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HARVARD

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Curtain Call

MASTHEAD

May 2, 2024

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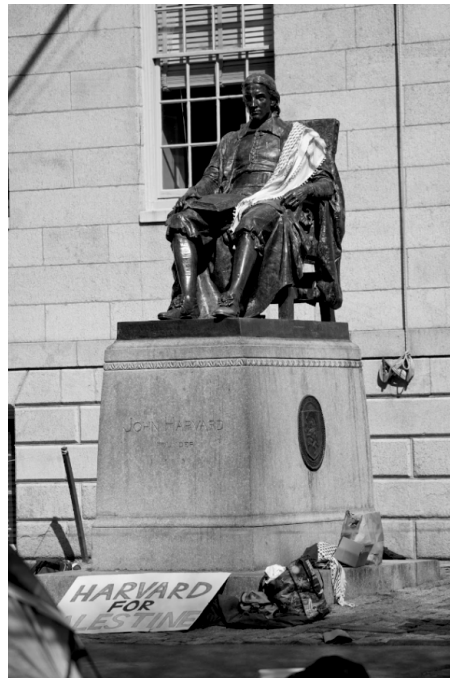
BY REBECCA ACKERMAN '25

NEWS

Photo Series: The Harvard Yard Encampment

Photographs from the first week of the pro-Palestinian encampment in Harvard Yard.

BY JORDAN WASSERBERGER '27



Harvard Encampment Remains Optimistic, Despite Murky Path to Divestment

HOOP's commitment to divestment is strong, but a lack of clarity about the extent of Harvard's financial ties to Israel makes the end goal uncertain.

BY KATE KADYAN '26

Since Wednesday, April 24, the Harvard Out of Occupied Palestine Coalition (HOOP) has erected an encampment, consisting of around 40 tents, around University Hall in Harvard Yard. This encampment followed similar protests at Columbia and Yale. Many of these encampments have seen chaotic and violent scenes, with police called to disperse participants, leading to hundreds of student arrests. Any such characterization of the Harvard Yard encampment would be misleading. The HUPD Chief told *The Crimson* that as the encampment now stands, he sees no need for police intervention. Moreover, with days punctuated by a daily events schedule with teach-ins, music, and artistic sessions, the HOOP encampment has remained, for the most part, relatively jovial and tranquil.

The protestors are determined to remain in the Yard—despite impending finals and looming threats of disciplinary action—until Harvard discloses all of its Harvard's financial investments and divests from all Israeli companies and companies with ties to Israel. However, while HOOP's demands are relatively clear, implementing these demands is not as straightforward.

Part of this is the fault of Harvard. According to Lea Kayali, a third-year student at Harvard Law and protestor at the encampment, the most recent data the HOOP could obtain on Harvard's investments was from 2020. "Now, a lot of those sources that we've received that information from [in the past] have been cut off to students, and there's no more transparency about Harvard's funding." As a result, it is difficult for HOOP to outline clear steps from retracting financial ties to Israel without first getting Harvard to disclose all of its financial holdings.

Understanding the complexity of Harvard's investments themselves has proven to be quite challenging. According to an article by HOOP in *Mondoweiss*, as of 2019, \$86,000 of Harvard's endowment was invested indirectly in the Israeli military, and \$200 million was invested in "companies with ties to illegal Israeli settlements." HOOP is basing this \$200 million estimate on a 2020 *Crimson* article.

The Crimson cited that the

\$194 million of this \$200 million estimate arose from Harvard's investment in Booking Holdings, a holding group of travel companies like Kayak and OpenTable, which list rental properties and bookings in the West Bank.

Moreover, a 2022 endowment report, which HOOP co-authored, cited the Centares Holding Group as a case study of Harvard's support for the "illegal occupation of Palestine." The Centares Holding Group, in which Harvard invests over \$70 million, holds part of Trip Advisor, a company that likewise lists properties in the West Bank.

When asked about the complexity of Harvard removing itself from holding companies, Kayali expressed certainty that Harvard could untangle themselves from these investments. "Harvard has purposefully created layers of obfuscation, but we know that they have an ability to find out what their investments are." Violet Barron '26, a protestor at the liberated zone, was likewise hopeful, pointing to Harvard's successful divestment campaigns from Apartheid South Africa and the fossil fuel industry. "Divestment campaigns in the past have taken years and years," Barron said. "It takes really big, visible disruptive actions like this one to push the needle and force Harvard to divest."

Protesting students, however, are unperturbed by the possibly long, arduous, and uncertain path toward divestment. Barron said the encampment had "exceeded her expectations," and she has seen "so much joy." She continued, "People are really happy... I think the energy is spurred by the fact we all know this is a very historic thing we are doing and something that could have a real tangible impact."

The joyous mood of the encampment belies the heavy disciplinary actions students may face from continued encampment in the Yard. On Saturday, Dean of Students Thomas Dunne, sent an email to the student body warning that the encampment was violating University policies by disrupting "normal activities of Harvard Yard" and that free speech must be conducted without "infringing on the rights of others." The University also displayed a sign in the Yard, warning that "repeat violations of University and School policies will result in increasingly severe sanctions" and "students with pending disciplinary matters may not be

granted a degree." The sign, however, which has been draped with a Palestinian flag, did not seem to cause any concern to the protestors.

Barron said that all the protestors understand that "in undertaking this there is tangible disciplinary action. [Admin has] been doing intermittent sweeps and ID checks, and we all volunteered our IDs, we're not trying to hide from admin." Barron was ad-boarded in the fall for participating in an unsanctioned PSC protest, but she plans to remain despite the more severe penalties for students with repeated infractions.

And, although disclosure and divestment are HOOP's primary demands, alongside the dropping of any charges against student protestors, some protestors are personally driven by a desire to show solidarity with college protests and movements throughout the nation. Barron, who is Jewish, was upset by the framing of encampments as antisemitic, and "feel[s] compelled to be here and very vocally dispel this narrative that all anti-Zionist and pro-Palestine rhetoric is inherently anti-semitic." Although the Yard remains closed, many protestors are keenly aware of the global focus on Harvard and understand that their protest is being watched not only by Harvard admin but by the world at large.

Thus, regardless of Harvard's immediate response to the encampment—whether they allow protestors to fulfill their promise of remaining in the Yard until divestment—protestors feel the disruptive, dramatic nature of this protest has permanently increased the urgency and altered the dialogue around Israeli divestment at Harvard.

KATE KADYAN '26 (KATEKADYAN@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES NEWS FOR THE INDEPENDENT.

PHOTO BY JORDAN WASSERBERGER '27



From the Consulting Pipeline to the Culinary World

How Joanne Chang '91 started from scratch to run beloved Boston chain Flour Bakery.

BY KAITLYN HOU '27

Nestled across the street from The Charles Hotel on 114 Mt. Auburn Street, Flour Bakery + Cafe is a favorite among Harvard students, tourists, and Cambridge residents alike. The menu is varied yet simple. From pastries to sandwiches to bowls, it is clear that every item is crafted with detail and thoughtfulness.

A cozy spot for coffee dates and studying, the Harvard Square location of Flour Bakery + Cafe is never empty. Most of the time, there is a long line, and it is difficult to find an empty table. With 10 locations across Cambridge and Boston, Flour has established itself as an iconic bakery in the area. While many may frequently enjoy Flour's "sticky sticky bun" or "achiote chicken sandwich," most might not know the compelling story behind this well-loved bakery. In an interview with Joanne Chang '91, founder and owner of Flour Bakery and renowned restaurant Myers + Chang, the *Independent* gained special insight into her journey and success in the culinary space.

A past resident of Leverett House and an Applied Math and Economics concentrator at Harvard College, Chang never imagined that she would one day be owning and operating a bakery chain and restaurant. "I wasn't planning on getting into [the] culinary [world]," she said. "[I was] not really sure what I'd do, which is why I ended up getting a job in consulting because most people either go to law school or business school or med school...and then a lot of people go into finance or consulting." Today, these career pathways continue to be some of the most popular options for Harvard College graduates.

Cooking had always been a big part of Chang's life. "I was always, always very into food," Chang said. But "it was just a hobby...just something that I liked to do," she added. For most individuals, cooking as a hobby is quite different from cooking as a profession.

Chang decided to make the transition to the culinary world after consulting at Monitor Group (now merged with Deloitte). "At the end of the second year, when all of my peers were applying to business school, I just decided that I didn't want to go to business school, and I didn't want to stay at Monitor," Chang stated. Describing her rationale for venturing into a completely new industry, Chang asked herself, "What do I really like doing? I love being in the kitchen. So I applied to a bunch of restaurants in the Boston area and then I got my first job at a restaurant in Boston."

This was a bold step. Acquiring a job at a prestigious consulting firm like Monitor is not an easy feat, requiring years of building a competitive and impressive resume. Furthermore,

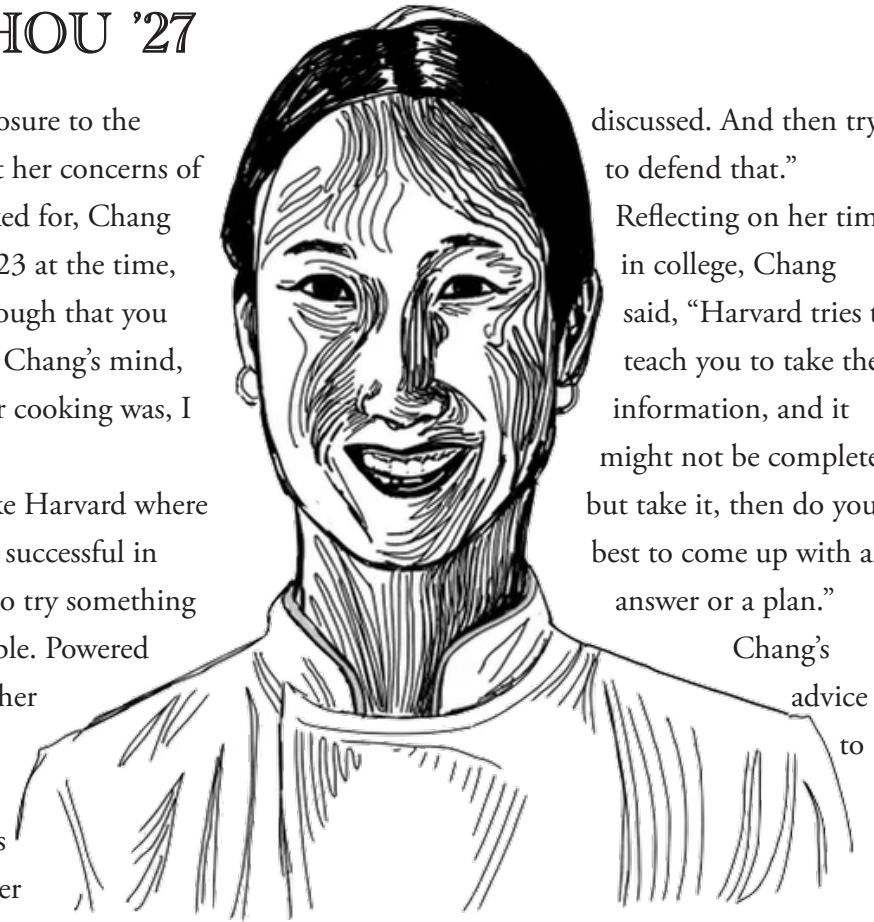
Chang did not have any prior exposure to the culinary world. When asked about her concerns of dropping everything she had worked for, Chang responded casually. Since she was 23 at the time, Chang said, "You're still young enough that you don't have a lot of obligations." In Chang's mind, "the idea of leaving to spend a year cooking was, I mean, now kids do gap years."

At a competitive school like Harvard where students face lots of pressure to be successful in their careers, Chang's willingness to try something out of her comfort zone is admirable. Powered by her love for food and cooking, her path in the culinary world was far from glamorous. "I started off as the person for bar food, which was probably the lowest non-dishwasher position there was." Describing her daily life at work, Chang said, "It was hard. It was long hours and really hot and [a] pretty crappy schedule." Her first year was tough and filled with learning the ropes of the culinary industry. At the same time, however, "I learned that I really enjoyed it. I felt like I was learning a lot, and I looked forward to going to work every day," Chang shared.

This was what fueled her to continue her journey in the culinary space. After working at her first restaurant job in Boston for two years, Chang became a pastry chef in 1995. She opened Flour in 2000, and in 2007, she opened the Asian-fusion restaurant Myers + Chang with her husband and business partner Christopher Myers. When talking about her work life, Chang commented that "it's very physical. You are on your feet all day long." The work is just as taxing as it is rewarding, she explained, because you are "always moving as you're creating and producing things."

Although Chang almost never has any time off, her work never feels like the work one might expect from a traditional job. "It's like being a parent...the bakeries and the restaurant are always something that needs attention." Chang has high standards. Referring to her bakery and restaurant, she said, "We're trying to create that perfect experience for everybody." Through her attention to detail, Chang has established a pristine reputation of owning arguably one of the most popular bakery chains in the Boston area, with Flour amassing over 73.5 thousand followers on Instagram.

Chang views her time at Harvard as a separate experience from her current profession. Nonetheless, she partially credits her experiences at Harvard with setting her up for success. "One thing that I feel I learned at Harvard was an ability to take something that you don't know a lot about and try to formulate an assessment or conclusion or an understanding of whatever it is that's being



discussed. And then try to defend that."

Reflecting on her time in college, Chang said, "Harvard tries to teach you to take the information, and it might not be complete, but take it, then do your best to come up with an answer or a plan."

Chang's advice to

current Harvard students is "to figure out what makes you excited every day." A testament to the idea of following one's passion, Chang has achieved inspiring success. "I think you need to learn and focus on what it is that makes you happy," Chang added. Talking about career paths, Chang explained how "there's not just lawyers, doctors, or business people... There's a million things."

As Harvard students continue to face the pressure to figure out their lives after college, Chang's success in the culinary world is a testament to taking risks and venturing out of the tunnel vision that is often centered on certain careers. When describing the college experience, Chang explained how "it is a time when the only thing you're expected to do is to take advantage of all these opportunities." Chang encouraged the pursuit of exploration. "Just do them because they sound interesting. And if you fail, now's the time to fail. Now's the time to try something and suck at it."

Chang's open-mindedness and work ethic have empowered her to succeed in one of the most cutthroat work environments. But perhaps even more importantly, Chang's pure passion for food serves as an uplifting reminder that it is never too late to follow a dream, no matter how crazy it might sound.

KAITLYN HOU '27 (KAITLYNHOU@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WOULD LIKE TO BE A PRIVATE CHEF IN AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE.

GRAPHIC BY LUCIE STEFFANONI '27

Claim to Fame

Exploring new features and strategic shifts from the Claim app.

BY LUCAS COHEN-D'ARBELOFF '27 AND HAN NGUYEN '27

“Get in Claimer, we’re going shopping.” This alert from the app Claim is one of many enticing notifications students receive, signaling the latest deals available for the week.

Claim is an app designed to create what its co-founder and CEO, Sam Oblatz, calls “easy and affordable memories.” Launched at Harvard in January 2023, the app offers college students a selection of weekly coupons to discover new brands, starting with food options around their campus and eventually expanding to retail and online shopping. Each Thursday, students choose their weekly Claim, which comes with a dollar value they can spend at a brand and an expiration date to redeem it. Students link their Claim account to a credit or debit card so Claim can detect their purchase and reimburse them through Venmo.

In response to user inquiries about how the app makes money from essentially giving users free food, Claim explained in a March 20 Instagram post that brands pay Claim the amount that it sends to customers along with a small fee, which represents Claim’s profit. “You get cash back for finding things you love, and our partner brands get great customers. Win-Win.”

Initially, users could receive rewards and propose Claim trades with one another on the app across all of Claim’s partner brands. Now, users usually only receive Claims for places where they have not previously made purchases. In an interview with the *Independent*, Oblatz explained that this restriction is an evolution of the app’s business model. This change simplifies Claim’s pitch to brands by positioning the app as a tool for attracting new customers rather than a system for repeat visits to the same brands.

Some users, such as Cameron Reckard '27, have also noticed a decrease in the dollar values of their Claims over time. Reckard said that this trend, coupled with the restriction, has diminished his enthusiasm for the app.

“Originally, it felt like when you received a Claim, you would get something that would essentially let you go to that place for free,” Reckard explained. Noticing that his Claims are now lower in value, he added, “It’s harder to encourage myself to go there if I know that I’m still going to be spending money in the end.”

Oblatz stated that the dollar values of some Claims have decreased “on a case-by-case basis” rather than as a general effort by the company to reduce benefits. He said the company has optimized its pricing strategy based on user engagement and brand feedback. “We’re trying to essentially figure out where market-clearing prices are and feed that feedback back to our brand partners,” he said, adding that as the company grows, it can “pull

levers as necessary to figure out what’s going to get people excited and what’s not.”

As a startup, Claim continuously introduces new initiatives, which Oblatz calls “experiments.” One such experiment, the Status feature, made its debut in December 2023. Users could gain Status by supporting a specific brand over time and could then send Claims for these brands to their friends, introducing them to new options. According to Oblatz, the Status feature was meant to enhance the authenticity of shopping experiences by incorporating genuine user preferences. However, the feature did not gain the desired traction, and Oblatz said Claim is now phasing it out. Oblatz explained that the Status feature’s shortcoming was that it did not align with the app’s “core loop.”

“The core loop is, there’s the drop every Thursday. You unwrap your Claim, you make your choice, you go out and shop, then you get

Venmoed, and you come back the next week.” With Status, however, Oblatz found

that “a lot of students

were confused

about what Claim was

because we had essentially a separate loop going on.”

Within the core loop concept, Claim has introduced other experiments, including a Valentine’s Day drop where students had to visit Tatte Bakery and Cafe in pairs in order to be reimbursed for their purchases. Another experiment involved an unexpected item: rocks. While Harvard students were on spring break, many of them opened the app to find their Thursday Claim drop included just two choices—a Pet Rock or a Rainbow Rock—with \$0 in value. Students reacted in outrage and amusement. “There’s no fucking way Claim just gave me a ROCK,” one student vented on the social media app Sidechat. “If you’re broke just say that,” another scoffed.

However, Oblatz offered a reassuring hint about what lies ahead, stating, “People holding rocks may be excited about it in the future.” He described the virtual rocks as an experiment to gauge user reactions to a Claim that is not tied to a specific brand and lacks immediate cash value.

Despite the mixed reactions, some students

are unphased by recent changes and experiments in the app. Wren Opperman '26 was among the first students to download Claim last year and has remained a dedicated user throughout its evolution.

“I recognize I haven’t made money, but I’ve gotten \$187 worth of food on Claim, and I have 29 friends,” Opperman said. “I have \$7 to spend at Life Alive and \$5 to spend at Bagelsaurus.”

As students have begun to explore the food options around their campus more extensively, Claim has expanded its reach to a variety of non-food brands. These partners include clothing brands such as Sadderday, For Others, and Urban Outfitters, as well as beauty and self-care brands such as Supergoop, Bask Suncare, and Curology. On April Fool’s Day, the app offered users a Lamborghini, Ferrari, or Toyota Claim.

Despite the added variety, even some Claim loyalists like Opperman do not approve of some of these new Claims. “I don’t like getting Claims like ‘Sadderday’ because they give me \$7 to spend, and I can buy a \$20 shirt that says, ‘It’s Sadderday.’ I’m not gonna do all that because I’m just not sad like that in the first place.”

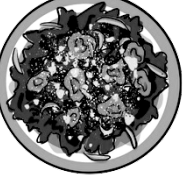
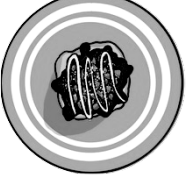
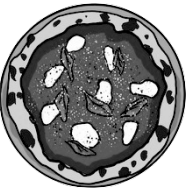
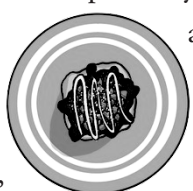
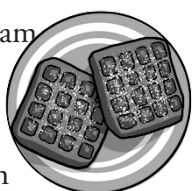
Oblatz recognizes that not all of Claim’s initiatives and experiments will resonate. But for now, his focus is expansion: Claim has spread to 56 schools across the country and is now targeting large campuses like the University of Michigan, UCLA, and USC. The company looks at several factors to determine where to go next, including the vibrancy of student organizations and Greek life and existing partnerships with campus brands.

As summer break approaches, Claim is also looking to bring its weekly drops off campus. Users will be able to set their location to nearly a dozen major cities in the U.S., such as New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago, allowing them to receive exclusive details tailored to their location. If users won’t be in one of these cities, they will have access to the retail and online shopping brands that Claim has partnered with nationally.

When asked whether Claim’s ambitions extend beyond college life, Oblatz acknowledged the potential but emphasized the need for strategic growth. With a measured tone, he stated, “In the future, I would certainly say Claim has broad ambitions, but as a startup, you have to kind of be focused on the sequence and the path to get there. For us, that’s to stay with colleges and really become a valuable and powerful experience for college students.”

LUCAS COHEN-D'ARBELOFF '27 (LCOHENDARBELOFF@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HAS REDEEMED MORE CLAIMS THAN THE APP'S CEO, SAM OBLATZ. HAN NGUYEN '27 (HANNGUYEN@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS EXCITED TO REDEEM HER RAINBOW ROCK CLAIM.

GRAPHIC BY RILEY CULLINAN '27



FORUM

May Matters

The importance of Mental Health Awareness Month on college campuses.

BY EMMIE PALFREY '27

Brownies or cookies? We're fifteen, and it's the biggest argument we've ever had, but it resolves itself in a delicious half-brownie-half-chocolate-chip-cookie. We have to mix together two different recipes just to make it work, and they come out looking half burnt, but it's the best dessert either of us has ever had. She's my best friend. My beautiful, brown-eyed girl.

Three years later, it's November of our freshman year of college. We're both eighteen years old and still just as close, even though we go to school several states apart. It's a little after 8 p.m., and I'm leaving Lamont Library with a million things on my mind, namely the math test I just took and the problem set I have yet to finish. She texted me, but I forgot to text her back—I'll get to that later. Unbeknownst to me, my mom has flown in and is waiting outside on the grass outside of Lamont to tell me that she died by suicide the night before.

I couldn't tell you much about the weeks that followed.

You might think that my experience is rare. But the unfortunate truth is that suicide is rampant among young adults; it is the second leading cause of death among college students. What's more, mental health issues at universities overall are reaching record highs. A Boston University study comparing data across numerous campuses revealed a 110% increase in anxiety and a 135% increase in depression among college students between 2013 and 2021.

According to the 2021-2022 National Education Association's Healthy Minds Survey (HMS), more than 60% of college students meet the clinical criteria for a mental health-related diagnosis; these are the highest rates the survey has ever shown since its 2007 debut. In the same 2022-2023 survey, nearly 60% of college students reported feeling the need for mental or emotional support services during the year. Suffice it to say, we are living in a collegiate mental health crisis.

Even more astonishingly, colleges are responding poorly. In the 2022 College Student Mental Health Report, a national survey, less than half of participating students felt that their universities were providing adequate mental health support to students. Similarly, in a report by the National Council on Disability, nearly half of interviewed college clinicians claimed that insufficient funding directed toward mental health resources puts at-risk students in need of psychological help.

So every May, as the nation celebrates Mental Health Awareness Month, it's becoming more important than ever that colleges step up to meet the ever-increasing psychiatric needs of their students.

At Harvard, this might look like improving the University Health Services Counseling and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) available to students. Whether that means hiring more clinicians or clearing up administrative red tape, the services are failing to quickly help struggling students. A 2022 article by *The Crimson* cited a six-week waiting period to see a therapist at CAMHS. This sharply contrasts the national average wait time of 9.2 business days, a figure measured in a 2023 survey published by the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors.

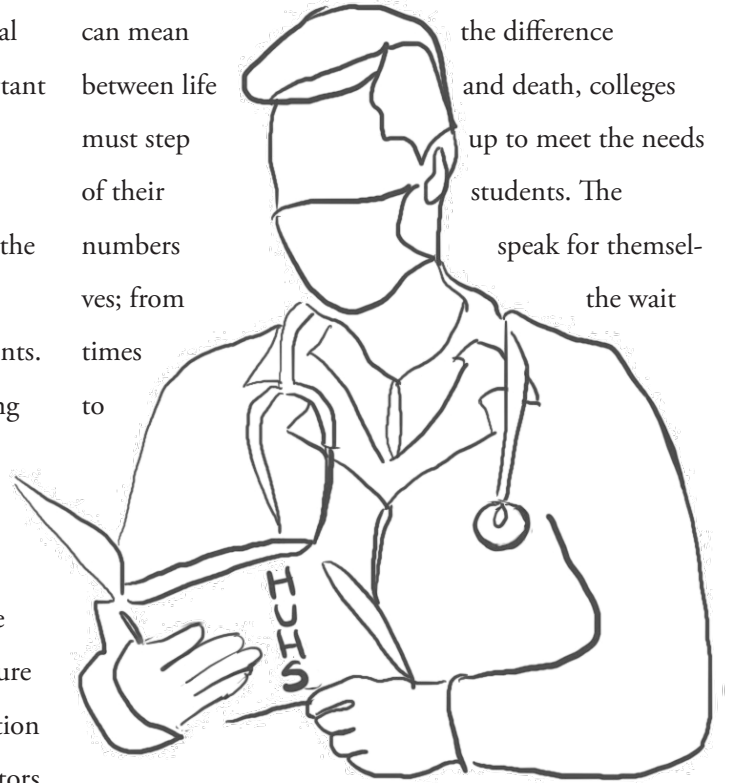
The more CAMHS is able to support students with mental health concerns during the academic term, the more medical leaves of absence may be prevented, an issue plaguing many Ivy League Universities. Currently, Ivies have been cited as having poor policies concerning forceful leaves of absence for students with mental illness. For example, a reporter at *The Washington Post* found that Yale students grappling with suicidal ideation were pushed to take leaves and were later not guaranteed a returning spot, forced to then reapply to the University. Here at Harvard, one student considering taking a medical leave for her worsening mental health reported being barred from returning to school before completing six months of work and counseling treatment.

Moreover, a report by the Ruderman Foundation revealed that the majority of Ivy League Universities have a minimum length of leave time, as opposed to allowing students in need of high levels of mental health care to return when their treatment is completed. The Foundation, in consultation with experts on collegiate mental health, evaluated and graded each Ivy's psychological health services and leave policies. Harvard received a D—.

Pediatric psychiatrist and founder of the Child Mind Institute Harold Koplewicz captured the current state of youth mental health best: "Our kids are not okay." And when parents entrust the well-being of their children to colleges, the institutions should provide adequate care. This isn't to say that Harvard's CAMHS does not have well-trained clinicians or effective treatment. Rather, there simply isn't enough of it readily available.

When it comes to psychological health, which

can mean the difference between life and death, colleges must step up to meet the needs of their students. The numbers speak for themselves; from times to



see a clinician, to the prevalence of students facing mental or emotional challenges, to the amount of students feeling in need of services, it's clear that many current collegiate mental health services are not keeping up with demand. Ultimately, these programs can destigmatize mental health struggles and provide reliable support such that students feel they can manage psychological distress while staying enrolled in school. And its most important, life-saving job is to help students in times of crisis find hope.

These days, I feel my dear friend almost everywhere. In the breeze, as we loved to lay by the ocean, letting crisp winds blow our hair in every direction. In the scent of burnt Catholic incense, sweet, citrusy myrrh, as I light candles for her in church. At the end of a long day, when I instinctively reach for my phone to call her. Every text I send will appear green now, the sign of a phone number no longer in use. I still write the texts out, though. It's all my way of saying goodbye, a goodbye I wasn't ready to say.

My heart hurts knowing she is one of many. The current national average of college students who die by suicide per year is 1,100. That's 1,100 too many. But I believe every improvement to institutional mental health programs and every communal effort towards destigmatizing psychological pain brings us closer to zero.

EMMIE PALFREY '27 (EPALFREY@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) ENCOURAGES YOU TO TAKE THE ONLINE PLEDGE TO STAY, A BORN THIS WAY FOUNDATION INITIATIVE, THIS MAY, IN HONOR OF MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH. IT'S A PROMISE TO REACH OUT FOR HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT, TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, AND TO REMEMBER THAT THE WORLD IS BETTER WITH YOU IN IT. EMMIE PROUDLY SIGNED THE PLEDGE WITH HER DAD.

GRAPHIC BY EMILY PALLAN '27

Navigating Harvard's Political Storm

A first-year student's reflection on being introduced to Harvard during a year of global conflict, protest, and administrative challenges.

BY SOPHIE DAUER '27

Each time I have left Harvard's campus and returned home this school year, I have been met with some iteration of the following questions: *How is it over there? Is it as crazy as the media makes it out to be? Do you feel safe with all of the turmoil?* Whether at a family dinner or a gathering with high school friends, people's curiosities about my college experience often pertain to the political turbulence taking place on my campus. Ever since Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, the events on Harvard's campus have included a slew of demonstrations, administrative statements, media coverage, and battles between student groups.

As a focal point of dissent and political expression, Harvard has historically been situated at the center of contentious current events and protests. The Israel-Palestine conflict has produced a campus environment reminiscent of the Vietnam War era, when the school was a major site of unrest and demonstrations. As a politically interested Jewish student who values critical engagement with global events and the right to peaceful protest, I will still admit that attending this university can feel extremely overwhelming and conflicting.

I remember sitting in Widener's Loker Reading room in mid-October, preparing for my very first college midterm, when the sound of loud chants outside could be heard from the characteristically silent study space. I approached the large windows to see a pro-Palestine protest demonstration, composed of at least two hundred people, on the library's steps and surrounding area. As I left Widener through the back exit to find a new spot to continue with my work, I felt guilty prioritizing my Econ test and quite literally walking away from the reminder of the grave events occurring in the Middle East.

When the Palestine Solidarity Group released a co-signed statement from over 30 student organizations declaring that they "hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence," signatories faced widespread condemnation from

university professors, business leaders, lawmakers, and students. As I later walked through the Square, my eyes widened, taking note of the large truck parked by Cardullo's. The vehicle broadcasted students' faces beneath the phrase "Harvard's Leading Antisemites."

As I examined the truck, I thought about how divided our campus was. There is a fine line between free speech and hate speech, but publicly intimidating students simply puts them in danger and is unproductive in its effect. With the letter and its responses gaining rampant media traction, I felt the wider significance of the activities at our university—people *really* care about what is happening at Harvard.

Between the months of October and November, the presence of protests and memorial services in the Yard was constant. It did not take long to become accustomed to the demonstrations that had previously made me stop in my tracks. Of course, the conflict remained a topic central to my thoughts and conversations—a number of my Israeli relatives were forced to flee their country for safety. However, the actions happening on campus became sidelined from my daily life.

On Dec. 5, former Harvard President Claudine Gay testified before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on the presence of antisemitism on campus, along with the presidents of the University of Pennsylvania and MIT. The testimony left many students, faculty members, and observers unsatisfied and outraged by Gay's failure to explicitly condemn calls for the genocide of the Jewish community as a violation of the school's conduct policy. Following the resignation of UPenn President Liz Magill on Dec. 9, critics called for the removal of President Gay, and elite universities grew to be important symbols of the function of leaders and institutions

within the Israel-Palestine discourse. With the resignation of President Gay, the search for a new president, and the escalation of the conflict, tensions on campus have only heightened. The recent emergence of encampment protests on college campuses like Harvard has captured the attention of the media. Only time will tell whether the activities here will mirror the chaos and violence present at other schools, such as Columbia and UCLA.

As the individuals who compose this university, we, the members of the student body, also play an important role in the school's engagement with global events. Each day I am here, attending amazing classes and making use of the endless opportunities, I am reminded of how much of a privilege it is to be a student at Harvard. Part of this experience also entails being part of an institution that is in the spotlight. To outsiders, Harvard life seems to be dominated by this commotion, but as a student, this is not always the case. As a first-year, I have at times felt the full force of the unique political culture here, while in other instances, it has not impacted my experience. As I continue to navigate my undergraduate experience, I intend to keep reflecting on what it means to be a student at Harvard while examining the university's positioning in current global events.

SOPHIE DAUER '27
(SOPHIEDAUER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES FORUM FOR THE *INDEPENDENT*.

GRAPHIC BY ALMA RUSSELL '26



An International's Moral Tax Headache

The ethical implications and logistical nightmares of deliberately opting into the U.S. taxation system.

BY TAYBAH CRORIE '25

There is a certain absolution of shame that comes from watching others share in your sin. Filing taxes an hour before the post office's closure on the final day of the tax deadline is perhaps the most cardinal sin of all.

I found a party of ten Harvard internationals in the USPS building on Mount Auburn Street. Our social gathering's postage dates recorded, on the federal level, the new debilitating lows of our collective procrastination problem. "You too?" we asked as more familiar faces entered. Sometimes, a sheepish shrug or poor excuse would return our greeting.

It would be easy to chalk this dallying to some devil-may-care attitude, but that would be too flattering a portrait of my neuroses. I worry about taxes all the time: collecting fines from calculating the wrong figure, stewing increasingly on the moral implications of my taxes' usage, and fretting over the irrational and unfounded fear of deportation.

Harvard gives internationals access to Sprintax, a "U.S. Income Tax Software for Non-Resident Aliens." "Aliens" is such a hostile word. Its usage in the continuous stream of Sprintax emails reminded me yet again of the tenuous foothold I have in this country as an all-caps FOREIGNER.

Sprintax and I are in a love-hate relationship of sorts. Sprintax software is clunky and malfunctions all the time. Still, without it, I could never have imagined navigating this extremely convoluted (read: broken) tax filing system. In the U.K., the correct amount of tax is automatically deducted from our incomes. Our international WhatsApp group chat is filled with questions about taxes. How mundane! People arrange Zoom calls and tax filing parties to sadistically share our suffering. My American counterparts seem, by and large, to have their parents file for them as part of their household. For most, our international hassle is not theirs.

The seeming lack of urgency with which I handle financial matters could be readily mistaken for a reflection of the lack of care afforded to the money flowing out of my bank account, but this could be no further from the truth. If I am so fastidious in selecting the best menu item that my \$40 can get me at a nice restaurant or adamant in finding that \$10 Uber Eats discount code, it would be illogical to then suddenly not care about what thousands of dollars of my money given to the government is being used for.

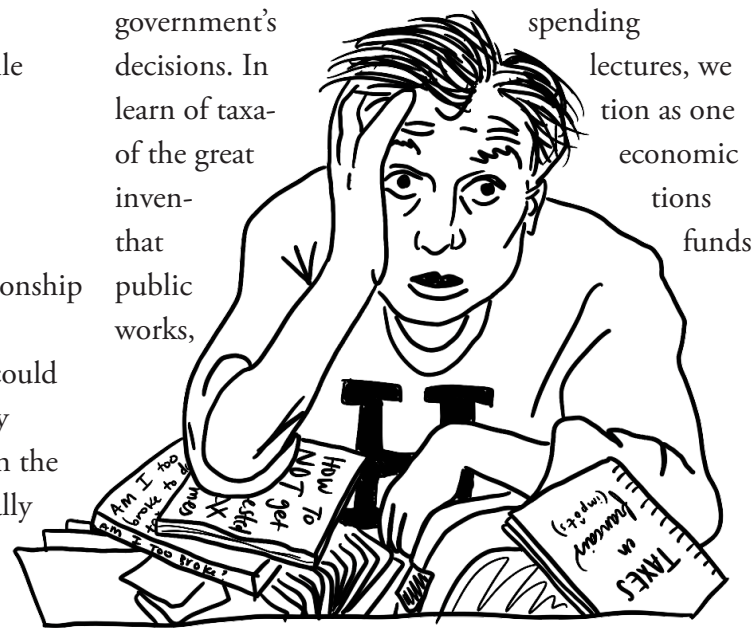
Undisputedly, this concern about how tax money is spent is widely shared among American students at Harvard. However, as international students, we find ourselves in a unique position: we deliberately opted into the American taxation system when we decided to study in the U.S. Yet, when I decided whether or not to accept my Harvard offer four years ago, the idea of societal

monetary responsibility or complicity did not factor into my thought process at all. Having lived here now for several years, I realize I was remiss to do so.

My income tax dollars provide revenue for federal, local, and state governments. Those receiving financial aid are taxed on this scholarship, too. In return, I drive on American streets, call American police, and sun myself in U.S. national parks.

Our Harvard education is also partially subsidized by our taxes. According to *The Crimson's* analysis of Harvard University's financial report in January 2024, federal funding is essential, accounting for about an eighth of the University's total revenue. This money is incredibly significant, providing 66% of the funding for Harvard's research activities. However, federal contributions are a much less significant 6% of the financial aid Harvard students receive.

Whilst I reap the benefits from the various services funded by taxes every day, I also have significant concerns about many of the U.S. government's decisions. In learn of tax- of the great inven- that public works,



infrastructure, and wars. The breadth of this commission, undeniably for all peoples, will generate dispute.

I find myself waxing on about American politics, policy, and economy—absorbed fully in the American machine. Yet, had I chosen to remain in the U.K., the extent of my involvement with the U.S. would have been solely through the outsider lens—a spectator to the heft with which the U.S. so readily extends its hands across the globe. Instead, now, I live on the inside.

Rather, I have come to understand the chafing and resentment of "taxation without representation." I acknowledge this is a privileged realization to have relatively late in life. No non-citizen is allowed suffrage in federal or statewide elections—a status quo actually untrue in my home country. If I cannot voice my dissent through vote, this leaves me grappling with the other avenues of influence that remain to me.

As students, the universities we live in are the key conduits through which we interact with the United States. We learn from our peers and professors, developing ideas for what these

institutions and our countries should look like. Thus, it is no surprise that colleges are also the forums where students express their voices and find leverage to force change. Protests are a hallmark of this.

As of April 27, 2024, the Students4Gaza directory lists 74 universities across the U.S. with pro-Palestinian, anti-war, and anti-Israeli-government protests and counterprotests. Look only to Harvard Yard right now to see this activism at our doorstep. A sizable proportion of these students are internationals. These students see this as a means of making change despite having no vote and fragile visa status. Pointedly, these protests may come at great personal cost to these internationals and are divisive nationally. Note that protests and voting are not the only ways to effect change.

Considering other spheres of public life, perhaps improving education is your priority. Harvard can also be examined through this lens. As a Muslim student, the educational experiences of my fellow Muslims at Harvard are particularly important to me. *The Crimson* published the 2024 results of its annual survey of Harvard's Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Receiving 508 responses from 1400 members of FAS, 37.5% said they "somewhat" or "strongly agree" that there is systemic anti-Arab and anti-Muslim bias at Harvard. A further 21.95% "neither agree nor disagree."

Unfortunately, this means a whopping 59.4% of surveyed FAS faculty do not disagree that there is an institutionalized problem of Islamophobia and Arab xenophobia. The extent of this issue, as suggested by these figures, is completely unacceptable. My federal taxes and tuition go to Harvard—my money supports my own community's system of disenfranchisement.

Many internationals will, by nature, remain in the U.S. after graduation. Whether for study, work, or marriage, many of us will continue to contribute to the American system. We pay our taxes as an investment in the U.S. Any investor in a fund will provide a mandate with a list of intended outcomes. As good investors in this country, international students at Harvard should be doing their due diligence to understand how this money is being utilized. Let me emphasize: we *chose* to bring our money here. Thus, we should want our payoff in all areas of public life.

Intentionally or not, your money and presence are already shaping America. Why not steer the direction and betterment of our new home more deliberately? Reflect on all the ways we can contribute beyond the ballot box. Our status as internationals does not absolve us of holding apathy or forsaking our civic duties. Caring about how my taxes are used is, at its core, an act of love.

TAYBAH CRORIE '25 (TAYBAHCRORIE@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) UNDERSTANDS THAT MONEY IS POWER—IT IS GOOD TO KNOW HOW TO WIELD IT. GRAPHIC BY SEATTLE HICKEY '25

Senior Year Bucket List

Eight goals for my last year at Harvard.

BY CAROLINE HAO '25

People say that time flies, but you never believe them until it does. Now, at the tail end of my third year, in disbelief that next year will be my last at Harvard, I can confirm that college does indeed fly by.

As I wrap up my last week here before heading home, I wanted to put some of my goals for next year down on paper in hopes that it will be both an interesting read and a personal accountability tool. (People who very vividly describe or picture their goals are anywhere from 1.2 to 1.4 times more likely to accomplish them!)

1. Take personally interesting classes.

I applied to Harvard as an intended English major and ended up in Economics. Although I've enjoyed my concentration, I often wish I'd taken more creative classes in college that cater to my personal interests in areas like writing or music. While my fall schedule will include two required classes, I also enrolled in two more personally fulfilling ones: Physics 187r (Thinking Through Writing: Science Themes) and Music 22 (Film Sound/Film Music).

I'm hoping that answering questions like "How long does it take raindrops to fall?" and hearing from guest presenters like Nick Britnell (composer on HBO's *Succession*) will be a creative reprieve from the typical Economics papers and problem sets.

2. Write a senior thesis.

Last year, I was on the fence about writing a thesis. After speaking to a few professors and my advisor, I decided to quasi-commit by enrolling in the Economics Thesis Research class for this coming fall.

I also recently read a very interesting letter from Benjamin Friedman, former Chairman of the Department of Economics at Harvard, about why to write a senior thesis in Economics. Friedman says that while "the standard story is that you should write a thesis because you are interested in the topic," the real reason is that "most talented people...somewhere between 19 and 22... experience an enormous increase not only in their intellectual capabilities but also in the sheer energy that they are able to bring to bear on a project."

A thesis is then "therefore not so much to learn about some aspect of economics...or even to learn about doing research, but to learn something important *about yourself*: in particular, to learn something of what you are now capable of accomplishing."

Friedman's letter really resonated with me. Though I don't plan on going to graduate school, I do want to find out how deeply I can commit to and execute a project.

Taking pictures on the Widener steps will be an added perk.

3. Get a job I care about.

Fingers crossed!

Back in my freshman year, I interviewed David Laibson, an Economics professor at Harvard, for the *Independent*. "Over the next few years in college, you will have the opportunity to go on a journey of self-discovery and figure out where your passions and abilities lie and where there are opportunities for you in the world," he said. "Through that rich exploration, you will emerge with an understanding of what you want to do next."

In the last few years, I've been exposed to incredible opportunities, both academic and non-academic, that have challenged me and helped me grow as a student, learner, and person. However, part of deciding on a post-grad plan is taking the time to sit down with myself and decide what those experiences meant to me and what they imply about my future career.

4. Run a marathon.

Before coming to college, I'd been on multiple sports teams pretty much my whole life. Then, in my first year at Harvard, without a team to motivate me or an autonomous gym routine, I struggled to work out regularly.

Since then, I've discovered the joy of running. I'm not particularly fast, but I love to do it. I'd love to scale up to a full marathon this fall or spring—I'm looking at either NYC in November 2024 or Boston in April 2025.

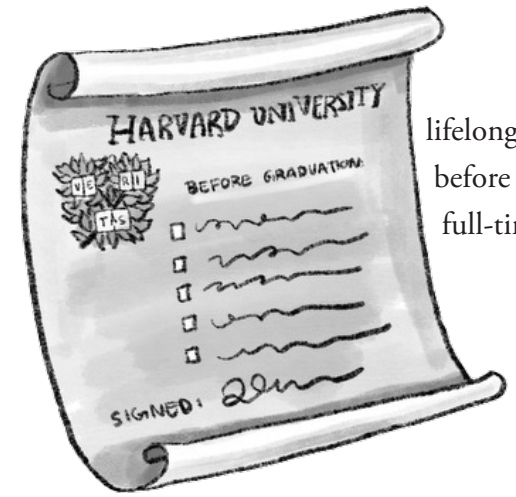
5. Plan and go on a fun senior trip.

My roommate and I have tossed around the idea of doing an active and outdoorsy senior trip. This is my vision for next summer:



Mount Kilimanjaro is located in northeast Tanzania, near the Kenyan border. Mid-May to June is peak time on the mountain, with far fewer people than the July to October timeframe. There are seven routes up Kilimanjaro, each taking five to nine days.

A refreshing change from the typical Cancun-for-spring-break college trips, I'll take this opportunity to unplug, see the sights, and create a



lifelong memory before starting full-time work.

6. Learn more about personal finance and max out my Roth IRA.

I think one of the great shortcomings of my education thus far has been the lack of material and emphasis on personal finance. In my view, learning how to manage your money is probably one of the most important skills you can develop as an 18 to 22-year-old. This year, I want to be more intentional about my consumption and investing.

7. Spend good time with friends and family.

Some of the biggest and most valuable lessons I've learned in the past few years are those about interpersonal relationships. To me, friendships, relationships, and family are the keystone of a happy life.

Challenges in these kinds of relationships force you to confront your shortcomings and grow like nothing else could. For instance, moving away from home for college can put communication with your family on the back burner; housing debacles can cause you to question whether your friendships were as strong as you thought; breakups make you realize that you may have been neglectful toward the other relationships in your life.

I have come to learn that truly good and strong relationships take a lot of work, are hard to come by, and should not be taken for granted. I want to dedicate a large chunk of my time next year to spending quality time with friends and family and making sure they know how important they are to me.

8. Enjoy my day-to-day.

Lastly, while I'm obviously a proponent of setting goals, I also strongly believe in enjoying small moments. After all, what's the point of accomplishing something if you don't (mostly) enjoy the days it takes for you to get there?

Stay tuned—I'll be back with an update next year.

CAROLINE HAO '25 (CAROLINEHAO@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS FEELING NOSTALGIC ABOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR COMING TO AN END.

GRAPHIC BY DAVID LI '25

ARTS

Harmonies and Horrors

In this spring's student production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, the plant ate. Literally.

BY LUCAS COHEN-D'ARBELOFF '27

Little Shop of Horrors is a delightfully macabre musical, weaving humor and heart into a storyline steeped in horror and suspense. The show follows a meek florist as he discovers a carnivorous plant that feasts on humans and attempts to take over the world. Directed by Haley Stark '25, Harvard's production ran from April 25 to 28 in the Agassiz Theater, giving the audience an engaging mix of dark humor and thrilling suspense.

The show opens on a run-down flower shop in an urban "Skid Row," where the awkward Seymour Krelborn (Conall McGinn '25) works alongside the sweet-natured Audrey (Elizabeth Crawford '26). As the shop owner, Mr. Mushnik (Ben Arthurs '27), is preparing to close down the failing business, Seymour comes across an extremely peculiar, Venus flytrap-esque plant. Seymour names the plant Audrey II in honor of the human Audrey, and the plant immediately revitalizes the shop. But things take a turn for the sinister when Seymour discovers the plant requires human blood to survive. After Seymour pricks his fingers dry trying to satisfy the plant's appetite, he realizes he must seek out alternative food sources. Coincidentally, Audrey's physically abusive, sadistic boyfriend, dentist Orin Scrivello (Mike Peckham '25), arrives on the scene, providing Seymour with a solution to his gruesome dilemma.

The show is narrated by three "street urchins"—Crystal (Gabrielle Greene '27), Chiffon (Paulet Del Castillo '27), and Ronette (Caron Kim '24)—who brought vibrant personalities and incredible powerhouse vocals to their roles. While the iconic titular opening number was sung by just the urchins, choreographer Nene Zhvania '26 included the full cast in the performance of the song, creating a sense of communal spirit and energy that carried throughout the show.

Stark's excellent creative choices and innovative staging brought the world of *Little Shop* to life in a way that felt eerily authentic. Stark said she made directorial decisions that emphasized actors' individual choices and character development over pure spectacle, such as in the showdown scene between Seymour and Orin, which she staged on a stripped set including only a dental chair. Other staging and lighting choices in the show, including the clever use of the curtain and spotlight during the prologue, added to the sense of anticipation and created a haunting yet lifelike atmosphere.

Stark said her approach to the story was rooted in the idea that "the characters should never know that they're in a comedy, the idea being that the comedy in the show is purely circumstantial and that the characters themselves are sincere and authentic." She noted that "it's easy to lean into gimmicks and to lean into slapstick comedy, and I didn't want to do that. I instead really felt like it was imperative to lean into the sincere parts of these characters and sincere parts of the set."

This dedication to authenticity shone throughout the production. Crawford portrayed a wonderfully earnest Audrey, passionately expressing her desires for a future far from Skid Row and her abusive relationship in the poignant ballad, "Somewhere That's Green." The song was a touching highlight and a reprieve from the overarching darkness of the show.

Stark mentioned how the production's small cast and its timing as the last performed show of the semester created a close, tight-knit community. She said that when preparing to direct the show and working with actors, "some of my visions were sort of up in the air," while for "some of them, I've always envisioned this one moment and this one song to look this way. I had a team of actors that was so willing to take on all of these ideas and incorporate them into their own artistic visions."

An area of the show rich with creativity was the portrayal and evolution of the plant, Audrey II. Even toward the beginning of the show, the small movements and comedic timing masterfully executed by the team of puppeteers captivated the audience. As the plant grew over the course of the show, it gained a booming voice (Jordan Woods '24) and required more puppeteers to manage its increasingly large and complex movements, as it demanded Seymour procure more victims. Stark said the production team followed guidance from the show's libretto on how to construct and operate the puppet, ensuring that the puppeteers could comfortably remain on stage for extended periods of time while effectively animating Audrey II.

A highlight of the performance was the number "Mushnik and Son," a spirited duet between Seymour and Mr. Mushnik that included a passionate tango dance. Choreographed by assistant director Olivia Data '26, the number brought the house down, leaving the audience roaring with laughter. Soon after in the plot, however, Mr. Mushnik grows suspicious of

Seymour's secretive behavior, and he quickly becomes the plant's next victim. Realizing the gravity of what he's done, Seymour attempts to destroy the plant, hoping to save Audrey and prevent further chaos before it's too late, though his efforts ultimately fall short.

Dance enriched the portrayal of these characters throughout the show, ranging from the ensemble song "Skid Row" to the energetic number "You Never Know," where brooms were creatively incorporated into the choreography. In her portrayal of Crystal, Greene reflected on the role of movement in expressing her character's personality and emotions. "I feel like this show has helped me think about characterization through dance a lot more than I ever have before," she said.

Greene echoed Stark's appreciation for authenticity, emphasizing the importance of "balancing the heavier content with the comedy of the show" and "portraying real human beings with feelings and beliefs and struggles, even though the show is very comical and very fun."

This production of *Little Shop* crafted a careful, seamless blend of humor and horror. It struck a delicate balance between the show's upbeat doo-wop music and its "deeper and darker themes," as noted by the production's music director Ada Fong '25 in the program. Throughout the show, I found myself beaming from ear to ear, thoroughly entertained, but left the theater with a playful yet ominous warning in the show's final moments: "Don't feed the plants."

LUCAS COHEN-D'ARBELOFF '27
(LCOHENDARBELOFF@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) PLAYED THE VOICE OF AUDREY II, THE PLANT, IN A PRODUCTION OF *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* WHEN HE WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD.
GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26



“Grab a Brush”

AFVS Open Studios and Senior Thesis Exhibition in the Carpenter Center highlight visual art students’ many hours of hard work.

BY LUCIE STEFANONI '27 AND MEENA BEHRINGER '27

Following a lively stream of people, we stepped into the Carpenter Center last Friday, April 26, to be met with a mesmerizing assortment of art in practically all forms. We walked through the massive gallery alongside artists, students, and professors, taking in the vibrant and breathtaking pieces that filled the space. The event—the Spring 2024 Art, Film, & Visual Studies (AFVS) Open Studios and Senior Thesis Exhibition—celebrated art that students worked on throughout the course of the semester.

Spread out across five levels, the event showcased work from all AFVS Spring 2024 studio classes as well as AFVS 2024 Student Film Screenings and the Senior Thesis Exhibition, which will be on display from April 26 to May 23. Separated by courses, their corresponding workspaces became transformed into galleries and showcased a collection of each student’s chosen artworks. These final portfolios vary in style, from realism to abstract, and in medium, from paintings to sculpture to film. Although these students have aptitudes for different styles, the diverse artwork displayed exhibits their talent and work ethic.

One of the classes on the second floor, AFVS 35: Building Thought: Sculpture Course, displayed more avant-garde art: its aim was for students to pull from any desired materials to create sculptural representations of meaningful topics. Some examples of the pieces in this class include a sculptural arm made from wires and USB cords, a stained-glass mosaic mural laid on the floor, and a model of an antique house from the Caribbean made from wood, metal, paint, paper, and concrete.

Cameron Hosein '25, an artist in the class, explained that, in the course, “most people tend to relate it to some part of their identity or some political thing that is going on in the world.” His work, *A Model of an Old Caribbean House*, incorporates his own cultural identity. “I’m from

Trinidad and Tobago, so my inspiration has been a lot of works from back home,” he explained. As an AFVS concentrator, he also spoke about his experience incorporating cultural identity in previous art classes. “I do a lot of Caribbean works. Even when I did painting classes, I did the same thing, trying to recreate that.” Hosein plans to complete an AFVS thesis and stated, “My thesis will be sculptural. I’m doing a mixture of a magazine-type thing and sculpture.”

Next door, artworks were featured from AFVS 124K: Abstraction, which focuses on exploring and learning to create abstract art. This course is initially more exercise-based than AFVS 35, which does more long-term projects, so the artwork in this gallery is much more plentiful. Each student has five or more artworks up, and the interpretation of abstract art again is widespread. Callum Diak '25, a Human Evolutionary Biology concentrator whose first art class at Harvard was AFVS 124K, said he decided to take this course for a new academic experience that was different from his biology workload. “I feel like if you step too far into one realm or one field, your way of interpreting the world is maybe a little focused on that field and how that field tackles it,” he said. “I would kinda want to look at the world in a different way.”

Even though Diak has not taken an abstract class before, the structured first half of the course helped him investigate a topic of interest: distorting circles. “My goal was basically to look at a circle. You can’t change the shape of a circle—you can’t tilt it or anything—but you can change so many other things about it, like transparency, color, how solid the edges are.”

The third floor, perhaps the most busy, exhibited works from AFVS 24: Painting, Smoking, Eating and AFVS 215: Critical Painting. Works that were not stand-alone were grouped together as a collection, divided by their name. One artist present, Bridget Sands '24, did not characterize herself as an artist but decided to apply to an AVFS class during

her senior spring and ended up taking Painting, Smoking, Eating, taught by Matt Saunders. The class is centered around and inspired by Philip Guston, an artist who “used to paint, eat, and smoke, all together,” as Sands put it, and “paints anything in his life.” She explained that each week they were given different prompts that their art had to respond to.

On the wall in the back hung Sands’ collection of work that included pictures of dogs, sports events, Guinness beers, and the Eliot House Courtyard. “I started to think of things in my life that were special and I would want represented,” she explained in regards to how she chose the subjects, intending for the work to go in her apartment post-graduation. Matt Saunders, the class’s professor, echoed the same sentiment, explaining that he gives “very open assignments which [students] can shape in different ways based on their interest.”

Upstairs, the fourth floor featured AFVS 12: Drawing 1: Drawing as a Visual Language and AFVS 11G: Exploring the Human Form: An Introduction to Figure Drawing. Katarina Burin, who taught AFVS 12 this semester, explained that her class focused on the basics of drawing before letting students choose their own medium. “Drawing can be so many different things, and everyone has a relationship to it... It’s not just being able to represent an object in reality. It’s also your own relationship to a mark, to making a mark,” she said. The other side of the room exhibited AFVS 11G, covered with depictions



of the human body that explored and challenged our relationship with it. The class's final project asked students to create symbolic dissections, where artists chose a body part to visually represent with incisions and unveil its different layers, ultimately connecting it to a symbolic meaning.

A piece by Sally Ann Williams '27 was particularly interesting; it explored the sexualization of women's bodies "specifically going through puberty" through a symbolic dissection of the collarbone and torso focusing on the breast. The work included an interactive incision that slides up and down to cover and reveal the inside of the breast, which revealed a colorful depiction of its structure. "Even though women's bodies might be sexualized, and that's what you're fixated on, it's just what actually is inside and the actual reproductive function," she explained.

"It's just a human body—it's so beautiful but doesn't necessarily need to be a sexual thing. Being in the nude doesn't need to be something that has to do with sex." Williams' work stood among her classmates' symbolic dissections that focused on other parts of the body, such as the face, chest, and hands. "Art is just a good way to express yourself and learn about yourself. Especially having something so intimate as the body."

But, for the seniors with theses, open studio lends special attention to their work as student theses are presented more professionally. Visual theses are displayed in a gallery setting on the third floor that mimics an exhibition of a famous artist at a museum. In this emulated gallery, carefully selected works from artists like Marieta Rojas Agüero '24 adorn the wall, narrowed down from her extensive portfolio. Agüero shared, "My thesis committee was really helpful in that sense, and I still feel like there's so much left to do. It's a good feeling. I want to be a painter, and I don't think

that's a path that ends if fruitful. Those are the feelings that lead me to choose the pieces I did for the show."

For the film track of AFVS, senior theses were part of a montage of films in the theater in the basement of the Carpenter Center. Each film was roughly 10 to 20 minutes long and deeply personal in content. Samantha Galvin '24 reflected on creating a very personal thesis: "Creating my thesis has probably been the most emotional challenge I have had to go through. I know that sounds dramatic, but my film was about my own personal feelings about death and relationships. It often felt like I had to force myself through emotional labor to create, which was another added layer of challenge." Speaking about how her thesis evolved throughout the year, she shared, "As time went on, I boiled down what I wanted to say, and had to part with a lot of media that I was really in love with... Thesising really helped me thicken my skin as an artist and [I] learned to separate criticism about my art from personal criticism."

For a non-artist, a few paintings or sculptures may seem like light work compared to what is expected of other concentrations offered at Harvard. However, upon visiting the open studio and hearing the stories of some of the students regarding their artworks, it is doubtless that art is a similarly intensive process. At the end of the day, an art portfolio can consist of just as many hours of work as writing a thesis would. Based on our conversations with the AFVS students who showed off their work, they agreed that they thoroughly enjoyed the process, even though that meant working through occasionally tedious, nonlinear progress. It is refreshing from an academic perspective to reap the rewards from daily achievements, not see a project as a means to completion.

The reception ultimately celebrated each artist's hard work throughout the



semester and invited viewers to engage with the talent of Harvard's students and their ability to create something meaningful. Studio night is not just a night of entertainment for outside viewers, but also a time to celebrate artists for showcasing their talent as well as revealing vulnerabilities in sharing intimate art. It served as a testament to the AFVS classes, encouraging all students, regardless of their artistic background, to engage with and express their creativity.

A work by Adam Mohamed '25, composed of a white canvas sandwiched between wood-enclosed glass planes, invited viewers to contribute with an adjacent sign demanding, "Grab a brush & PAINT." We watched throughout the reception how people, artists and not, took from the laid-out brushes and paint to blissfully add their own expressions. The individual work became an explosion of clashing colors, random lines and objects, words and symbols, and mere strokes—a representation of a collectivity of people in its nonsensical disunity.

We added a squiggle of a brushstroke on our way out.

LUCIE STEFANONI '27 (LUCIESTEFANONI@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HOPES TO HAVE HER OWN ART GALLERY IN THE FUTURE.
MEENA BEHRINGER '27 (MEENABEHRINGER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) CANNOT DRAW TO SAVE HER LIFE.
PHOTOS BY MEENA BEHRINGER '27

An Evening in February

Myth making and reflection as therapy.

BY ADEDOYIN ADEBAYO '26

The smell of smoke
transforms
From sweet notes of
nutmeg and
allspice
To hickory
Charred wood
Burnt

Where I rest transforms
From open arms and shoulders for
crying
To a flame
A furnace
An inferno

Did you panic
Or were you only slightly

perturbed
Relieved to be alone
Or too angry with the intruders to
notice
Memories transform
To soot
To ash
To distance

Suffocating
The smoke, the sirens, the stares
Suffocate
Squeeze steam down my face

I curse the intrusions of the voices
Resentful, agonizing, smokey
You refuse to turn away from their

instructions
Critical, volatile, LOUD

The fire once spreading
Contained in a brick oven palace
Dethroned and humiliated
Is home to no one

Yet behind doors which open to
bolt cutters or thieves
Imprison sacred edifices and
monuments
Wailing to escape
Too stubborn to return

ADEDOYIN ADEBAYO '26
(AADEBAYO@COLLEGE.HARVARD.
EDU) WRITES ARTS FOR THE
INDEPENDENT.

Eclipse on Ostara

BY KYA BROOKS '25

A boreal forest in waiting.
Sunbeams cast peculiar light
through evergreen branches.
The blue spruces are haloed. The
riverbed blooms with dark wildflowers
— belladonna, oleander, and foxglove.

Erratic weeping among the foliage.
A girl in a white dress escaped the
orthodoxy.
She falls to her knees, pressing delicate
fingers
into alluvial silt. Her skin remembers
the tumble from tower.
Periwinkle bruises and raw lacerations,
no fault of her own.

Ēostre is whimsical and strange.
The choking beauty of spring equinox
restores balance.
Natural forces awaken; the river current
is electric,
the perfumed scent of water hemlock
permeates.
Murmurs rise among the sweetbriars

and gooseberries.
It is noontide of Ostara,
and something is happening. The sky
crackles with energy.
Chemical disruption in the air, a shift in
earthen alchemy.
Songbirds quiet in their canopies.
Daylight creatures
sense the change, retreating into
nocturnal havens.
Not long now.
High winds warp the thickets.
Serpentine movements rustle
the reed grass. Carnivorous plants erupt
from the topsoil,
vines creeping toward the girl. Sentient
vegetation envelops
her kneeling form, a consoling embrace.
She will heal.

It is an astronomical occurrence.
Lunar and solar alignment; the sunlight
an ebbing sliver,
the land is submerged in musical

darkness. On the path
to totality, an ethereal twilight emerges.
Something regenerative
and destabilizing; the forest is ensouled,
the ferns have teeth.

The moon eclipses the sun.
An ephemeral moment of sable
blackness affirms life with pulsing
vitality. Shadowless winged figures take
flight — faeries in ascent.
Astral energy restores dormant power,
her wounds mending.
She is changeling; snatched from cradle,
weaned on ascetic dogma.

Steady longing, cathartic weeping;
she rejoins her sisters, suspended in
celestial diaspora.

**KYA BROOKS '25 (KYABROOKS@
COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WANTS
TO CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL OF
SPRING.**

The Books I Didn't Write

Noah Tavares writes a Senior Reflection.

BY NOAH TAVARES '24

And so, the curtain closes.

I don't like "the theatre" much, but that does seem like the right analogy. The *play* of childhood is over. The process of adolescence has ceased. The stasis of adulthood has arrived.

Reflection inevitably turns into a search for flaws. Perfection insists on flitting past me while mistakes build up scar tissue. Luckily, I don't feel I've made many mistakes. Usually, I keep my eyes forward. But now, on the precipice of stillness, one nagging regret comes forward.

To be clear, I am not a lazy person, but during college, I should have published books (instead I ended up in a newspaper). I imagine that instead of the *Harvard Independent*, I could have been published by the venerable printing houses that thrive on books everyone should read but no one has the time for. I acknowledge that I probably would have never received an order from Cambridge University Press or even Alfred A. Knopf. Maybe I could have won a book from a very small boutique like Litmus Press or a forward-thinking specialist like Domain.

On my smartphone notes application, I maintain a list of putative titles. So, my final act as a student and member of the College will be to offer a selection of these unwritten books to you. Maybe you'll win a Pulitzer.

FIRST. *The Reification of Variance.* On how contemporary society has made real the uncertainty in our lives. Sites of implication include financial markets, walking in front of cars, and golf.

SECOND. *The Coldest Game.* A novel telling the story of an Antarctic explorer racing against time and the Fijians to find her father.

THIRD. *Dynamics of Structure and Statics of Flow.* Do you ever notice how those permanent things that make up the world seem to always be bending? Do you ever notice how those temporary things that move so rapidly seem to always be the same?

FOURTH. *Legal Lacunae.* Often there is no precise rule governing a thing. These gaps ought to be where

revolutionary living pops up.

FIFTH. *Uniparty.* A treatise on the political class and the potential illusion of choice. Also, a very charged political word.

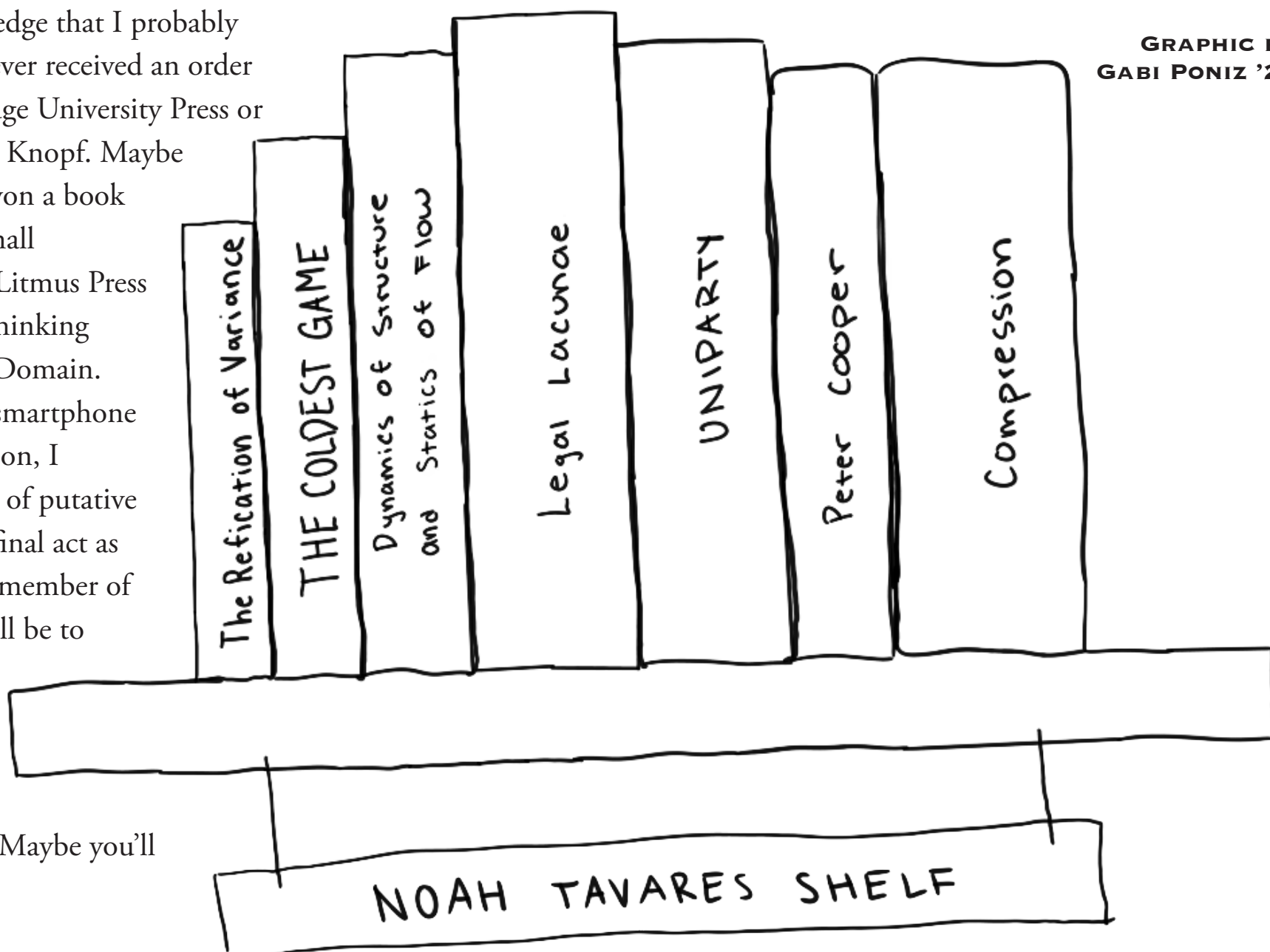
SIXTH. *Peter Cooper.* Telling the true story of Peter Cooper, the man who discovered the I-beam without an engineering degree. This biography interrogates the scientific process in the production of objects.

SEVENTH. *Compression.* Notes on how curiosity has driven tools for essentialization, ranging from brains to computers to societies. Radical solutions for a society based around nuance.

I look forward to my royalties.

NOAH TAVARES '24
(NOAHTAVARES@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS FINISHED, FOR NOW.

GRAPHIC BY
GABI PONIZ '26



Quaffles and Bludgers and Snitches, Oh My!

The Harvard Horntails win the D1 national title at the 2024 US Quadball Cup.

BY ELLIE TUNNELL '27

April 14, 2024, marked a historic day. The Harvard Horntails, Harvard's esteemed Quadball team, flew to Round Rock, Texas, and emerged victorious as the 2024 US Quadball D1 national champions assuming their spot as the fifth college to claim the US Quadball (USQ) Cup after Middlebury College, University of Texas Austin, University of Rochester, and University of Texas San Antonio (USTA). Quadball, inspired by the beloved broom-flying game Quidditch in the *Harry Potter* series, has found acceptance as a real-life sport today. J.K. Rowling's Wizarding World may be a fantasy, but "muggle (non-magical people) Quidditch" is the next best option for fans. It breaks free from the boundaries of conventional sports to spearhead a new era of athleticism where people of all identities can come together to compete.

It is every eight-year-old's dream to sweep through the air on a Firebolt, dodging bludgers, and chasing after the Golden Snitch just like *Harry Potter*. The sport came to the muggle world in 2005 when two boys, Xander Manshel and Alex Benepe, brought it to life as an intramural activity at Middlebury College. They never expected their contribution to the *Harry Potter* fandom to grow into a global phenomenon in less than 20 years.

Omitting the flying broomsticks and magical balls, Quadball is designed to mirror the magical game as much as possible. The objective of the game is simple: to score more points than your opponents. The full-contact game combines the peak strategies from a multitude of sports. With basketball boxing-out, rugby tackling, dodgeball strategy, and handball scoring, Quadball sounds like every NARP's (non-athletic regular person) worst nightmare.

Seven players assume the pitch during a Quadball match, each straddling a broom (a PVC pipe) at all times. Three "chasers" score goals by throwing the quadball, a deflated volleyball inspired by the quaffle, into the opposing team's hoops while the keeper is tasked with defending them. The field turns into a chaotic game of dodgeball on steroids when the two "beaters" come in hurling dodgeballs, inspired by bludgers, at the opposing

players to knock them out. Finally, the seeker's sole job is to chase down the flag, inspired by the Golden Snitch, which is strapped to the waistband of the flag runner, who is released 18 minutes into the match. Catching the flag is worth a whopping 35 points and ends the game.

In 2022, the U.S. and U.K. associations devoted to Quidditch rebranded the name from Quidditch to Quadball, marking an important moment in the sport's history and allowing for growth, sponsorship, and expansion. The USQ supported ditching its name for two reasons: to trademark an original name away from Warner Bros and to separate ties from J.K. Rowling, following her comments toward transgender people. Quadball may be young, but it has rapidly grown from a niche college sport to establishing a base of thousands of players across 40 countries and nearly 600 teams, according to the United States National Team (USNT).

Out of Harvard's 450 student organizations, intramural sports, and extracurricular opportunities, it is doubtful that an eager high-school student lands in the Yard determined to start their Quadball career. But with a club table full of gregarious and good-looking athletes, it is hard not to be intrigued by the Harvard Quadball team. Jessica Lee '25 led the Harvard Horntails to victory this year alongside her fellow captains Ian Palk '25 and Max Semegran '25 in a historic rematch against 2023 defending champions UTSA with a final score of 160-140.

Growing up playing soccer, basketball, wrestling, and rugby, Lee came to Harvard looking for a new team to join and felt that "the sport was just made for an all-around athlete." The fast-paced game requires highly competent individuals, and Lee loves playing for The Harvard Horntails—not just because of their athletic chemistry, but also because it is one of the most inclusive teams on campus.

The International Quadball Association (IQA) believes that "Our sport has developed a reputation as one of the most progressive sports in the world on gender equality and inclusivity." As captain, Lee feels it is imperative to live up to this reputation and foster a team environment anyone can be a part of. That was one of the reasons she was drawn to the sport: "[It is] one of the only co-ed sports here. It's a very gender-inclusive sport and advocates

for women on the field, so that was a huge plus for me." Not only is Quadball co-ed, but the USQ has a gender maximum rule that stipulates that a team may not have more than four players of the same gender on the pitch at one time.

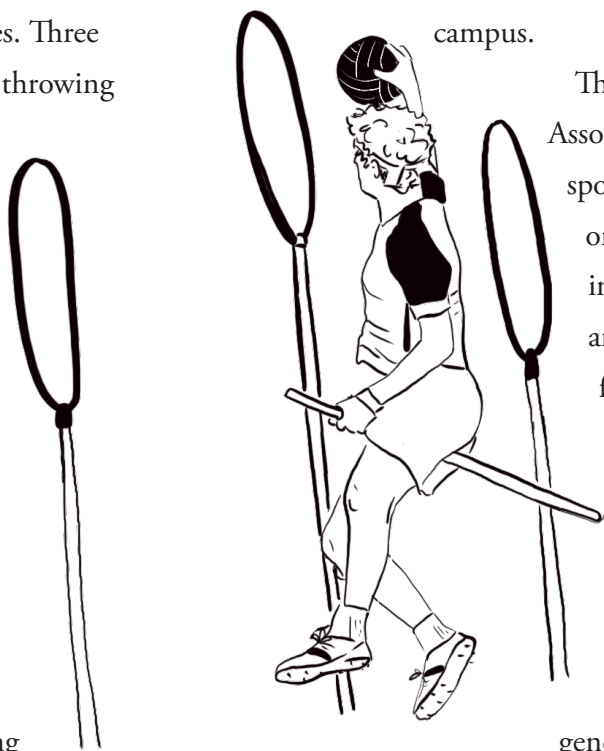
Most sports on the high school level and above operate on a binary system, divided into exclusively men's and women's teams. The gender maximum rule in Quadball turned this traditional gender binary on its head. Similar to Title IX, a bill ensuring equal participation in scholastic sports at the collegiate levels, the USQ developed its own version, Title 9 3/4, referencing the fictional train platform nine and three-quarters from the *Harry Potter* series. Lee emphasizes that The Harvard Horntails are dedicated to breaking the harmful gender stereotypes of being a more masculine or feminine sport and providing a platform for non-binary and transgender players to feel welcomed, respected, and valued on the pitch.

Do not be fooled by its fantastical origin—Quadball is taking off as a legitimized national sport. "One of the struggles with Quadball is people around campus not really taking it seriously," Lee explained. "I don't blame them. Like, it's Quidditch." Quadball is challenging. It is physical. It is complicated. The game has become a huge part of Lee and her teammates' lives. She reflected, "I wish that more people would just kind of try it out or be open-minded to it as a sport." Lee and her teammates have been scouted for the US National Team Developmental Academy. They represent the highest level of play and the future of this sport.

With four of the six starters graduating this year, the Harvard Horntails are looking for eager first-year students to hop on a broom and take the pitch. Quadball attracts people with any athletic ability and knowledge of the sport itself. Unlike the trauma many face from intensive soccer camps and mean dance instructors, Quadball is a unifying experience, because it is new for everyone. The unusual game draws people into its inclusive community and breaks down the barriers between novices and experts. Next year, the Horntails aspire to two-peat their national title and, more importantly, uphold their legacy in the strong community across the world.

ELLIE TUNNELL '27 (ELLIE_TUNNELL@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) HAS A CELEBRITY CRUSH ON VIKTOR KRUM.

GRAPHIC BY CLARA LAKE '27



Sports Spotlight: Jessica Guo

Her road to fencing foil at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

BY ANDREW MORRISSEY '26 AND DENNY GULIA-JANOVSKI '26

Jessica Guo '27 from Toronto, Canada, started fencing at six years old. After watching her older sister and brother fence, she decided to try her hand. Guo quickly rose to the top of the rankings in Canada and competed in the U.S. early on in her fencing career. She started fencing in international competitions by the age of 14. Deciding between Princeton, Columbia, and Harvard for college, she ultimately chose Harvard due to her love of Boston and the fencing team. By the time she arrived at Harvard, she had already competed at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and won two Cadet World Championship titles. Now a member of Harvard's fencing team, Guo has been a key part of the team's success as their season concluded this year with winning the NCAA Division 1 National Championship trophy.

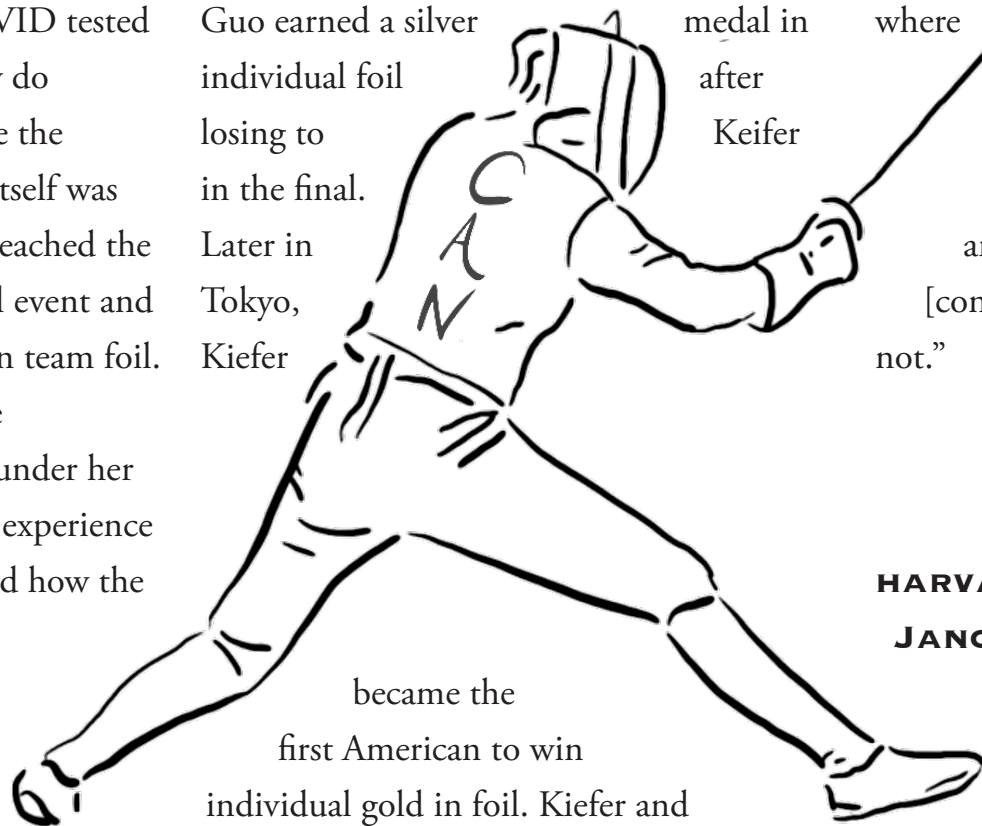
Now she's going to her second Olympics. Guo competed in the Summer 2020 Tokyo Olympics at the age of 15, held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Guo reflected on her experience in Tokyo, explaining, "It was kind of bad because it was [after] COVID year, so I didn't go to opening ceremonies because I didn't want to get COVID and not be able to compete. And then we just had to get COVID tested every day, and you couldn't really do anything—like you couldn't leave the village. But, I mean, competing itself was pretty fun," she explained. Guo reached the round of 16 in the individual foil event and helped Team Canada finish 5th in team foil.

Now she's returning to the Olympics with more experience under her belt and a more typical Olympic experience to look forward to. Guo explained how the process of getting into the Olympics was an intense year-long process. Guo competed in at least eight competitions abroad. She and three other Canadian teammates fight to qualify as a team, and once they are granted the team spot, they are given three

individual spots for the four of them. Guo, who received one of those spots, will be competing for a medal individually as well as for the team. She described this journey to the games as different from her previous one. "It wasn't as intense as the first one because [the qualification process] was pretty close in the qualifications for the Tokyo Olympics, but for the Paris Olympics, we were pretty far ahead."

"I'm looking forward to just interacting with a bunch of people and interacting with all the Canadian athletes because, for my first Olympics, you were kind of just quarantined in your room," she explained. "Also just getting to visit the city because I'm sure there's a lot of fun events and hanging out with family." Since her family was not allowed to attend the events in Tokyo due to pandemic restrictions, she is excited to get the opportunity to experience the games with them this year.

While matchups for the summer games are not yet decided, it is possible Guo will meet familiar opponents on the strip. When asked who her role model is, Guo answered with 29-year-old American fencer Lee Kiefer. "She's just really good at fencing. I mean I've always looked up to her." In the 2019 Pan American Games in Lima, Peru, Guo earned a silver medal in individual foil after losing to Kiefer in the final. Later in Tokyo, Kiefer



became the first American to win individual gold in foil. Kiefer and Guo have both committed to the 2024 games, setting up a potential bout between the two. She may also end up competing against Harvard teammate Lauren Scruggs

'25 in the games. "She's also qualified, but for the U.S., so we're going to possibly be competing against each other at the Olympics, so that's gonna be exciting."

When asked about her expectations for the games, she said, "I don't really have any goals going into it. I just don't want to go back home being like, 'I should have done this' or 'I should have done that.' But, I think I just want to try my best and just come back with no regrets."

Guo has fencing practice five days a week, three hours per day, while additionally studying neuroscience on the pre-med track. While fencing is a big part of her life, so are her studies. Despite her frequent international travels, Guo says she feels well-supported in balancing academics and her fencing career. "I just talked to my professors a bunch. They know the situation. And if I just communicate really well, they're pretty accommodating."

Giving some advice to the younger fencers, Guo's biggest touching point was adaptability. "I think adaptability is the biggest one because you have to adapt during a bout, and there's a lot of changes to be made." As for her career in fencing, she is already looking at the 2028 Games in Los Angeles but is not sure where school might take her in the meantime. Medical school could play a role in her ultimate decision. "It depends how busy I am for that, but I'm planning to [continue fencing] but...also ready to not."

ANDREW MORRISSEY '26
(AJMORRISSEY@COLLEGE.
HARVARD.EDU) AND DENNY GULIA
JANOVSKI '26 (DGULIAJANOVSKI@
COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU)
WRITE SPORTS FOR THE
INDEPENDENT.

GRAPHIC BY EMILY PALLAN '27

Indy Sportsbook: Ball's Well That Ends Well

Top picks for the end of the professional European soccer season.

BY VINCENT HONRUBIA '27

When William Shakespeare wrote, "Parting is such sweet sorrow," he was clearly writing about the final Indy Sportsbook installment of the school year. Fittingly, for this last issue, we'll be reviewing top bets for the end of league football around the world. How you will get through the next four months without our picks every week, we're not sure. But for one last time this school year, we'll be overly analyzing a league table to perhaps not-so-accurately predict who will be crowned the champions in a couple of weeks.

When we last predicted the Champions League round of 16, we placed way too much faith in the underdogs. In an underwhelming round with few goals, the favorites dominated, winning seven of the eight games. The only upset occurred when Atletico Madrid beat Inter Milan, which was an exciting upset we had predicted. Overall, the Sportsbook performed fairly average, getting five of the eight games, but like for all Harvard students, getting a 62.5% is simply unacceptable. But, the final is worth 30% of the grade, and we've been given a shot at redeeming our 4.0 by predicting domestic league and Champions League winners.

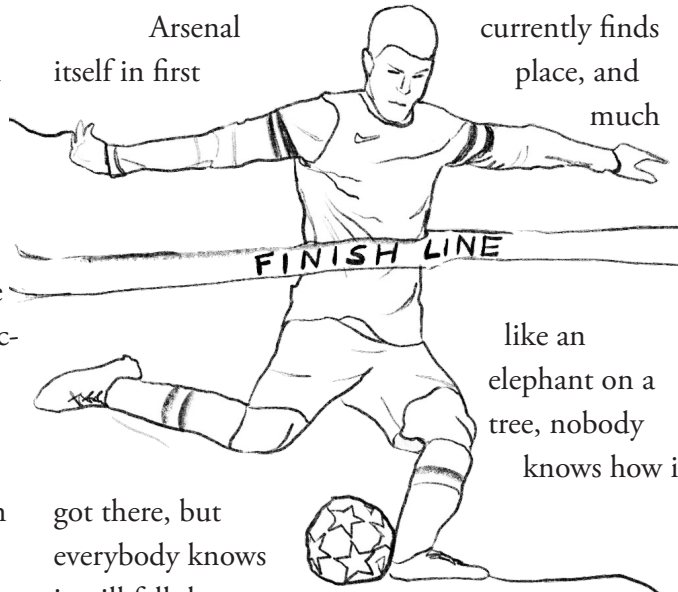
While many major leagues have already been decided, like the German Bundesliga and Italian Serie A, some teams will be fighting until the very last match day of the season before knowing their fate. In recent years, Liverpool and Manchester City have battled in the Premier League, amassing record-breaking numbers of points and pushing each other for the trophy until the final minute of the last game. With the addition of Arsenal into the mix this year, it's looking as competitive as ever. These high-stakes final games are what make the Prem one of the most popular and watched leagues in the world.

From the start, this year has been a three-horse race. While teams like Tottenham Hotspur and Aston Villa have looked to challenge for the title at moments, in the end, the squad depth and quality of the Manchester City, Arsenal, and Liverpool teams have set them apart from the rest. As it stands, Arsenal leads the way with 80 points, while Manchester City follows with 79 and Liverpool with 75. Fourth place Aston Villa is some ways away with 67 and will be more focused on retaining the fourth and last UEFA Champions League spot.

With four games to go and a possible 12 points to be achieved, most teams' fates are quickly falling out of their own hands. The defending champions, Manchester City, are the clear favorites. At -360 odds with a favorable run in playing three bottom-half teams, Manchester City is the only team that truly controls its own destiny. After a dominant season marked by homegrown star Phil Foden cementing himself as a Ballon d'Or favorite and Erling Haaland looking to retain his golden boot, the champions look far from slowing down. Their job is simple, and the betting odds reflect it: win the last four games of the season and

break history by being the first team to win the title in four consecutive seasons.

Arsenal currently finds itself in first place, and much



like an elephant on a tree, nobody knows how it

got there, but everybody knows it will fall down.

They currently sit as second favorites (+230) and are City's only real competition. After their recent Champions League defeat to German giants Bayern Munchen, Arsenal's sole focus is on league play. Still, their title hopes look doubtful. With a North London derby against Spurs and a penultimate match against a sometimes-good Manchester United team, Arsenal has to be perfect and rely on City dropping points to lift the trophy on the final day.

Liverpool and Jurgen Klopp will look back at this season as a missed opportunity. Plagued with injuries and inconsistent performances from their goalscorers, a poor run of form late in the season leaves Liverpool essentially out of the title race. At +5000 odds, five points behind and having by far the most difficult run-in of games, it would be nearly impossible for Liverpool to send off Jurgen Klopp with a second premier league trophy in his last season with the club. After being knocked out of every competition and losing three of their last five games, even +5000 odds don't look worth the gamble.

If you prefer betting on individual player stats and have no interest in keeping track of only three teams simultaneously, look no further than the top scorer category this year. The winner last year, Erling Haaland, is currently tied for first, with Chelsea's Cole Palmer scoring 20 league goals each. Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins is close behind with 19 goals, edging out Bournemouth's Dominic Solanke and Newcastle's Alexander Isak with 18, and Liverpool's Mohamed Salah with 17 goals on the season.

We at the Indy Sportsbook are big fans of Watkins at +700. Haaland's questionable fitness and lack of scoring in big games makes him a less fun, obvious choice that we simply cannot recommend. Palmer has been a standout performer for Chelsea this year, and the 20-year-old will look to cap off an unimpressive team season with several individual awards. Watkins, in our opinion, should be awarded Premier League Player of the Season and is more than deserving of the Golden Boot. Trailing by only one goal while leading the league in assists, his recent form and overall level of play this year almost make +700 seem like a lock.

The end of the Premier League season does not mean the end of football, with the UEFA Champions League Final still left to be played in late May. The so-called best league in the world finds itself with zero semifinalists, as the last two English teams were knocked out in the quarterfinal. The final four matchup sees Real Madrid facing Bayern Munchen while Paris Saint Germain will face off against Borussia Dortmund. These historic clubs will all be competing for the ultimate prize in club football, but just who will be lifting the trophy this summer?

Real Madrid are tentatively favorites, and after seeing off Manchester City in penalty kicks, they will feel confident going into their away match against Bundesliga runner-up Bayern. After not winning their league for the first time in over ten years, Bayern is heavily relying on a Champions League trophy to mark this year as a success. A trophy will not only save their season but would also be a historic moment for star transfer Harry Kane, as he hopes to win his first-ever major trophy. For this matchup, we at the Indy Sportsbook refuse to bet against fourteen-time winners Real Madrid, and at -178 odds, we think the favorites should be trusted to get the job done. Real Madrid has already won the Spanish league and faces one of the weaker Bayern teams in recent memory.

On the other side of the bracket, German team Borussia Dortmund matches up against the French champions PSG. In the round of 16, we predicted PSG as a major upset candidate in their game with Sociedad, but since then, they have only improved. After an impressive performance coming from behind at Camp Nou, they are definitely favorites going into this tie. As the saying goes, "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice; shame on me." Unfortunately, we could care less about this saying and still think PSG is just not that good. Kylian Mbappe is undoubtedly one of the best players in the world, but PSG's midfield and defense are just too lackluster to compete at this stage.

The second-division English league is the title race we will be following closest to the end of the school year. A longtime favorite team, Leeds United, is in a tight automatic promotion battle with Leicester City and Ipswich Town and will need the equivalent of a 100 on the final to get an A in the class. +220 odds aren't the worst in the world, but a major slip-up from Ipswich will be needed for Leeds fans to go into summer in a relatively good mood. As the curtains close on this season's thrilling matches and our last issue of the Indy Sportsbook, we wish you a summer filled with successful wagers and unforgettable moments. Happy gambling, and see you next year!

VINCENT HONRUBIA '27

(VINCENTHONRUBIA@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WILL BE DEVASTATED IF HE HAS TO WATCH CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL NEXT YEAR.

GRAPHIC BY CHRISTIE BECKLEY '25
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Curtain Call

BY REBECCA ACKERMAN '25

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1. Tassel movers
6. Lash ____ (attack)
7. Stay in touch, in a way
8. Parent, typically
9. Goes downhill

DOWN

1. 1 Across's Garb
2. Out in the sticks
3. "Once upon ____
..."
4. Went out with
5. Trick endings?

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Eliza Kimball

Adrian Spitzer