like “a school outside of Boston,” we assume that everyone else thinks the H-Bomb is just as important as we do. They don’t.

Once you get over the initial fear, you will start to realize that you can garner positive reactions for being a Harvard student. While we can’t speak on post-grad H-Bomb usage, we do know that, in our humble experiences, other college students love it. It is an opportunity to defy stereotypes when you are not conforming to what people imagine a Harvard student to be like—maybe you are leading a rally at a football game or dancing on a table at a club. When in Boston, people wonder: *Why are you out? Harvard students are always studying.* Outside of Boston, you’re an anomaly. In any single coffee shop, you likely are one of the only Harvard students hanging around.

Going out both in Boston and at home, we have found that strangers often seem overly invested in the intricacies of our Cambridge lives, asking questions from what our parties are like to how many hours of homework we have per week. We have even heard a tale of a “Harvard Hotties” bottle service sign being waved around at a club in West Palm Beach. We have yet to encounter a negative response to our admissions of where we attend school—

you count a that is, unless few unfortunate run-ins with the odd Columbia student (i.e., Harvard reject). Yet, to hide from the spotlight, many of our peers simply say they go to school in

But here’s the thing. You got in. You deserve to be here. Why let other people’s perception of what you should be stop you from being who you really are—and unabashedly at that? Although some people might not believe that you really go to Harvard (we have definitely been asked to pull out our HUIDs a few dozen times), you should not be ashamed to defy stereotypes of elitism and haughty intellectual superiority. Despite the constant swirl of controversies surrounding our administration or polarizing actions of students, attending Harvard is seen as a privilege. When you tell people you attend this school, it changes how they perceive you, but more importantly, you can change how they perceive *Harvard*.

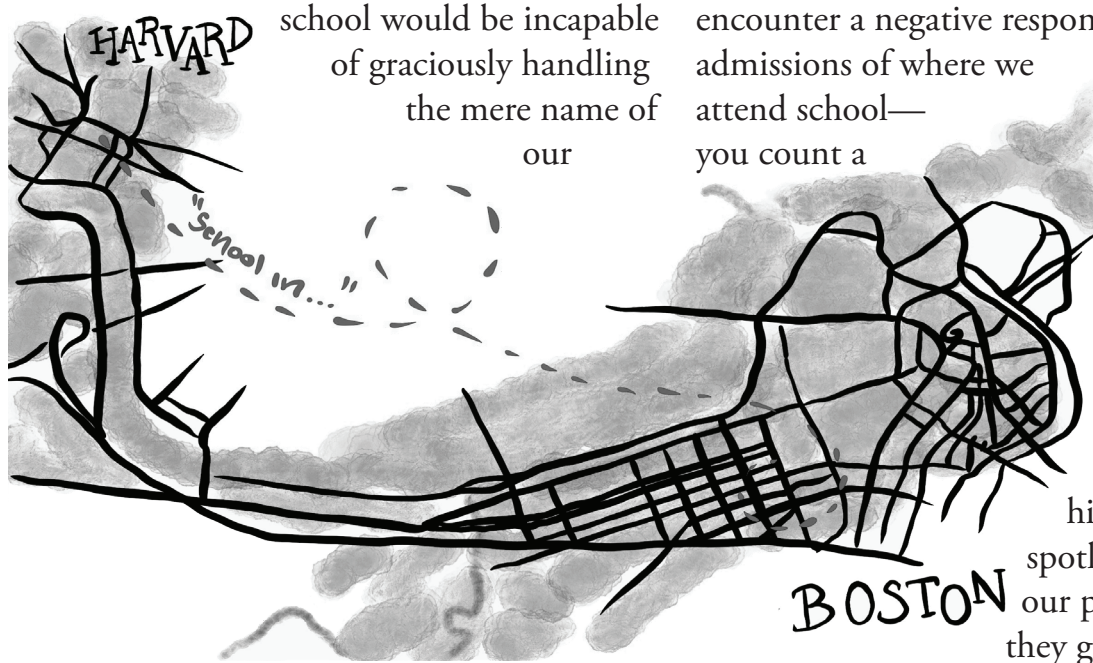
When we conceal where we go to school, we only reinforce the stigma surrounding Harvard that Kenny highlighted. What’s more, we don’t allow others to learn what Harvard is really like. We allow their misconceptions of Harvard and its students—a snobbish institution chock-full of insolent, antisocial students—to persist. Instead, we make them dig the H-Bomb out of us, and once they do, they rarely want to keep talking.

Our advice? Just say you go to Harvard. Not just for the congratulations or for the free drinks (although that is a nice bonus), but to fight the stereotype of the pretentious jerk who thinks that he is cool just because he goes to Harvard. Be proud of your accomplishment *and* treat yourself like a normal member of society. Because, at the end of the day, that’s just what you are.

**MIA TAVARES '27 (MIATAVARES@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HAS, WHILE OUT DANCING, SIGNED INTO HER MY.HARVARD PORTAL JUST TO PROVE TO SOMEONE THAT SHE REALLY DOES ATTEND HARVARD.**

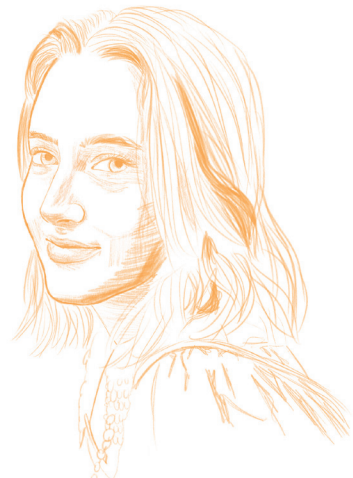
**JONAH KARAFIOL '26 (JONAHKARAFIOL@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) PURCHASED A SLEEVELESS HARVARD SHIRT TO WEAR TO THE GYM IMMEDIATELY AFTER GETTING IN.**

**GRAPHIC BY CANDACE GARDNER '25**



Boston.

# Meet The Masthead



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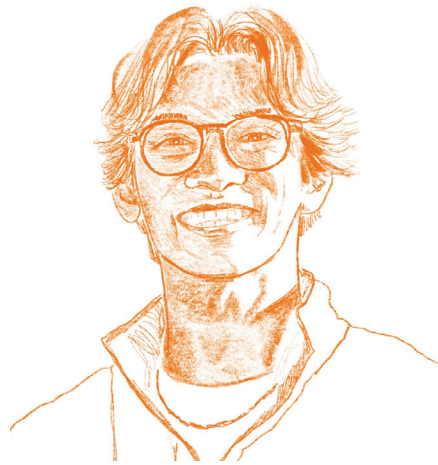
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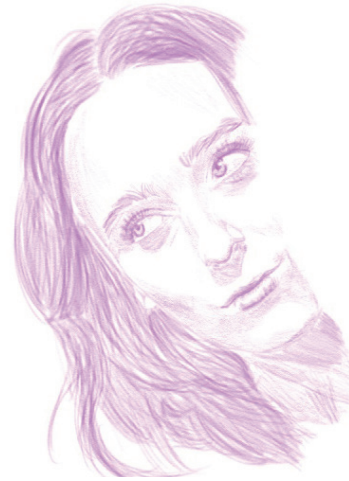
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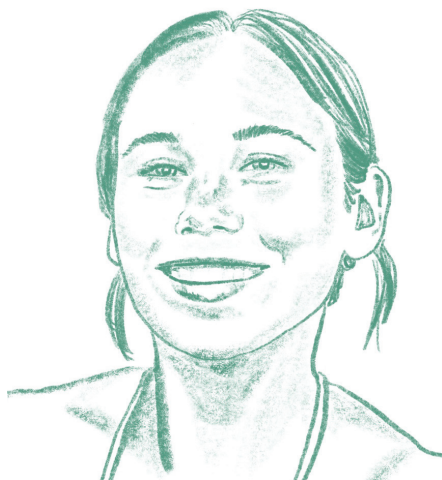
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# Deconstructing Dé-coll/age

A LOOK INTO THE HARVARD ART MUSEUM'S NEWEST EXHIBITION:

"WOLF VOSTELL: DÉ-COLL/AGE IS YOUR LIFE."

BY SACHI LAUMAS '26

A loaf of bread, strobe lights, and a hunk of concrete—not every museum exhibit can claim to contain all these objects in one room. But the Harvard Art Museums' new show, "Wolf Vostell: Dé-coll/age Is Your Life," can, and does.

The exhibition chronologically leads viewers through the development of the work of German artist Wolf Vostell (1932–1998) throughout his lifetime. The exhibition was born from the Harvard Art Museums' recent large acquisition of 72 works by Vostell, including "prints, multiples, audiovisual works, sculptures, and performance ephemera." The primary focus of the exhibition is Vostell's aesthetic philosophy of dé-coll/age, which the exhibition defines as "the use of destruction in art to generate consciousness of destruction in life." The French word "décollage" literally means "to unstick." In 1963, Vostell "appropriated the term," stylizing it as "dé-coll/age," to represent his personal aesthetic philosophy.

The Harvard Art Museums' exhibition seeks to understand Vostell's dé-coll/age in the current moment through an archeological project, one that catalogs his work and serves as a reminder of past global histories of genocide as well as the world's complacency when faced

War, so his firsthand experience with mass destruction changed the course of his life. Curator Kyle Stephan described Vostell's early experience with such violence as the "impetus for much of his artistic production."

Vostell is perhaps most well-known for his use of "assisted readymades," the alteration of everyday objects into works of art. Vostell began by combining pieces of peeling street posters leftover on Germany's street walls, tearing at the layers until he unearthed National Socialist propaganda from World War II. These works specifically comment on the insidious nature of genocide and the Holocaust.

Vostell sought to apply his "subtractive process," as Stephan described it, of dé-coll/age to non-traditional mediums other than street posters throughout the 20th century. His work, situated in the larger Fluxus movement of the mid 20th-century, sought to "communicate a social reality beyond the studio," said Stephan. The movement consisted of a community of artists, writers, and performers and was known for multimedia work that pushed the boundaries of what society considered to be art, like its interactive art pieces called "happenings."

Vostell used these Fluxus mediums of interactive performance art to convey social messages. In particular, he sought to raise awareness of contemporary occurrences of mass violence throughout his life, such as the Vietnam War. As Stephan said, Vostell's experimentation with new mediums culminated in the "televsual environment becoming dominant" in his work. Vostell was the first artist to integrate a television into a work of art (*Transmigration*, 1958).

Eventually, Vostell moved to using concrete, representing a shift during his career towards more permanent and hard mediums. Think Marcel Duchamp's famous *Fountain*, but if the urinal was buried in concrete. And replace the urinal with a radio. The Harvard Art Museums' show reflects this important phase of his career with its display of *Endogene Depression V*, a radio encased in concrete,



as the final work of the exhibition.

As Stephan drew the exhibition tour to a close, she emphasized that during the 20th century, Vostell continued to chase after the newest way to apply dé-coll/age to the contemporary world. "He was always thinking, 'What is the leading medium of our time and how can I apply dé-coll/age to that?'" He was constantly pioneering methods to incorporate deconstruction and commentary on violence into visual and audiovisual media. The exhibition uniquely engages with the wide variety of mediums that Vostell interacted with during his career, spanning from street posters to television to concrete, in a way that highlights the relevance of his work in our present moment.

"Wolf Vostell: Dé-coll/age Is Your Life" is on view in the University Research Gallery of the Harvard Art Museums from January 20th, 2024 through May 5th, 2024.

**SACHI LAUMAS '26 (SLAUMAS@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) CAN USUALLY BE FOUND IN THE HARVARD ART MUSEUMS' CAFÉ.**

**PHOTOS BY SACHI LAUMAS '26**



with mass violence. Vostell and his family were exiled from their home in Germany during the Second World

# Winter Blues in Cambridge Hues

LIFE AN ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR WINTER IN CAMBRIDGE.

BY ELLIE TUNNELL '27

It's February 2023. The wind creeps under your door, and ice clings to the inside of your window. While there are very few strategies to break the monotony of the spring semester and survive a frostbitten Cambridge, put down the problem sets, delay the interviews, and embrace these activities to beat hibernation and keep your spirits up.

## Polar Plunge in Walden Pond

In case the slush beneath your boots and 22 degree wind chill doesn't satisfy your craving for cold, take a trip to Walden Pond. Take a page out of Henry Thoreau's book, *Walden; or, Life in the Woods*, and record every minute detail of your surroundings. Before you leave, don't forget to plunge into the freezing water. The next thing you know your lymph nodes will be drained, brain healed, metabolism stimulated, and immune system protected—the perfect jump-start to your week.

## SoWa Vintage Market

If your coat doesn't have enough fur, your common room is looking a little worse for wear, or you need to bundle up in a new wool scarf—don't fear, the SoWa Vintage Market is here! The market is an underground haven for all lovers of Y2K leather bomber jackets, antique typewriter machines, renaissance style wooden frames, and crochet balaclavas. You may not be *saving* money by purchasing trinkets you probably don't need, but you sure will get a great deal for it. Take a self-care Sunday and hop on the T to the SoWa Vintage Market.

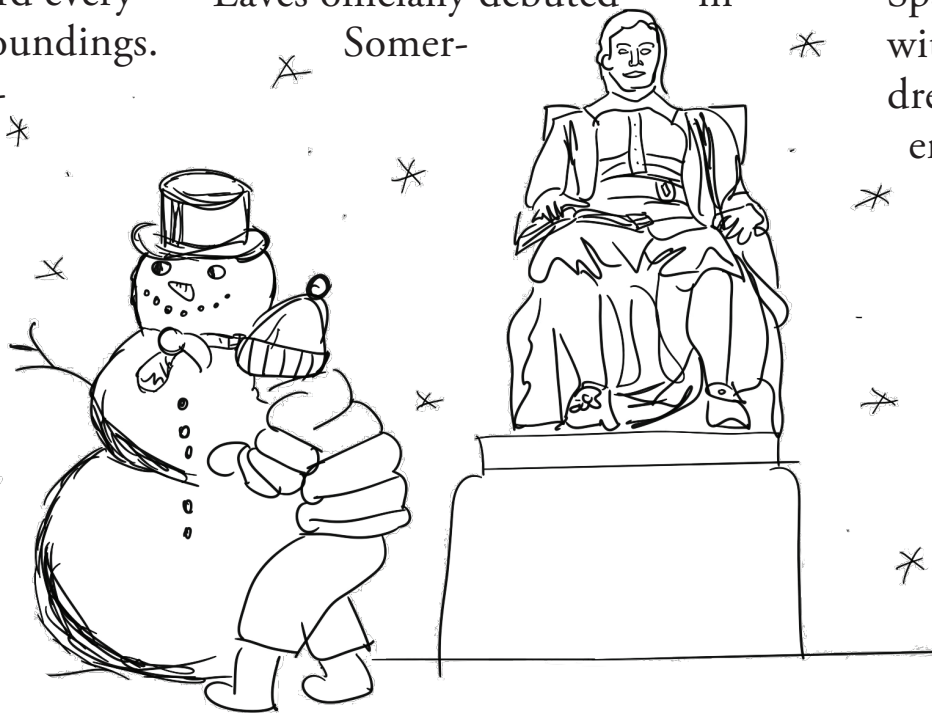
## Ice Skating at Frog Pond

You probably haven't ice skated since you were a little kid clutching

onto a stabilizing device, but 2024 is your year for new beginnings. The Boston Common Frog Pond is the best place to practice your hockey stop and ring in the new year with friends. Even better, join the Boston College mass every Tuesday night from 6-9 pm at Frog Pond for half-priced tickets for college students.

## Kick into the Cambridge Cuisine

Bored of HUDS? Aren't we all! Save up for the week to treat yourself to one of Cambridge's hottest new restaurants. It's time to expand your horizons past Harvard Square's classics of Noch's and Felipe's. The Eaves officially debuted in



Somerville's Bow Market in September. Award winning Chefs Vincenzo Le and

Duong Huynh (of another hidden gem Cicada Coffee Bar) are taking their flavors to a new level with this local Vietnamese joint. Dive into their most soul warming and acclaimed dishes from cozy vermicelli noodles with fish broth to congee with micro shrimp.

## Sledding at Danehy Park

Danehy Park is the tallest point in Cambridge. While it doesn't compare to Mount Everest's 29,000 ft of elevation, it's spacious enough for recreational skiing or snowboarding. For an extra layer

of excitement, immerse yourself in American history during your snowy escapade. Legend has it that this is the very site where George Washington unfurled the inaugural American flag. Grab a sled, a cardboard box, a plate, or your bare butt to go sled on this historical hill this winter.

## Loretta's Last Call Line Dancing

What's better than a hoedown in Boston? From the woolshed waltz, to the stray cat strut, or the boot scootin boogie, you can do it all at Loretta's Last Call Line Dancing this winter. Grab a "Southern Love Potion" or a "Cupids Campari Sparkle" and dance the night away with the Southern belle of your dreams. Loretta's is perfect for a Valentine's Day date, or even better, a solo excursion to meet your next Southern Hubby.

## Full Moon Walk at the Arnold Arboretum

New year, new moon. Don't worry, the Arnold Arboretum is full of wildlife, but there will be no werewolves howling on your mindful full moon stroll this winter. The only thing you have to worry about is being alone with your conscience. For afternoon action, join the Arboretum's Coyote Walks. With mating season starting, February is the prime time to see signs of the Arboretum's resident coyote population. Check out signs of coyote tracks, scat, and find out about why coyotes are in Boston in the first place.

ELLIE TUNNELL '27

(ELLIE\_TUNNELL@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) CRACKED HER HEAD OPEN ICE SKATING.

GRAPHIC BY GABI PONIZ '26

# Sports Spotlight: Jim Murphy

MID THE END OF A HARVARD FOOTBALL DYNASTY  
BY KATE OLIVER '26

After 30 years with Harvard football, Coach Tim Murphy will finally be stepping down as head coach. Murphy led the team to 10 Ivy League championships with only one losing season in this century, and from 1987-1996 the Crimson did not record one winning season. While it is easy to measure Murphy's success through game statistics, it is difficult to quantify the lasting impact he will have on this program and the players, both past and present.

Murphy's love of the game started in true American fashion playing sand-lot football: "No adults, no fancy field, but a lot of fun," he said in an interview with the *Independent*. This love grew through the years, along with Murphy's skill. As a junior in high school he was confronted by his high school football Coach (John Montosi) and his basketball coach (Dick Arieta) in the hallway. "I think today they would call it an intervention." When asked what he was doing after high school, Murphy told them "I don't know, I will probably join the Marines" but his coaches had a different plan. "Shut the hell up son, you're going to college," they said. With their help, Murphy became the first member of his family to go to college and was able to secure a partial scholarship at Division II Springfield College.

At Springfield, Murphy excelled both on and off the field. Murphy commented that Howard Vandersea's appointment as head coach at Springfield was, "a godsend," because he was a pivotal mentor for Murphy. "He helped me get a full scholarship and he encouraged me ... to stay and get a master's degree." Murphy stayed to use his fifth year of eligibility; his final season was the first year the NCAA allowed athletes to play college football while in graduate school, allowing him to compete for Springfield once more. After finishing his degree, Vandersea also aided Murphy in securing a coaching position at Brown University, where Vandersea had formerly coached.

Brown was only the start for Murphy. He served as part of the football staff at Lafayette and Boston University before becoming offensive coordinator at the University of Maine—all by the time he was

28. His love of education continued to prevail, as he took free classes at every school he coached. Murphy was ultimately preparing to hand in his resignation at Maine to attend the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern when he was offered the opportunity to become head coach of the at the The University of Maine. "I was very conflicted on what to do, because I had worked so hard to get into a top MBA program. I said, alright, I'll do this for a year, get it out of my system, and then go to grad school, and that was 37 years ago." Two years later Murphy was hired as the head coach at the University of Cincinnati's football program. Murphy recalls, Murphy became the youngest coach at a major school in Division I football at age 30. Cincinnati's program had not had a winning season in a decade. They had a reduced roster of scholarship 53 players due to NCAA violations and attrition; teams were allowed to carry up to 85 scholarship athletes on their active roster. After struggling mightily, the program rebounded and was ranked in the top 25 by the time he left the job to take over at Harvard.

Harvard football presented another opportunity for Murphy to fundamentally change a program. Within his first month, Murphy found himself on a plane to upstate New York in an attempt to convince high school senior Isaiah Kacyvenski '99 to decommit from Syracuse and come to Harvard. Kacyvenski had a tumultuous childhood; he grew up in poverty and was living by himself following the death of his mother when Murphy walked through his front door and asked him to come on a visit. In the end, Kacyvenski chose to compete for the Crimson and went on to become a three-time first-team all-Ivy, an all-American, NFL draft pick, and captain of the Seattle Seahawks. His son, Isaiah Kacyvenski Jr. '27, is currently on the Harvard football team and a part of the only father-son duo Murphy has coached in his entire career.

Kacyvenski Jr., like his father, did not always feel like Harvard was the obvious choice; however, he witnessed the lasting impact this program and Murphy had on every player from a young age. "The Harvard Football family is a very special group. Growing up knowing the power it had, I would see my dad always conversing with his old teammates and roommates daily.



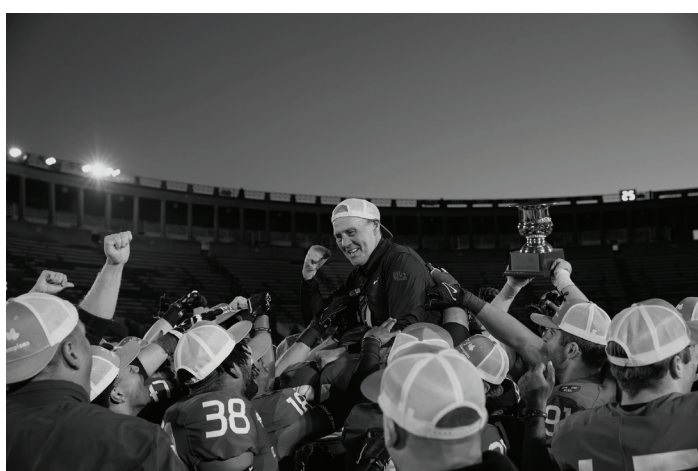
It was validation to prove that the brotherhood really lasts forever," Kacyvenski said. This brotherhood was built through Murphy hand-picking players he believed would help build and strengthen the team.

The universal commitment across Harvard's football program is a result of Murphy's coaching methodology and the type of player he recruits. In building a culture that fosters success both on and off the field, he enlists a specific type of character. As Murphy put it, "You've got to find high character kids who are tough and resilient, driven in a positive way. That's the only way they're going to transcend whatever limitations they have athletically and physically." The character of the players makes the character of the team, a sentiment that Kacyvenski Jr. learned from his father's experience and now his own with Harvard football. "The same aspects still ring true; every player has to have 100% commitment to the program, staff, and teammates," he said.

In his departure, Murphy's legacy of success will leave huge shoes for any successor to fill. Murphy explained that he hopes all his players will remember his passion for the team. "More than anything, I hope they know that I really cared [and] I did everything in my power to help them reach their full potential on and off the field." For players like Isaiah Kacyvenski, and now his son, Murphy's guidance was pivotal in their lives. Aside from being extremely grateful for everything Murphy has done for his family and Harvard football, Kacyvenski Jr. believes that "Harvard values leadership and [Murphy] embodies that in every way."

**KATE OLIVER '26 (KOLIVER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WAS A NOVICE FLAG FOOTBALL PLAYER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.**

**PHOTOS COURTESY OF HARVARD ATHLETICS**



# Is Harvard Hockey Skating on Thin Ice?

A MID-SEASON PROFILE ON THE 2024 MEN'S HARVARD HOCKEY TEAM.  
BY LAUREN BARAKETT '27 AND JORDAN WASSERBERGER '27

Four months ago, in our Harvard hockey season preview, the *Harvard Independent* predicted that the lack of goal-scorers on the 2024 Men's team would prove difficult in their upcoming season. Turns out we were right. A little over halfway into the season, Harvard is ranked 54th in the NCAA and 3rd out of the 6 Ivy League hockey teams with 2.4 goals scored per game on average.

With a 4-12-3 record (four wins, twelve losses, and three ties), the Men's Varsity Hockey team is enduring one of the worst seasons in Harvard hockey history. How has a team ranked 10th in the NCAA's preseason poll somehow dropped off the NCAA's top 20 entirely?

Unfortunately, this year's roster has been in the middle of a perfect storm. Despite promising preseason polls, early performance showed that rankings are not always accurate, and no one fully understood the work the team still had to do in order to regain their spot as a powerhouse in the NCAA and ECAC. Building a team around a group of young kids who have never played together would be a challenge even for a healthy team. But on top of losing six star players to the NHL during the off-season, Harvard's 2023-2024 season started with the team's veteran leaders marred by injury. However, this gave the freshmen an opportunity to step up and lead the team—on and off the ice.

Forward Salvatore Guzzo '27 spoke on his mindset about the season, explaining how he believes the freshmen have risen to the challenge. "Coming in as a freshman, you don't know what to expect. You know it's going to be hard...and you come in each day trying to be the best teammate you can be," said Guzzo.

Over the last few months, injuries

have become so prevalent that in "several games this year, we've dressed less than what is a full lineup," according to Harvard Men's Hockey Head Coach Ted Donato '91. If you're an avid watcher of the games, you've probably noticed players filling roles they



aren't used to. Players who would otherwise be kept to 5v5 hockey have gotten a look at power play time, and everyone has been asked to take up new space on the ice. The fact remains: this team is running in damage control mode. They're desperately trying to plug holes, but despite a considerable effort from the first-years, the team has even had to look to the Harvard Men's Club team for practice players.

Looking to the future, the team seems full of hope and optimism. "I feel great," said captain Zakary Karpa '25. "This is the best time of the year; these are the games you have circled on your calendar." With the Beanpot tournament coming up next week, everyone is eager to see how the team will fare. "The Beanpot is probably the best college hockey game of the year, so we gotta get excited for that and play well," said defenseman Ryan Healey '26.

This year's Beanpot will be one of the toughest Harvard has ever played, facing the similarly injured Northeastern Huskies in the first round. If all goes well, the Crimson will be skating out of the frying pan and into the fire, facing

either the #1 or #3 team in the NCAA (BC and BU, respectively) for the championship. For Coach Donato, this is what you play for: "The Beanpot, in some ways, is a little bit of a season in itself. It's such an exciting opportunity, so my feelings are that, regardless of any team's record coming into the Beanpot, anything can happen."

None of this matters if fans don't show up. So far, Harvard has had an abysmal student presence at home games. During Quinnipiac's visit to the Bright-Landry Center on November 4th, the away team's fans outnumbered the Harvard student section by what felt like 5:1. When Cornell visited last Friday, their fans easily overpowered the weak Crimson pride, chirping goaltender Derek Mullahy '24.

"Our players love to represent this school and their fellow students," said Coach Donato. "It definitely gives us a certain amount of adrenaline and momentum and all the things that you hope for playing at home." The players echoed their coach's sentiments. Defenseman Joe Miller '26 wants to see more from fans and recognizes the impact of spectator presence on the team. He comments on how it's not that the "lack of fan attendance hurts us, but I think when there are more fans in the building, it's a lot easier for us... The fans and the energy can sway the momentum in our favor...so I'd love to see more Harvard students pack the building."

With nine (or ten if they advance in the Beanpot) games left, the Harvard Men's Hockey team have a chance to prove that this season is merely a temporary mudge on an otherwise shining jewel of the collegiate hockey world. With a world-class, experienced coach, a promising commit pool, and a roster hungry to see themselves triumphant, there is reason to be excited and hopeful about the future. Rebuild seasons are a part of any good team, and it's always better to get it right than to rush the process.

**LAUREN BARAKETT '27**

**(LAURENBARAKETT@**

**COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) AND**

**JORDAN WASSERBERGER '27**

**(JWASSERBERGER@COLLEGE.**

**HARVARD.EDU) ATTEND ALL OF THE**

**HARVARD HOCKEY GAMES (LAUREN**

**HAS ONLY BEEN TO ONE).**

**PHOTOS BY JORDAN**

**WASSERBERGER '27**



# Indy Sportsbook: Betting on The Beanpot

BETTING BIG ON HARVARD'S QUEST IN THE MEN'S BEANPOT.

BY LUKE WAGNER '26

In the realm of college hockey, the Men's Beanpot isn't just a tournament—it's a high-stakes battleground where Northeastern University, Boston University (BU), Boston College (BC), and Harvard University vie for glory, and savvy bettors look for the edge that could turn the odds in their favor. This year, as the Beanpot fever takes over, Harvard students aren't just rooting for their team. They're placing their bets, crunching numbers, and analyzing stats in pursuit of that elusive jackpot.

Picture this: you hop off the red line, take a step outside, and the freezing winds slap you in the face. You arrive at the icy rinks of TD Garden, transformed into a betting arena, and Harvard's Crimson faithful are ready to roll the dice. The Men's Beanpot isn't just a clash of sticks and pucks, it's a strategic gamble, a calculated risk that could lead to euphoria or heartbreak.

In this column, we'll dissect the odds, analyze Harvard's performance, and navigate the turbulent waters of college hockey predictions. From power plays to penalty kills, we'll break down the crucial factors that could make or break a bet on the Crimson's journey through the Beanpot.

February 5th kicks off the first round of games. Harvard clashes with Northeastern, while BC battles BU. Though Harvard has not started off the season as they would have liked, Crimson Hockey always goes to war. Harvard probably has the lowest odds to win the Beanpot, but that has never stopped anyone from betting. We are confident in this team and trust that the bouncing Garden will allow Harvard to elevate their game (as long as more than 25 fans show up).

BU and BC are the top two teams in the nation and likely will be going on to win a national championship. Even during one of their down seasons, riddled by injury, with younger guys having to step up, Harvard needs to look at winning one of these games and not go 0-2 at the Garden. Northeastern is by far the easiest challenge, so we hope the Crimson are going to be up to the task.

In terms of some prop bets, there are plenty to choose from. We think the first opportunity

might lie in the faceoff by Captain Zakary Karpa '25. He has

been looking sharp recently, and is ready to capitalize with a first faceoff win (+200) as the crowds are cheering on the Crimson. While we understand such a steep bet is a little riskier, sometimes you have to take an early chance to win money.

We know that in college hockey, fighting is usually not allowed and results in a one-match ban (similar to a second yellow card in a match in Premier League soccer). However, with tensions high, and a lot of younger guys on the ice, we feel a brawl is likely to break out. The *Indy Sportsbook* loves a good fight (+1000) in this matchup and will be going wild if the gloves come off at any point.

Harvard tends to start slow, especially in big games. As much as it pains me to say, we think that Northeastern has a slight edge in the first period, and we would stray away from any bets on Harvard's team success then. The *Indy Sportsbook* loves Harvard to win (+400). Forward Joe Miller '26 and Defenseman Ryan Healey '26 have led the Crimson this season with 16 points in 17 games thus far. We think either of these guys could net some points on Monday, and I'd love to sprinkle a little money on their lines.

On the other side of the bracket, we see a clash of top talent when BU and BC get on the ice. BU's Macklin Celebrini and Cole Eiserman, NHL's

predicted #1 and #2 picks in the draft, face off with one of the best lines in the country: BC's Perrault, Smith, and Leonard. While the NCAA believes that BU is the better team, we disagree. While we think they have stronger players at the top, BC is the deeper team and more well-rounded. We think BC (-125) will advance in this game and play Harvard in the finals.

If Harvard does make it to the finals, this game will be the biggest challenge of the

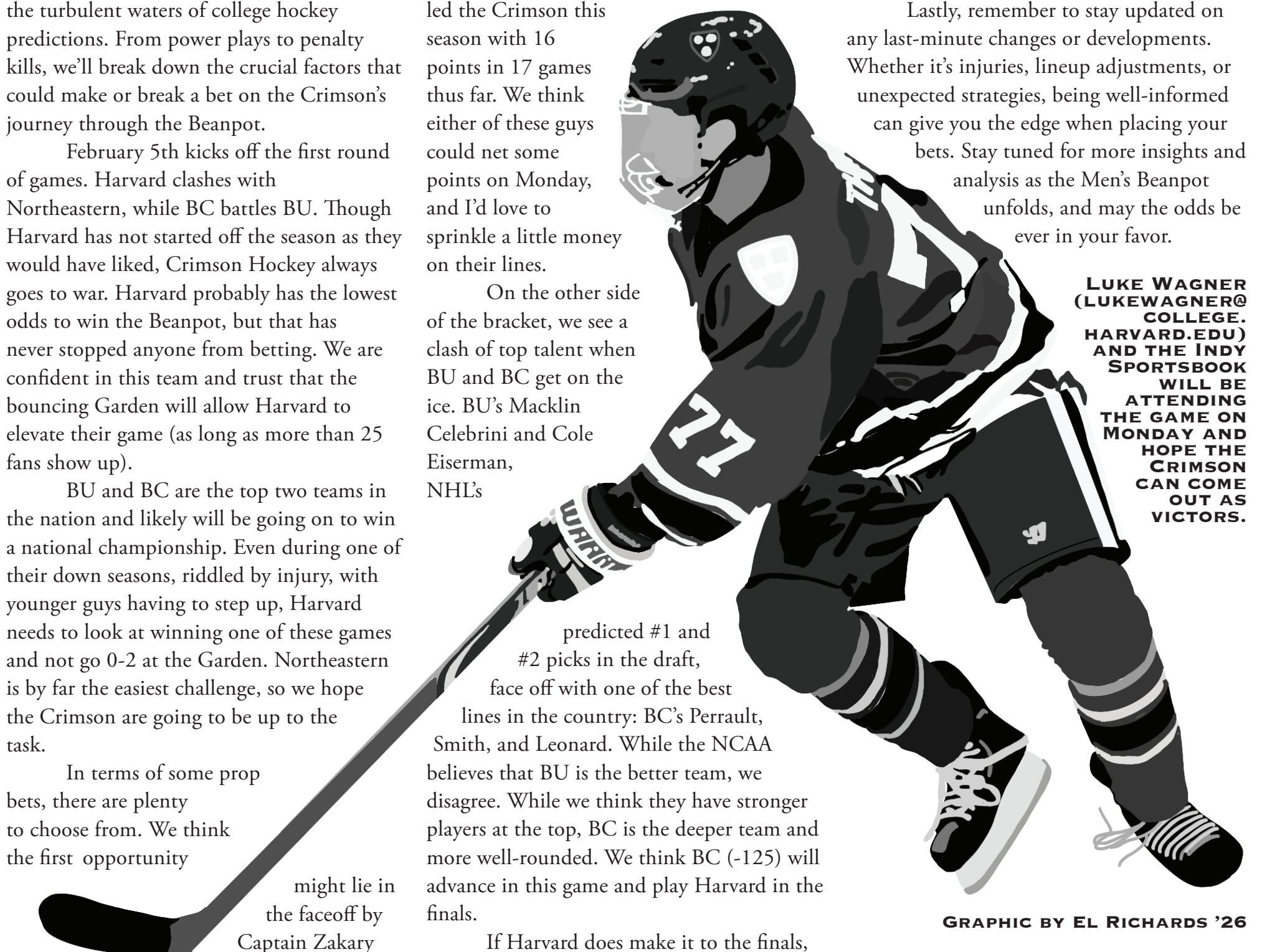
season. We think BC has the firepower to win the NCAA championship this season, and Harvard will have to play some of their best hockey to come out as winners of the Beanpot. Earlier in the season, BC toppled the Crimson 4-1, but the boys from Cambridge will be looking for revenge. Crazier things have been done.

As the tournament progresses, keep an eye on the dynamic between the teams. Momentum can shift in an instant, and understanding the ebb and flow of each game is crucial for informed betting. Additionally, consider the impact of individual players. One standout performance can tilt the scales dramatically.

Don't underestimate the psychological aspect of the game. The pressure of a high-stakes tournament like the Beanpot can affect players differently, influencing their performance, and consequently, the outcome of bets. Keep a close watch on how teams handle the stress and intensity of the competition.

Lastly, remember to stay updated on any last-minute changes or developments. Whether it's injuries, lineup adjustments, or unexpected strategies, being well-informed can give you the edge when placing your bets. Stay tuned for more insights and analysis as the Men's Beanpot unfolds, and may the odds be ever in your favor.

**LUKE WAGNER  
(LUKEWAGNER@  
COLLEGE.  
HARVARD.EDU)  
AND THE INDY  
SPORTSBOOK  
WILL BE  
ATTENDING  
THE GAME ON  
MONDAY AND  
HOPE THE  
CRIMSON  
CAN COME  
OUT AS  
VICTORS.**



GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26

# On Theme

BY REBECCA ACKERMAN '25

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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## ACROSS

- 1 Some prosecutors, for short
- 5 Estate
- 11 Simple rhyme scheme
- 14 Subj. counterpart
- 15 Prefix with dynamic
- 16 Actress Danes
- 17 Dinner table faux pas
- 18 Dutch town
- 19 One used to working under pressure?
- 20 Frat dudes
- 21 Hasty Pudding Man of The Year
- 24 So-so grade
- 25 Chow down
- 26 TV director Iannucci
- 30 "Yikes!" or "Phooey!"
- 34 Pedicure target
- 35 Like a short film
- 36 Sheep cries
- 37 Simon Legree
- 40 Shopaholic's delight

## 41 "\_\_\_ Poetica"

- 42 Refines
- 43 "Chandelier" singer
- 44 Guardian of Crete, in myth
- 47 Equal
- 48 Cruise stopovers
- 50 Broadway composer Jule
- 51 Golfer Aoki
- 52 Explosive '50s trial
- 53 Where Murder happened, per say
- 56 Straddled
- 59 One of the Canary Islands
- 63 Tons
- 64 Whistle blower
- 67 Close tightly
- 68 Theater section
- 69 Hands
- 70 RSVP enclosure
- 71 Chuck
- 72 Scottish miss
- 73 Latin 101 verb

## DOWN

- 1 Small batteries
- 2 Tigers, on scoreboards
- 3 Part of UAE
- 4 Some recyclables
- 5 Certifies
- 6 Emulate Buffy
- 7 Lost buoyancy
- 8 German article
- 9 Palm smartphone
- 10 They're good at drilling
- 11 Swedish pop group digital realm
- 12 With 56 down, starring 21 across
- 13 Experiencing little to no romantic attraction, for short
- 14 Courses for coll. credit
- 22 Sofer of soaps
- 23 Fabled loser
- 26 Times up
- 27 Greet with loud laughter

## 28 Paltry

- 29 Michael Phelps' turf, say
- 30 Use to play Fifa
- 31 Rubeola spot
- 33 Yankees' div.
- 35 Traffic artery
- 38 Actress Witherspoon
- 39 Shake like \_\_\_
- 45 Like many teens at the movies
- 46 Pants part
- 48 Denny's alternative
- 49 Berlin boulevard
- 54 Chris of "The Good Wife"
- 55 Rowing needs
- 56 Margarita option
- 57 Potatoes, in Indian cuisine
- 58 Dress
- 60 Meadows
- 61 Church service
- 62 Away from the wing
- 65 Egg cells
- 66 Your, to Yves

COVER ART BY ANNELISE FISHER '26  
LAYOUT BY EL RICHARDS '26 AND ANNELISE  
FISHER '26

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