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ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT...

As Harvard College’s weekly undergraduate newsmagazine, the *Harvard Independent* provides in-depth, critical coverage of issues and events of interest to the Harvard College community. The *Independent* has no political affiliation, instead offering diverse commentary on news, arts, sports, and student life.

For general or business inquiries, contact president@harvardindependent.com. Address Letters to the Editor, op-eds, or comments regarding content to editorinchief@harvardindependent.com. To subscribe to bi-weekly mailed print issues, email subscriptions@harvardindependent.com.

We belong to no one but ourselves.

NEWS

In Case You Missed It

Harvard University administrative and campus news updates from Summer 2024.

BY LAYLA CHAARAOUI '26

Harvard Announces its New President: On Aug. 2, Penny Pritzker, Senior Fellow of the Harvard Corporation, announced in a message to the Harvard community that Interim President Alan Garber '76 will serve as the University's president through the 2026-27 academic year. This puts an end, for now, to the presidential search that was initially poised to begin earlier this year. Pritzker wrote, "Over the last seven months, and for years before that, Alan has led with a deep concern for all members of the Harvard community, a strong devotion to enduring university ideals, and a paramount commitment to academic excellence." In a follow-up statement by Garber to the community, the new president expressed gratitude and hopefulness for the coming years. "I am excited by the prospect of what we can achieve in these next years and will have more to say about our efforts on many fronts when the fall term begins," he said. "Meanwhile, I will do my utmost to ensure that we continue to advance knowledge and drive discovery even as we work to mend the fabric of our community."

Withheld Diplomas are Rewarded: On July 22, Harvard spokesperson Jason A. Newton confirmed that 11 of the 13 diplomas withheld from seniors who participated in the May encampments would be awarded. Harvard's original decision in May to withhold the degrees sparked backlash, which led to a mass walkout at Commencement of over 1,000 students, faculty and staff, and community members. "The University continues to work to strengthen and improve disciplinary processes, such as the

recently announced procedures to enable the work of the University Committee on Rights and Responsibilities to enhance the consistency of investigation and factfinding processes in cases involving more than one school," Newton wrote in a statement to *The Harvard Crimson*.

Harvard Amends Encampment Punishments: Similarly, on July 9, Harvard reversed its decision to suspend five students over their involvement in the encampments or protests. Originally, the suspended students would be forced to withdraw for multiple semesters before returning to campus. Now, these suspensions have been reduced to probation, with the most severe penalty lasting one semester. This follows Harvard's decision on

May 13 to reinstate the over 20 students initially placed on involuntary leaves of absence due to their encampment participation.

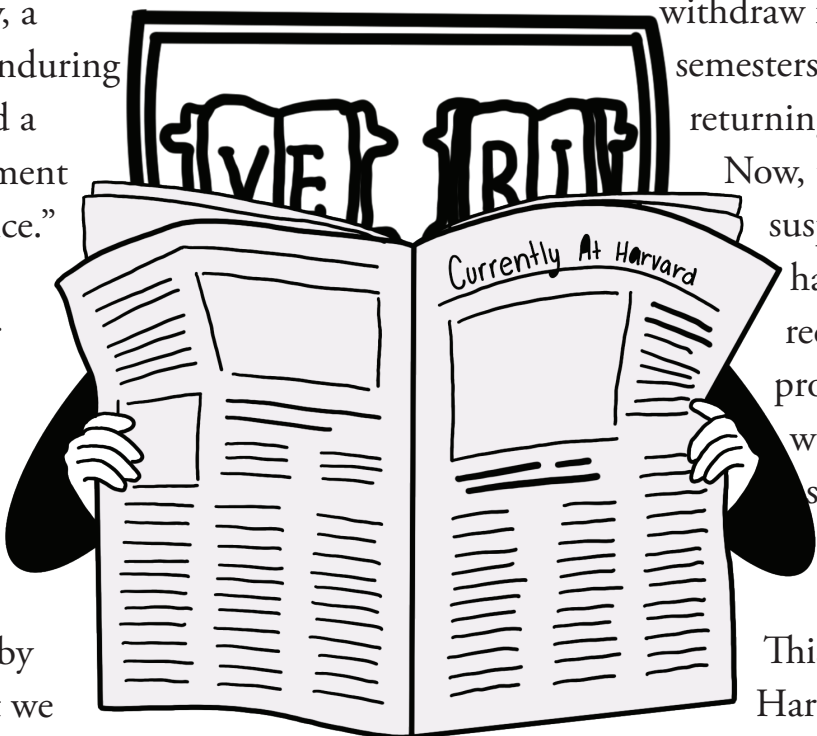
Harvard Appoints Additional New University Leaders: Alongside Garber, the University appointed several others to new positions of leadership. Interim provost John F. Manning '82 was announced to serve as the next provost of Harvard University by Garber on Aug. 15. Formerly the Dean of Harvard Law School, Manning became interim provost in March, replacing Garber as he filled the role of interim president. "John has done an outstanding job maintaining momentum across a broad portfolio of academic activities while leading efforts to articulate, communicate, and uphold the values of the University," Garber wrote

in an email to the Harvard community. Additionally, Garber announced on July 10 that Jennifer O'Connor '87 had been appointed the next vice president and general counsel of the University. She succeeds Diane Lopez, who retired at the end of February after serving since 2019.

Harvard Updates its Rules: Various updates to University guidelines were made throughout the summer. On May 28, a message entitled "Institutional Voice" was released, revealing the University had accepted the Institutional Voice Working Group's report and recommendations to not release official statements on public issues. "When the University 'speaks officially on matters outside its institutional area of expertise,' such statements risk compromising the 'integrity and credibility' of our academic mission and may undermine open inquiry and academic freedom," the statement read. On July 18, the "Update on University Rights and Responsibilities" statement confirmed a standardization of fact-checking procedures when determining disciplinary action toward students.

Harvard Introduces Access to ChatGpt Edu: An Aug. 26 email announced that Harvard College would be providing its students access to OpenAI's ChatGpt Edu. The service is supposed to provide an "accessible option for universities to deploy AI to students, faculty, researchers, and campus operations," according to its website. The College additionally highlighted several ways in which faculty have begun to propose or adopt the usage of generative AI in their classrooms or resources.

LAYLA CHAARAOUI '26
(LAYLACHAARAOUI@COLLEGE.
HARVARD.EDU) IS THE MANAGING
EDITOR OF THE *INDEPENDENT*.
GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26



All About John Manning

What to know about Harvard University's next provost.

BY SARA KUMAR '27

“Everybody likes John, everybody trusts John,” said HLS Charles Warren Professor of Legal History Michael J. Klarman in an interview with *The Crimson*.

After serving as Harvard University's Interim Provost since March, Harvard confirmed on Aug. 15 that John Manning '82 will permanently retain his position. As political and social tensions surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict and the upcoming 2024 presidential election continue to remain at the forefront, this legal scholar arrives at a critical juncture.

This role comes after recently-named university president and former provost, Alan Garber '76, was chosen to succeed former Harvard University president, Claudine Gay, following her resignation. During his time as Interim Provost, Manning spearheaded the creation of two critical forums: the Open Inquiry and Constructive Dialogue Working Group and the Institutional Voice Working Group. These initiatives sought to leverage faculty expertise to examine how open dialogue and University statements on public issues should be conducted.

In his letter to the Harvard community, Garber emphasized these projects, alongside Manning's other accomplishments relating to academic and discourse-based freedom, to assert that Manning is “the right person for the moment in which we find ourselves.” Garber went on to express that Manning “has done an outstanding job maintaining momentum across broad academic activities while leading efforts to articulate, communicate, and uphold the values of the University.”

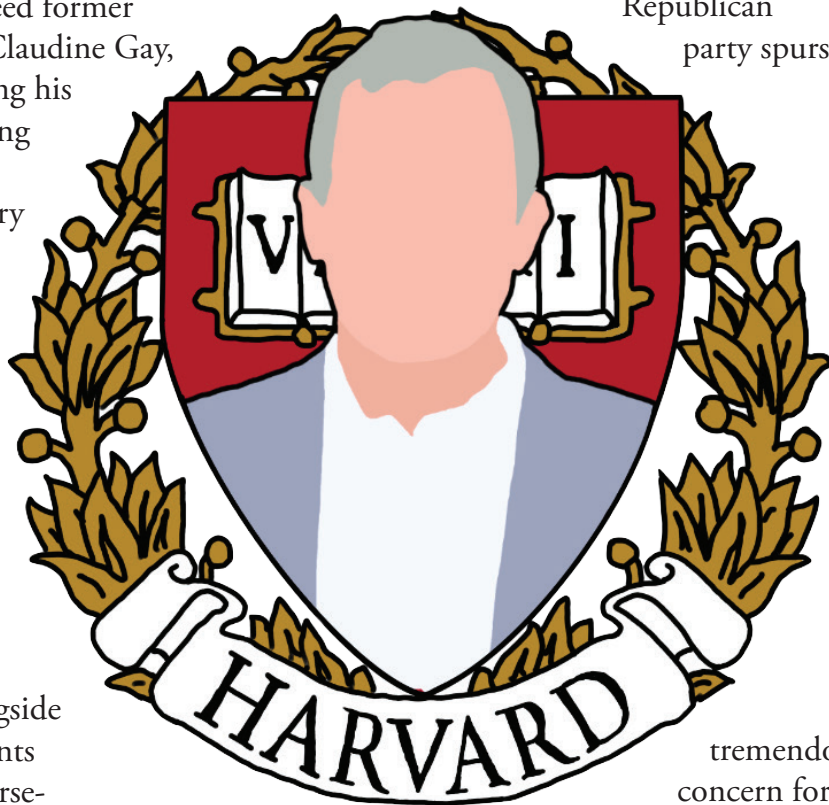
However, though a renowned legal scholar today, Manning could have pursued a career in acting rather than law. Manning's mother, Sheila Manning was considered a “veteran casting director” for commercials, spotlighting John Manning from a young age along with now-famous celebrities Farrah Fawcett, Michael J. Fox, and River and Joaquin Phoenix. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Peter Lake, professor at Stetson University's law school and friend of Manning confessed that Manning “could have had a Hollywood career if he wanted to do it.” Nonetheless, his commitment and passion for law led him down a different path.

While Manning's credentials make him, on paper, qualified to take on this new role, instances like his refusal to answer if the HLS Religious Freedom Clinic's opening would inhibit the rights of LGBTQ+ students prompt concerns about whether his political beliefs will overshadow the recent push for greater activism

beyond. However, as writers from *The Crimson* in 2017 and 2024, *The New York Times*, and additional publications posited, his right-wing standing might be to the school's benefit.

Anemona Hartocollis, NYT reporter covering higher education, wrote that Manning's “reputation for diplomacy and conservative credentials might prove advantageous in his role as provost... as Harvard continues to face immense pressure from congressional Republicans who have criticized it for not doing enough to protect Jewish students during protests.”

And while, today, the radicalism of the Republican party spurs



tremendous concern for some, in an interview

with Hartocollis, Klarman clarified that, despite his conservative beliefs, “the takeover of the party by its MAGA wing led [Manning] to quit the party.”

However, regardless of his political affiliations, Manning has admitted to wanting “to foster a large community in which there are lots of different perspectives, approaches, and methodologies.” During his time on faculty at Harvard Law School (HLS), he exemplified this statement as he consistently encouraged open discourse and academic freedom regardless of his opinions.

Committed to the entire Law School community, upon accepting the position of Dean in July 2013, Manning jumped into building relationships and garnering feedback. Hosting lunches entitled, “Meals With Manning,” every week, Manning got to know his fellow HLS student-body and faculty while hearing their ideas on how to improve the school.

Looking to boost inclusivity, Manning was part of a task force that considered accepting the GRE in place of the LSAT for HLS admission. The law school passed this policy in the spring of 2017. Once a student was accepted into the Law School, wanting to ensure that everyone, regardless of their background and academic experience, felt

prepared to tackle Harvard Law, Manning assisted in the creation of a self-paced, online law course called Zero-L in 2018. Heavily influenced by Manning's status as a first-gen student, this program was taught by Harvard Law faculty and covered the baseline legal vocabulary and background on the American legal system. Expanding this HLS-focused initiative to a global program, Manning also spearheaded the creation of Harvard Law School Online to translate the legal expertise developed on the HLS campus worldwide. The platform still exists and includes online courses, specific programming, and open casebook resources.

Apart from his accomplishments as the HLS Dean, Manning's history as a first-generation student at the University makes him a seemingly perfect candidate to work throughout the undergraduate and graduate levels. In an interview with the *Harvard Gazette*, Manning explained that he “felt nervous, but also determined. I had great teachers and classmates, and every class I took was mind-opening and exciting.” He continued to express that he got “to feel the sensation of [his] life changing in real time. It was amazing.” This position shaped his undergraduate experience.

As a former Quincy House penguin, Manning concentrated in History and ultimately graduated in 1982 summa cum laude and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Progressing from the College to the Law School, Manning graduated from HLS in 1985.

Following his graduation, Manning spent his early career as a law clerk. He spent eighteen months working in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit for Robert H. Bork before clerking for Supreme Court Justice and HLS alumni Antonin Scalia during the 1988 October term. Following these roles, Manning served in the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel and Solicitor General's Office in private practice before becoming a professor at Columbia Law School in 1994. In 2004, he returned to Cambridge, where he has stayed since, to work as a professor at HLS.

As with any new leadership, there are pros and cons. Considering Manning's political affiliations and the unique time period our nation finds itself in with the upcoming 2024 election amidst heavy international conflicts, it will be interesting to see how he leads Harvard over these next few months and in the coming years. However, his strong Harvard background will definitely serve as an asset.

SARA KUMAR '27 (SJKUMAR@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WRITES NEWS FOR THE INDEPENDENT.

GRAPHIC BY SOPHIA RASCOFF '27

“This Time, It’s Different.”

Gabriel Ferrer '26 speaks on Venezuela's post-election crisis and his role in raising awareness at Harvard.

BY ABRIL RODRIGUEZ DIAZ '26

“We need the world to know what is happening in Venezuela,” declared Gabriel Ferrer '26 on an Instagram reel that has since reached almost 18 thousand views. He went on to give a passionate rundown of Venezuela's current post-election crisis. “We're now in the process of defending the truth, and we're asking the international community to help us,” he said.

Ferrer, born and raised in Venezuela, has spent the weeks since the presidential election trying to raise awareness about what is happening in his country. “People just don't know about it. That's what we want to change,” he explained in an interview with the *Independent*. “Because at the end of the day, we're Harvard students. We should be familiar with what is happening.”

In his efforts to get the word out at Harvard, Ferrer has encountered numerous challenges. He explained that many undergraduate groups are hesitant to release statements on Venezuela, particularly after the Israel-Palestine statements from campus organizations last spring heightened tensions on and beyond campus. “People are scared,” Ferrer said. “I was trying to generate dialogue through an undergraduate organization that I am a part of, and people were pushing back, raising questions like, ‘How is this going to affect us? Are people going to look at us badly just because we're involving ourselves in politics?’”

But Ferrer said that the crisis in Venezuela can be supported without provoking controversy because the Venezuelan opposition movement is nonviolent. “The movement is peaceful,” he explained. “María Corina Machado's idea is to push for a peaceful transition of the government. So we've been trying to get that fear [of speaking up] away from Harvard students, but it's been hard.”

Domestic Venezuelans also take a risk when speaking out against the crisis. Any Venezuelan who protests against the authoritarian Maduro regime risks imprisonment, and in many cases, death. Operación Tun-Tun (Operation Knock-Knock) is what the government is calling its sweeping crackdown on protests nationwide. Nicolás Maduro himself reports over 2,000 arrests since the election, and external sources, including the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States, report nearly 2,000 arrests. There is an indeterminate but growing number of protestors who have been killed.

But even in the face of heightened violence and fear, Ferrer says that things are different this time. In contrast to the many attempts since 2002 to topple the Chavismo regime, Ferrer says that three key aspects make this opposition attempt stronger than those that have preceded it.

For the first time in Chavismo's history, there exists proof of election fraud, which has bolstered the Venezuelan cause to the global stage. “We have not been able to prove the fraud before. Now, we have proof that the international community and the Venezuelan people can confirm,” Ferrer said. “We can see that Edmundo-

Gonzalez won by a landslide, and that is after everything that the Maduro regime did to prevent people from voting.”

In response to the critical evidence, leftist leaders, including Chilean president Gabriel Boric, have spoken out against Maduro. “I have no doubt that the Maduro regime has attempted to commit fraud,” Boric stated during a press conference held the day after the Venezuelan elections.

Similarly, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil called the Maduro regime “authoritarian” and “very unpleasant,” which is a significant shift from his commentary just one year ago, when he described the labeling of the Maduro regime as authoritarian as “constructed” and “unfair.”

Ferrer commented on this growing opposition, explaining that “now that we have the proof, it's really hard for Venezuela's traditional allies to associate with the Maduro regime publicly.” President Lula has historically been one of Maduro's closest allies, which is why, Ferrer said, it is so important that he publicly denounced the Maduro regime. “That's what we want,” Ferrer said. “We want the Venezuelan government to be left out from all of their traditional allies.”

The second aspect that Ferrer identifies that gives the opposition movement unprecedented power is its level of cohesiveness. “The Venezuelan opposition was never united. It never had the same interests. There was never such a centralized and united movement until now,” he explained. “But now, María Machado's leadership has been incredible. She has been such a strong leader [of the opposition], and it's also very impactful that she's a woman. She has stood her ground, gone against all odds, brushed off death threats, and brought back the faith and the unity to the movement,” Ferrer said.

Machado has emerged as the most significant beacon of hope for Venezuelans within the opposition in the 25 years since Chavismo began. Despite the election results, she has remained steadfast, continually encouraging her over eight million Instagram followers to continue protesting, saying, “The world will again see that the Venezuelans are united, and that there is no turning back because we will not leave the streets.”

“She represents a light in the middle of all of the darkness that Chavismo has created,” Ferrer said, comparing Machado's eminent leadership to that of Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. “The most important thing [Machado] has accomplished is uniting all the people who are against the regime, from the far right to the far left of the political spectrum,” he emphasized.

The final component that Ferrer pointed to is the emerging fractured nature of the Maduro regime. “The regime had internal problems, but the people never saw them,” Ferrer explained. “Chavismo was always able to hide what was happening inside the nucleus. Now the cracks are emerging, and the desperation of the Chavismo movement is visible, like ‘we don't know what to

do.’ And now the only thing they have left is repression. That's the only thing they are doing.” The Maduro regime has begun intensifying tactics as governments, public figures, ordinary speak out the election. The government has escalated beyond its usual detention of protestors by detaining and shooting several journalists. Additionally, the government passed an “anti-NGO” law, which “punishes efforts to assist victims and defend human rights” in Venezuela, as reported by Amnesty International.

Ferrer emphasized how he believes that the global community should be supporting Venezuelans through the Maduro regime's severe repressive tactics. “We want sovereignty first, and we want to fix our own country,” he said. “But we're asking the international community to spread the word, because the people in Venezuela are not able to.”

Ferrer is eager to be a voice for the Venezuelans who cannot speak for themselves. Last year, he published his thoughts on the political-economic context of Venezuela's crisis in *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*. Given Venezuela's constant crisis, Ferrer has been interested in political science and economics from a very young age. “I've been exposed to political science and economics almost my whole life. I started worrying about inflation at about eight years old when some people don't even know what it is when they are twenty,” he said.

This fall, Ferrer is starting his junior year at Harvard. His love for his country drives him to learn. “I've been exposed to many good opportunities in my life that I would've never expected. Being able to use what I've learned to help my people—that's a passion of mine. That's why I'm studying economics and government.”

“I think that the Venezuelan people feel that this time things are different, that something big can happen,” Ferrer said. But regardless of the outcome in the coming months, one thing is for sure: Gabriel Ferrer is not giving up on his country. “I would love to maybe one day come back and try to make some change—to help my people.”



ABRIL RODRIGUEZ DIAZ '26
(ABRILRODRIGUEZDIAZ@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS THE FORUM EDITOR OF
THE *INDEPENDENT*.

GRAPHIC BY SEATTLE HICKEY '25

Meet the Harvard Students Who Helped Bring Paris 2024 to Life

You know the student-athletes who competed. Now get to know the students who worked there.

BY KAITLYN HOU '27

The 2024 Paris Olympic Games were historic for Harvard. Athletes that currently represent or formerly competed for the Crimson won a total of 13 medals, the highest medal count for the university since the 1896 Olympic Games. This year's games also saw an 82% increase in viewership compared to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, amassing over 30.6 million viewers across NBCUniversal's (NBCU) streaming platforms.

But what goes on when the cameras are off? In interviews with the *Independent*, three Harvard students share how they spent their summers in Paris interning at the Olympics. Cate Engles '25 and siblings Reeve Sykes '26 and Nuzzy Sykes '28 worked vastly different jobs. While their workdays varied, they all contributed to the elaborate logistics of Paris 2024, bringing new perspectives to the Olympics' overall success.

Engles had just returned from a spring semester abroad in France before she flew back for her summer internship. Engles is a Romance Languages and Literature concentrator focused on pursuing a career in journalism. Engles said she "knew the Olympics [were] coming" and was interested in working as a French translator back in the fall of her junior year. She figured "something [had] to open up from the broadcasting side of things." After checking the NBC website almost daily, she applied and was one of four students accepted as a Summer Olympics Hospitality Intern for NBCUniversal.

Every day looked different for Engles. Assigned to accompany NBCU's clients, NBC Executives, or individuals from NBC's advertising partners, Engles either attended an Olympic event or went to a curated "Parisian-inspired" cultural program for the clients. She got to see many of the Olympic stars and highlights, from Simone Biles in the beam and floor finals to the 200-meter race where Noah Lyles competed with COVID.

Engles helped navigate the daily hurdles of bringing the clients to the Olympic events and around Paris, which saw an influx of tourists and athletes. She shared the details of how much work the city had to do to "modify itself to take in all those people." For example, there were "Olympics-specific lanes that if you were in a hospitality group like Coca-Cola or NBC... you [could] drive [and] beat traffic." Engles also served as a translator for NBC clients and collaborated with the official Olympics staff

to move VIPs into the venues. Although many of the staff members spoke English, Engles' French expertise allowed her to navigate unexpected difficulties with ease. For instance, she solved "technological issues involving the Olympic ticketing application."

While Engles worked in the operations behind accommodating all the guests, Reeve Sykes' experience as a runner intern for NBC revealed what it was like to broadcast these games to the world. Her daily job would be "helping the camera crews...like holding the boom or the wires [and] helping them pack their gear" along with checking which events Team USA would be likely to medal in. A highlight of her experience was the two-week duration where the Sesame Street characters were in the NBC office interviewing the medalists.

"It would be like boom, boom, boom all at once," Sykes explained, describing the Sesame Street production process for the Olympics. The gold medalists they interviewed, like Katie Ledecky or the U.S. men's rowing four, all had jam-packed schedules, so everything was fast-paced. Sykes said, "We [did] maybe a five to ten-minute little skit interview with [the medalists], and then they go. Then, it's either we're going to shoot at this arena, or we're going to go to this venue, or we're going to go to the Eiffel Tower."

For the athletes being interviewed, the Sesame Street skits were a breath of fresh air. When interviewing gymnasts Jordan Chiles and Sunisa Lee, Sykes shared how they were "giggling and taking selfies with [Elmo] and sending pictures to their younger cousins or their nieces and nephews." Through her observations of the athletes interacting with the Sesame Street characters, Sykes said "I think the interviews can be very tedious for them, especially after they've just literally competed against the best in the entire world. They're tired... and then it's just Elmo. How can you not be laughing?"

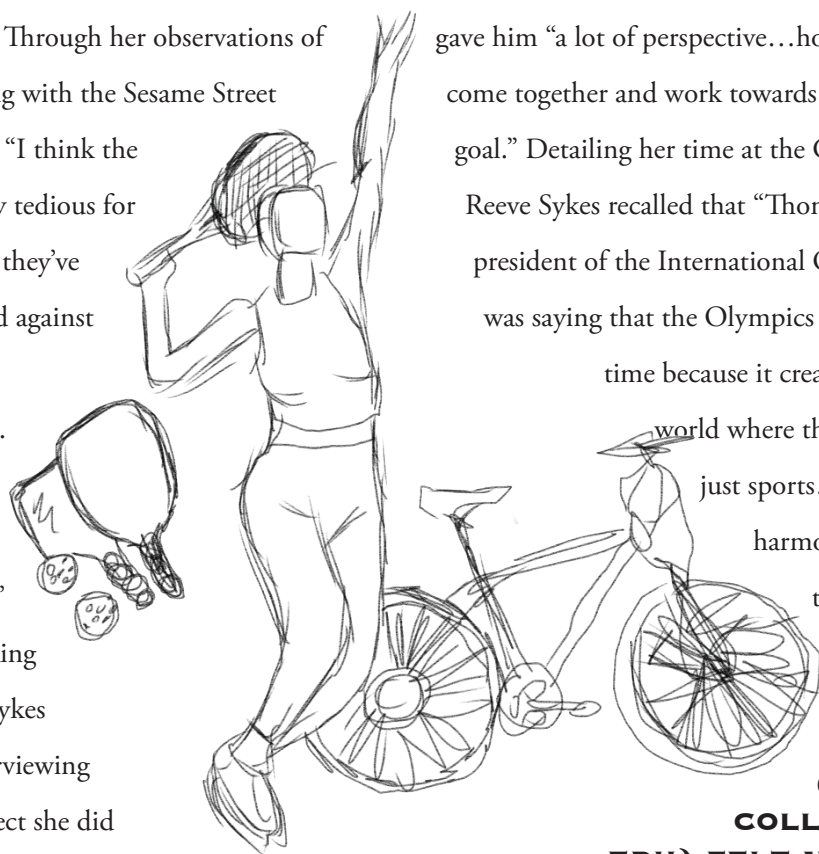
Besides working with Sesame Street, Sykes also helped with interviewing the athletes. One aspect she did not expect was how immediate the interviews were. After one of the water polo matches, for example, Sykes recalled how quickly the athletes arrived.

"They walked straight to be interviewed. They wouldn't even put on a towel. They'd still be dripping." From this experience, Sykes saw how the reporters captured "exactly how [the athletes] are feeling in the moment right after they have won or lost their game." Sykes furthered how impressive it was to see the reporters carry a meaningful interview "while they're in this crazy emotional [state]."

Reeve Sykes' younger brother Nuzzy Sykes was also working in Paris. Unlike Engles and his sister who worked for NBCU, Sykes was an intern for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation. According to Sykes, "Since all the United States athletes don't receive any government funding...the foundation is the organization that does that."

Sykes' job was assisting with the foundation's donor gifting programs. Specifically, Sykes was working in the USA house, which was "a big center for American spectators," and at three hotels where the donors were staying. In addition to dropping off gifts to the donors, he worked on inventory and stocking. Working with the donors, Sykes said his biggest take from this experience was "you never really know someone's full story until after you talk with them."

Although these students' experiences were different, they all expressed how Paris was captured by the Olympic spirit. Engles described that the "crowds were very French." When talking to locals, the Parisians told her that "they've never seen French people come out like that." Nuzzy Sykes shared that his internship gave him "a lot of perspective...how so many people can come together and work towards one, three-week-long goal." Detailing her time at the Closing Ceremony, Reeve Sykes recalled that "Thomas Bach, who's the president of the International Olympic Committee, was saying that the Olympics are a very special time because it creates this very small world where there's nothing else, just sports...There's so much harmony. Everyone is there to compete."



KAITLYN HOU '27

(KAITLYNHOU@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) FELT NEW LEVELS OF PATRIOTISM DURING THE OLYMPICS.

GRAPHIC BY NATALIE MENDEZ '26

Summer Snapshots from the Independent

Inside the Indy's off-campus adventures.

BY NINA BERKMAN '27

Time flies when you're chasing passions, as the Indy staff discovered this summer. Fewer responsibilities, no classes, and better weather—what more could one ask for? But as the season winds down, it's time to transition from these sun-soaked, carefree days to the structured, rigorous days of the academic year. This also means that the *Independent* is back and publishing weekly, ready to deliver fresh content to the Harvard community. Behind the Indy are its dedicated members who make it all happen, and they're returning from their eventful summers. Amidst the warm weather and freedom, summers for most college students include opportunities to grow, learn, and prepare for the future and paths they might follow.

The Indy staff had a productive summer, engaging in various activities such as exploring new job opportunities, embarking on travel adventures, immersing themselves in the art world, and diving into venture capital. Maddy Tunnell '26 is a staff writer concentrating in the History of Art and Architecture (HAA) who channeled her love for the concentration into an internship at Sean Kelly Gallery in New York City.

Tunnell noted that the gallery specializes in contemporary art and, being mid-sized, offered a more intimate and hands-on experience compared to Harvard's HAA department. "If you are not necessarily on the architecture track, I feel like a lot of what is talked about is future academia," and added that the retail side of the art world is 'not heavily touched

upon,'" Tunnell explained.

At her gallery internship, responsibilities varied from conducting extensive research on emerging artists, tracking exhibitions at galleries, fairs, and museums, and managing the gallery's roster of artists. For Tunnell, concentrating in a humanities field means navigating a less defined career path compared to fields like medicine or finance, yet the experience has only deepened her commitment to pursuing a career in the art world. "The internship and talking to people who have done what I want to do were the most helpful part," she shared.

Like Tunnell, Jordan Wasserberger '27 participated in an internship this summer, though in a different field. His summer was split between two significant endeavors. His "nine-to-five" was spent working at a venture capital firm in New York. This was Wasserberger's second year at the firm, having previously worked there during his gap year, where he found the focus on emerging consumer tech companies fascinating.

In addition to his venture capital job, he spent his free time working on a passion project. "I was also running my company," Wasserberger mentioned. "We're an independent game studio, working on our first project, so not a lot of traveling, but a lot of work that I really enjoyed."

These two roles reflect Wasserberger's diverse interests, much like his involvement as a photo editor and staff writer at the *Independent*. He emphasized how these firsthand experiences have shaped his approach to work in

other areas of his life. "Working in the real world has certainly influenced the way I approach my responsibilities at the Indy and at school," Wasserberger noted. "It changes your focus and mindset, making you more adaptable and driven."

Just as venture capital fostered one student's adaptability, another found similar growth through cultural immersion in Taipei, Taiwan. Carly Gelles '27 spent her summer there participating in an eight-week intensive Mandarin program through the Harvard Taipei Academy. The program aligns perfectly with her academic interests, as she plans to major in East Asian Studies or Linguistics.

The course was rigorous, requiring students to sign a language pledge to speak only Mandarin for the program's duration. "It was very difficult at first, but I think it really forced me to get out of my comfort zone," Gelles shared. The immersion program covered an entire year's worth of Chinese in just eight weeks, further challenging her.

In addition to her studies, she had the opportunity to explore Taipei, especially on weekends. Reflecting on her experience, Gelles, one of the *Independent's* Community Chairs, said, "It was an absolutely phenomenal program. I had the best summer of my entire life, getting to really connect with the other students and teachers. I developed such close relationships with all of them, and it fostered my love of learning Chinese while immersing myself in the culture and environment."

Eliza Kimball '25, the President of the Indy, spent her summer in Switzerland, participating in particle physics research. This opportunity arose as she was contemplating whether or not she was interested in pursuing a PhD. While discussing her career options with Harvard Professor Masahiro Morii, an experimental physicist focusing on high-energy physics and particle physics, he suggested she join him in Switzerland for the summer to conduct research. This experience proved life-changing for Kimball—not only did she learn a great deal and work incredibly hard, but she also fell in love with Switzerland.

“The main reason I went,” Kimball explained, “was not just to set myself up for graduation but to make this big decision of whether I wanted to go down the path of academia.” She found herself at CERN, one of the world’s largest research centers, located on the border of France and Switzerland. “CERN houses the Large Hadron Collider, and I was working on the ATLAS experiment,” she said.

Her work involved a unique blend of hardware and software tasks as she contributed to developing a new detector for the ATLAS experiment, specifically focusing on the Inner Tracker. “I did a good amount of data analysis for long-lived particles,” she explained. It was an incredible opportunity for Kimball to be surrounded by physicists, as “a large portion of the world’s particle physicists are working in collaboration with CERN.” She witnessed the immediate impact of her work, knowing it would eventually be deployed in groundbreaking research. As she put it, “I was right in the heart of the action.”

During weekends, Kimball explored Switzerland, falling in love with the country. She also developed a passion for journaling, mentioning that she wrote about 400 pages over the summer, which became a cherished pastime.

While *Independent Special*

Projects Director Michael Oved’s ’25 summer job wasn’t in Switzerland or related to physics, it was no less fascinating. Oved worked for New Fortress Energy, a private equity firm that describes itself as “a vertically integrated energy infrastructure company.” The firm primarily invests in emerging markets, with a focus on providing clean energy solutions. Oved explained that most of their investments are in emerging markets, and NFE tries to “provide clean energy to those emerging markets.”

Oved thoroughly enjoyed his time at New Fortress Energy, particularly the variety of his daily tasks. “Every day was different, and all of my responsibilities varied greatly,” he explained. The dynamic nature of the work and the diverse opportunities it presented kept him engaged and motivated.

Oved was a part of the commercial team, where his role involved handling acquisitions of companies across the various regions where New Fortress Energy operates. This experience was particularly valuable for Oved, who had previously interned at a hedge fund. “I wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the different components and industries involved in valuing companies,” he said. Working at New Fortress Energy allowed him to do just that.

Rania Jones ’27 also interned this summer in her hometown of Chicago. “At the beginning of the summer, I reached out to a bunch of judges in Chicago who work for the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago,” she explained. “I cold emailed several judges, and eventually, I got a response from someone at the State of Illinois Cook County Circuit Court.” This led to an opportunity for her to intern at a courthouse in Bridgeview, located in the Fifth Municipal District, about an hour’s drive from Chicago.

Her position as a judicial intern involved a variety of tasks. “I helped write and edit memorandums, and a large part of my role was observing court, which was really interesting,”

she said. She also assisted the legal staff with research, case preparation, and administrative tasks. The diverse nature of her work provided her with valuable insights into the legal system. She explained that the court addresses matters of state law, “which is really interesting because it is not like the court downtown, which represents a lot of the city issues like protests, political rallies, and political violence related things, but the state of Illinois deals with the majority of crimes that you would be arrested for or need to show up in court for, so everything from like traffic court to domestic violence to murder.”

Jones, who plans to concentrate in History and Literature with a secondary in Government, found the experience particularly enlightening. “What I found to be really interesting about the experience was that I have been learning at Harvard about government on such a grand scale, but sitting in a courtroom and hearing about local politics and local government and policies is a really different experience. It is a really important experience, especially for people interested in government, because it’s a very different realm.”

The Indy staff had a busy and fulfilling summer, with each member pursuing different passions and gaining invaluable experiences. From particle physics research in Switzerland to language immersion in Taiwan, from energy infrastructure in emerging markets to hands-on legal work in Chicago, the team explored diverse fields and brought back inspirational stories and insights. Their varied experiences not only reflect their ambitions but also highlight the wide-ranging interests and accomplishments that they bring to the Indy.

**NINA BERKMAN '27
(NINABERKMAN@COLLEGE.
HARVARD.EDU) IS NOW
RECONSIDERING WHAT SHE DID
THIS SUMMER AFTER THESE
INTERVIEWS.**

FORUM

Dear New Harvard Parent: Best, An Indy Mom

The mom of a current *Independent* writer and a former *Independent* president imparts advice to incoming 2028 parents and explains why she subscribes to the Indy.

BY MIA TAVARES '27

Most of us returning students are experiencing the routine first-week-back jitters, but for incoming first-years, the sensation is unfamiliar. They might be feeling trepidation about the onslaught of new people, new information, and a new bedroom (coupled with new roommates and perhaps not-so-new-ish twin beds) in that new building on this new campus that they've never even visited before. Worse, likely, is the worry that their parents are feeling right now as they move their precious child into a suite that feels far too old and is filled with people who appear far too strange. If you, dear reader, feel like said parent, then this article is written for you.

I sat down with my mom, a two-time Harvard parent, and asked her my burning questions about how she dealt with the transition of sending both her children away to a college that's famously known to challenge its students in every way. I hope that her thoughtful answers will provide you with some peace, or at least some action items, as you finish moving in your wide-eyed freshman (or sophomore, or junior, or senior. Harvard's magnificence never truly wears off).

As you've walked around campus and scrolled through College emails, you've surely encountered a flood of confusing Harvard-specific acronyms and phrases that make you feel like you're learning English again for the first time. Mastering this Harvard lexicon, however, was my mom's first key to success. "As a parent, I think the more you're familiar with the language and the shorthand, the better your ability is to support your student's success at Harvard," my mom explained. "And of course, by success, I don't [only] mean academic success... A successful experience in college would mean one where they felt socially supported, made emotional connections, built friendships, [and] found exciting, intellectual interests."

For my brother and I to be successful at this sometimes overwhelming institution, we have both heavily relied on support from our mom. While we felt abundantly prepared academically, transitioning from a high school with 115 people in each class to a school with over 1,600 freshmen was daunting. My mom realized she needed to provide an emotional safe haven for her kids. "College in itself is an incredibly new place. In order to thrive as a young person, I think you need to have an emotional support network... So for me, support is... an easy place... where [my kids] can find rest." For our family, this looks like a weekly group FaceTime call with not just our parents, but also occasionally our grandparents and cousins. My mom explained, "It's a way for them to continue to feel connected."

More important than scheduled FaceTimes, however, are the organic conversations she can start with us despite living across the country because she understands the campus lifestyle. The more informed

she is about what is happening on campus, the more supportive she can be. As she described it, "It's my way of not only being connected but making it easier for my child... to say, 'CS 50 was exhausting today,' and I don't have to ask them, 'What does CS 50 stand for?' I also don't have to ask the details of how CS 50 is a requirement because I already know that." It also helps that she is aware of the campus resources available to students. When I tell her I'm attending a recruiting event at the SOCH, she can remind me to have MCS check my résumé or to ask my PAF for help writing a cover letter.

For her and many of her fellow Harvard parents, the *Harvard Independent* is how she stays abreast of the current campus buzz. "One of the reasons I've loved the Indy is that it makes me feel like... I have a better understanding of the cultural pulse... the Indy really dives deep into the cultural part." Through this direct line to the Harvard student community, she is able to gain an improved understanding of the experiences her kids are going through. Even better, the Indy provides "a fun perspective... that [she] can use as a part of a conversation starter with [her] student."

Even now as I write this article, I'm remembering all the times my mom seemed to know exactly what was happening in my campus life, even if we hadn't spoken in days. She would ask questions like, "Did you go and see that band at Crimson Jam? I read an article about kids running around naked. What was that like? I saw a video on the Indy Instagram about Achilito's, did you see that? Are those your friends going on a blind date?" It made me feel like I could talk to her about anything and everything in my life without having to explain all of the background context that can make a story feel drab.

The Indy hasn't just helped my mom with exciting conversation starters. "By reading some of the articles, I can really feel the voice of... students that are going to school with my child. It makes me feel like I can better know some of the peers that are going to school with my kid, and that's very different than just kind of an Associated Press bulletin news." Each article in the Indy expresses a

unique perspective that reflects the nuanced individuals within our Harvard community. Everything we publish is authentic, and it's that genuineness that's so appealing to my mom. Every week she learns more about not just what I'm experiencing at school but *who* I'm experiencing it with.

Clearly, my mom likes to arrive on campus every year well-informed of campus going-ons, often more so than I am. But what was she surprised by when she dropped off her first kid at Harvard in 2020? "What I wasn't prepared for, having not gone to Harvard, is the intensity around clubs and comping. I had a very big concern that my students would not be able to pursue their interests, and... create friendships in a very organic way with people that share interests." This time, her support came in the form of encouraging my older brother, and later, me to apply to a multitude of clubs, even if the interests were new to us. It made the inevitable rejections feel less hurtful because our eggs weren't all in one basket.

That's how my older brother, and then I, ended up at the *Harvard Independent* despite our shared lack of hardcore journalistic experience. Looking back, I feel like it's the best choice I made my freshman fall, and my mom agrees. "[The Indy is] an incredibly fun place to engage because if you're writing about the community and the culture at Harvard, that means you are also a part of *making* the culture at Harvard."

To her, that was the best sign of her kids having a rewarding experience at college and being successful as a parent. The Indy is a place for us to be ourselves and express that originality through our work. We're not just writing about campus culture, we're actually living it, and we're telling you how we *feel* about it. Harvard is meant to cultivate change-makers and build future leaders, and while we still believe that's true, at the Indy we don't just lead, we trailblaze. And we couldn't have done it without our parents supporting us along the way.

MIA TAVARES '27 (MIATAVARES@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS PROUD TO HAVE A MOM WHO IS DOUBLE-SUBSCRIBED TO THE HARVARD INDEPENDENT SO SHE CAN RECEIVE TWO HARD COPIES OF EVERY ISSUE (ONE FOR HER GROWING COLLECTION AND ONE TO ACTUALLY READ).

GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26

FORUM | 9



Ready, Set, Registration

The *Harvard Independent's* first-year course recommendations.

BY MADDY TUNNELL '26

Summer may have flown by, but it isn't truly over until Sept. 10, the end of the Add/Drop period.

For first-years, finalizing a schedule before even locating the SEC is a daunting task.

In hopes of helping the lost souls out there—perhaps those preoccupied with whether or not their roommate hates them or is simply a quiet person—the Indy has compiled a collection of our favorite first-year courses. We present you with the *Harvard Independent's* Best and Finest List of Freshman Courses.

GENED 1018: How to Build a Habitable Planet is a highly sought-after class. Professor Charles H. Legmuir will teach you “essentially the entire history of the universe,” according to one Indy member. If the promise of learning literally everything isn't enough, the course is also said to have a relatively light workload (although the *Independent* does not endorse choosing a course because it does not have much homework).

Offered in the spring for those thinking ahead is *English CLR:*

Introduction to Screenwriting taught by Professor Musa Syeed. Meeting only once a week, it is the perfect class to slip into your schedule. While writing your first student script, perhaps a Matt Damon-esque feeling will engulf you, making it the last college course you ever take!

First-year seminars are always a hot topic; the debate about whether or not to take a non-credit course will never be settled. What we can tell you is that the opportunity to sit in a room with a dozen or so other students and one of Harvard's world-renowned professors is not all that common—unless you take their first-year seminar. This author was personally a tad confused about her academic trajectory, and took both *Cartoons, Folklore, and Mythology* as well as *Vegetative*

Humanities: Paying Attention to Plants in Contemporary Art and Culture during her freshman year.

Recommended by Kaitlyn Hou '27 is the first-year seminar *The Economist's View of the World*, in which she had her first, “Wow. This is really Harvard,” moment. I would be personally terrified to attend this class, as I witnessed the Professor, Gregory Mankiw, go head to head with Professor Michael Sandel in the latter's course *GENED 1181: Meritocracy and its Critics*. With this in consideration, I would not recommend it to someone with a fear of public speaking, but, for those stronger-willed, I'm sure it will be endlessly rewarding.

A final exam-free course has come to our attention! *The Great Food Transformation*, taught by Professor Sparsha Saha in the spring, had Ellie Tunnell '27 brainstorming a start-up involving food from an environmental, public health, and political lens in place of taking a final exam.

Jude Herwitz '25 and Franny Conners '26 are taking a stance in favor of *EC10a: Intro to Microeconomics* taught by Professors Jason Furman and David Laibson. Many a student have crumbled under the p-sets; however, some say that the stress formed everlasting friendships. Adedoyin Adebayo '26 claims the same for David J. Malan's course, *CS50: Introduction to Computer Science*.

Mir Zayid Alam '25 comes to us with an insider's perspective on *ECON 50: Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems*, participating as a Course Assistant (CA) in the class taught by Raj Chetty for the last two years. With engaging and

approachable subject matter, students learn to use R for data analysis and tackle topics of “social mobility—or lack thereof—in the United States,” said Alam.

For those who enjoy learning about science but are slightly less interested in taking a biology class, Professor Elizabeth Lunbeck's course titled *GENED 1179: Psychotherapy and the Modern Self* is fantastic. The author proudly attended every single lecture during the spring of her first year (P.S. there are attendance slips) and thoroughly enjoyed watching clips from *The Sopranos*. Starting with Freud, the history of psychotherapy is laid out for you, and by the end of it, you will feel deeply invested in your own inner child.

All in all, you really can't go that wrong. My personal advice is to pick four courses, two of which seem helpful, one of which seems interesting, and for the last, something you never would have thought of. It's always good to have some notion of concentration and distribution requirements in mind; however, your first year is when you have the most time to explore, so use it.

You are about to be bombarded with more information and options than is ingestible in a lifetime, let alone a week. However, if you do anything at Harvard, it should be to COMP THE INDY, and after that, we promise everything will work out perfectly.



MADDY TUNNELL '26
(**MADDYTUNNELL@**
COLLEGE.HARVARD.
EDU)'S FAVORITE
FRESHMAN YEAR
CLASS WAS ACT
NATURAL, TAUGHT
BY PROFESSOR
DAVID LEVINE.

GRAPHIC BY GABI PONIZ '26

Is “Brat” Green the New Blue?

Harris’ “brat summer” might just be enough to sustain her momentum for another four years of Democratic leadership in America.

BY RANIA JONES '27

The terms “brat summer,” “Kamalanomenon,” and “coconut tree” haven’t exactly been the easiest election jargon to explain to older family members, colleagues, and friends. Today, young people across the U.S. and around the world have embraced these terms as they’ve been bestowed upon the current U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris.

In today’s political landscape, social media has become an indispensable tool for politicians, allowing them to bypass traditional media channels and speak directly to their audience. This shift isn’t just about messaging; it’s about changing the nature of politicians’ relationships with younger generations.

On July 21, current President Joe Biden stepped down from his 2024 presidential campaign, and the @BidenHQ official campaign account on X transformed into @KamalaHQ, the “official rapid response page of Vice President Harris’ presidential campaign.” Presidential candidate Harris’ campaign team immediately capitalized on the 31-year-old British pop singer Charli XCX’s viral trend phenomenon “BRAT,” updating the account’s cover photo to mimic the style of the pop star’s June album: all lowercase font over a neon green background.

Charli XCX dubbed the summer of 2024 as “brat summer,” describing “BRAT” as being “just that girl who is a little messy and likes to party and maybe says dumb things sometimes.” On the day Harris declared her run for the presidency, Charli XCX, who has 3.6 million followers on X, voiced her support for the current vice president by tweeting, “kamala IS brat.”

Harris and her team’s embrace of the “brat summer” phenomenon shows how cultural relevance and digital strategy hold significant potential to mobilize younger voters. David Hogg ’23, a 24-year-old activist and co-founder of the March for Our Lives movement, shared a similar sentiment in a reply to Charli XCX’s post.

“The amount this single tweet may

have just done for the youth vote is not insignificant,” Hogg wrote.

“Brat summer” is not the only Kamala Harris meme that has gained mass popularity online since Biden’s announcement. Supporters of Harris have also revived and reclaimed the viral “coconut tree” quote, which originates from remarks the Vice President made at the White House while swearing in the President’s Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics. Sharing a personal anecdote near the conclusion of her speech, Harris detailed how her mother would say to her, “I don’t know what’s wrong with you young people. You think you just fell out of a coconut tree? You exist in the context of all in which you live and what came before you.”

The “coconut tree” has become an emblem of Harris’ campaign after the quote went viral, capturing generational tension with a mix of humor, wisdom, and cultural resonance. Among the memes and soundbites, Harris’ coconut tree remark offers a blend of brevity, humor, and insight. The quote acts as a playful nudge from a parental figure who gets it—someone who respects youth’s independence but wants to ensure we don’t lose sight of our history and community.

The internet has generated thousands of video edits of Harris dancing and laughing, often bringing components of Brat neon green, popular Charli XCX songs, and the wildly memed “coconut tree” clip. One of the current most popular edits of “brat” Kamala has amassed more than 3.5 million views and more than 700,000 likes. The hashtag #kamalaharris is trending on TikTok, with more than 482.6k posts.

The rise of Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election, amplified through platforms like TikTok and X, reveals how

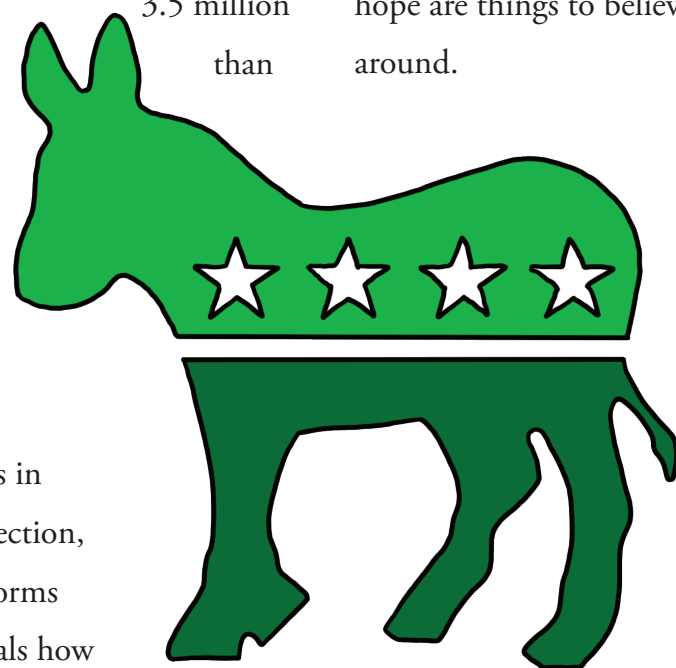
social media is redefining political momentum. This shift signals a new era for politics, where connecting with the next generation isn’t about policy—it’s about speaking our language and meeting us where we are.

The “brat” phenomenon has helped provoke a necessary cultural renaissance for the Democratic Party, departing from low approval ratings and anxieties surrounding President Biden’s age. CNN’s Jake Tapper argued that the success of Harris’ brat summer is a direct result of “going right for [the youth] in a language of their own.”

Connecting with young Americans will undeniably increase voter turnout in November. After Harris entered the presidential race, Vote.org announced a nearly 700% increase in voter registration, finding that almost all of these new voters are people under the age of 35. In this upcoming election, Millennials and Gen-Z will comprise 44% of American voters. Generation Z, composed of Americans born between 1997 and 2012, is the largest generation in American history and is on its way to becoming the majority of the voting population.

It is both scary and exciting to see the ways in which politics, media, and culture can co-exist and merge. In this new era of digital politics, the challenge for all political actors is to harness the power of social media while ensuring that it serves the greater good of democracy.

This fall, I know that Gen-Z voters will come to the polls like we never have before, because sustained excitement and reinvigorated hope are things to believe in and mobilize around.



RANIA JONES '27
(RJONES@COLLEGE.
HARVARD.EDU)
ALWAYS DID LIKE
THE COLOR GREEN.

**GRAPHIC BY EL
RICHARDS '26**

A Veritas Summer

Rising sophomores embracing campus and avoiding burnout.

BY LUCIE STEFANONI '27

After overcoming the burden of finals in early May, students the next few months with mixed emotions. At first, we are near-sighted, with a romantic view of the approaching summer. Updates from LinkedIn about what our ambitious friends are doing shake us out of this honeymoon phase, reminding us to enhance our résumés. The grind never stops.

Among students here at Harvard, it is a shared belief that we should use the summer to get ahead. Or, realistically, to avoid falling behind our peers. However, the daunting question is how we confront burnout after returning to the fall grind so soon.

For many of us, our mental restoration can occur once we leave campus and return home, with the change in physical setting signifying closure to a rigorous school year. Yet some of us are ready to return to the Harvard scene before the fall. Harvard bustles with undergraduates and high schoolers throughout the summer who find an optimal balance of working and feeling productive while also finding time to pursue fun, relaxing activities that only summer lends time for.

As a rising sophomore, I spent the majority of my summer on campus taking a class through the General Program for undergraduate and graduate students. I did not feel I had done enough preparation for an internship the summer after my freshman year. Plus, I was reassured by hearing strong recommendations from upperclassmen friends to fall back on summer resources provided on campus. They told me Harvard has a more laid back vibe in the summertime.

My qualms, which centered around feelings of monotony for being around campus too long, still lingered. I questioned whether campus would feel empty or start to be repetitive. To my surprise, I found many familiar faces on campus working for various summer programs, researching for professors, or working for Harvard-affiliated organizations like Phillips Brooks House Association. A popular attraction for many of the students I knew already was the proctoring program, which acts as a part-time job but also provides benefits to undergraduate students, such as housing accommodations and a covered meal plan.

My blockmate and fellow Indyite Kaitlyn Hou '27 served as a pre-college proctor while working as a research assistant at Harvard Business School. Hou heard of the proctoring program and its promise of free housing and a meal plan through one of her rowing teammates who had previously done it. When asked what prompted her decision to stay on Harvard's campus for the majority of the summer, Hou emphasized the

freedom to explore someplace away from home.

"I wanted to be in Cambridge over the summer because I feel like your freshman summer, you're given a lot of flexibility," Hou said. "I'm from the suburbs of Dallas, and the summers here are just so hot that I knew that, ideally, being in Cambridge on campus would be a good opportunity to utilize a lot of the school's resources without the business and chaos of the school year."

If Hou had one drawback to her summer, it was feeling slightly misinformed about the commitment required by her specific proctoring program. "To anyone who is considering applying to be a pre-college proctor, I was not given a fair warning about the amount of time and commitment it was," Hou said. "Taking care of 150+ high schoolers on a field trip to a baseball game or Rhode Island is not an easy feat."

On the flip side, Hou appreciated the opportunity to counsel high schoolers across the world who were interested in pursuing higher education. She added, "It was refreshing to have more free time over the summer to be able to leave the Harvard bubble. Whereas during the school year, my schedule was tight, the more relaxed schedule allowed me to take the bus to Newbury and explore Boston at a leisurely pace."

Catherine Li '27 was drawn to a summer on campus after looking through Harvard websites this past winter and discovering she could take a class. As a prospective electrical engineering concentrator, Li acknowledged "there's a lot of requirements to get out of the way," so decided to take ENSC-138, the summer school equivalent of ES150.

Whereas Hou did the pre-college program, counseling high school students enrolled for two weeks, Li did the secondary proctoring program, looking after high school students enrolled in classes for seven weeks. Li also mentioned that she went into this summer not knowing more than a handful of people. Yet the proctoring position helped her become friends with many of her co-proctors, most of whom were Harvard rising sophomores and juniors.

Li said she was lucky to have her sister keep her company on campus and helped encourage her to explore beyond the realms of Cambridge. Being on the sailing team served as a mechanism to help Li break out of the Harvard bubble occasionally. The sailing team usually sails up towards the Charles River between Longfellow and Harvard Bridge, which connects Cambridge to Back Bay. Li mentioned, "[I] also sailed a few times, not as much as I'd like to have, but did some training there too. So good to get a little bit out of just Harvard."

I also spoke to Nigel Savage '27, who cited having friends at work as a factor in avoiding

burnout. Working for the Crimson Business Board during the majority of the summer, he pitched ads for companies with other students on the business team. His summer work differed from during the school year, when he was responsible for organizing conferences. An additional bonus was that Savage would be working with three good friends, who he became closer to over the summer.

Just as both proctoring programs described above could become draining due to their long hours, Savage underscored the importance of social events outside of his workdays, even if that meant seeing friends outside of Crim Biz. Savage recalled, "There was one weekend where I went to visit some high school friends [in Rhode Island] for Fourth of July, which was really good."

When asked if they would spend a summer on campus again, Savage, Li, and Hou told me they might want a different experience for next summer but appreciated that they used their freshman summer to stay on campus. The reviews each of them gave were highly positive. Yet, none of them dismissed the fact they had occasional feelings of campus burnout. They resolved this uniquely with a day trip into Beacon Hill, sailing out of Cambridge from the Charles River, and seeing new friendly faces in Rhode Island. The common denominator in all these situations was escaping the Harvard Bubble.

I was not the only one who viewed having more free time on campus as a double-edged sword. My worries extended beyond monotony, such as concerns I was falling behind my peers with limited work or research experience. It was encouraging to gather insights from my peers who returned to Harvard's campus as a fallback plan, not necessarily figuring out exciting, relaxing, or résumé-boosting summer plans several months beforehand.

Even though we were busy with our Harvard endeavors, more free time could make the campus feel small. As the summer progressed, I gained a new perspective that my friends also shared: the additional time encouraged us to leave the Harvard Bubble, which is not so feasible during the school year when time is more sparse. While many students, exhausted from the school year, would want to be anywhere but Cambridge from May through August, those of us who excitedly returned to campus made the most of our location.

**LUCIE STEFANONI '27
(LUCIESTEFANONI@COLLEGE.
HARVARD.EDU) WOULDN'T MIND
TAKING A SUMMER CLASS ABROAD.**

ARTS

Falling in Love with Boston

A guide to goings-on this September in our community and greater Boston.

BY SOPHIE DEPAUL '27

Whether you are a first-year longing to get to know the area or a senior looking for a change in scenery, the Cambridge-Boston area offers activity, enrichment, and a way to connect with the greater community. Before locking yourself in the library for the rest of the semester, be sure to check out one (or more) of these events going on off-campus!

Boston Arts Festival

On Sept. 7 and 8, you can see printmaking, ceramics, paintings, wood carvings, jewelry, drawings, and mixed media art from local artists at Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park. This event also showcases live music performances from local pop, indie, rock, and folk musicians like Symposium (an indie rock band) to the 94s (an acoustic singer-songwriter duo). Run by the organizers of the Beacon Hill Art Walk and Artists Crossing Gallery, this free festival is a great way to support local artists.

Boston Local Food Festival

On Sept. 15 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., a lively food festival featuring cooking demonstrations, fresh produce from local farms, and hot meals will take place at the Rose Kennedy Greenway. With over 150 vendors ranging from Indian street cuisine to freshly shucked oysters and greens from hydroponic farms, there is something for everyone. This festival is one of many events held throughout the year by the Boston Local Foods program to promote a sustainable food system for the area.

Vintage Clothing Pop-ups

Time Out Market Boston will be hosting two pop-up vintage flea markets this fall. On Oct. 12, from 12 to 5 p.m., come shop from an assortment of over 40 vintage clothing vendors for your next going-out top or pair of baggy jeans. If you can't make it on the 12th, come on the 13th (12 to 5 p.m. again) for the Fenway Flea Boston Vintage Market. These events allow you to pick from a variety of food and

drink vendors while still acquiring a much-deserved post-shopping snack.

Red Sox Student9s U Tickets

The Boston Red Sox offers \$9 tickets for university students to select Fenway events throughout 2024. Sign up to get the discount using your Harvard email and you will be alerted when they are offering discount tickets to home games!

If you're looking for some even more local culture and arts events, here are some options a little bit closer to home...

Cambridge Carnival

At University Park Commons on Sept. 7 and 8 is a celebration of African and Caribbean culture. This features music and dance performances, costumes, art, and authentic food vendors. The carnival starts on the 7th with the "Pan in the Park Panorama", featuring traditional steel pan performances. On the 8th, expect the international festival and the parade up River Street at 12:30 p.m.

Opening Celebration: Made in Germany? Art and Identity in a Global Nation

The Harvard Art Museums will be opening a new exhibit Sept. 12. This special event kicks off at Menschel Hall with an introduction by exhibition curator Lynette Roth. The artist who created the work, Henrike Naumann, will then present a lecture-performance. Naumann is a Berlin-based artist who creates installation art, mostly featuring furniture and object arrangements to reflect on socio-political

problems. As a German, she pulls from her experiences with neo-Nazism to raise questions about fascism and capitalism in our everyday lives.

Romeo and Juliet

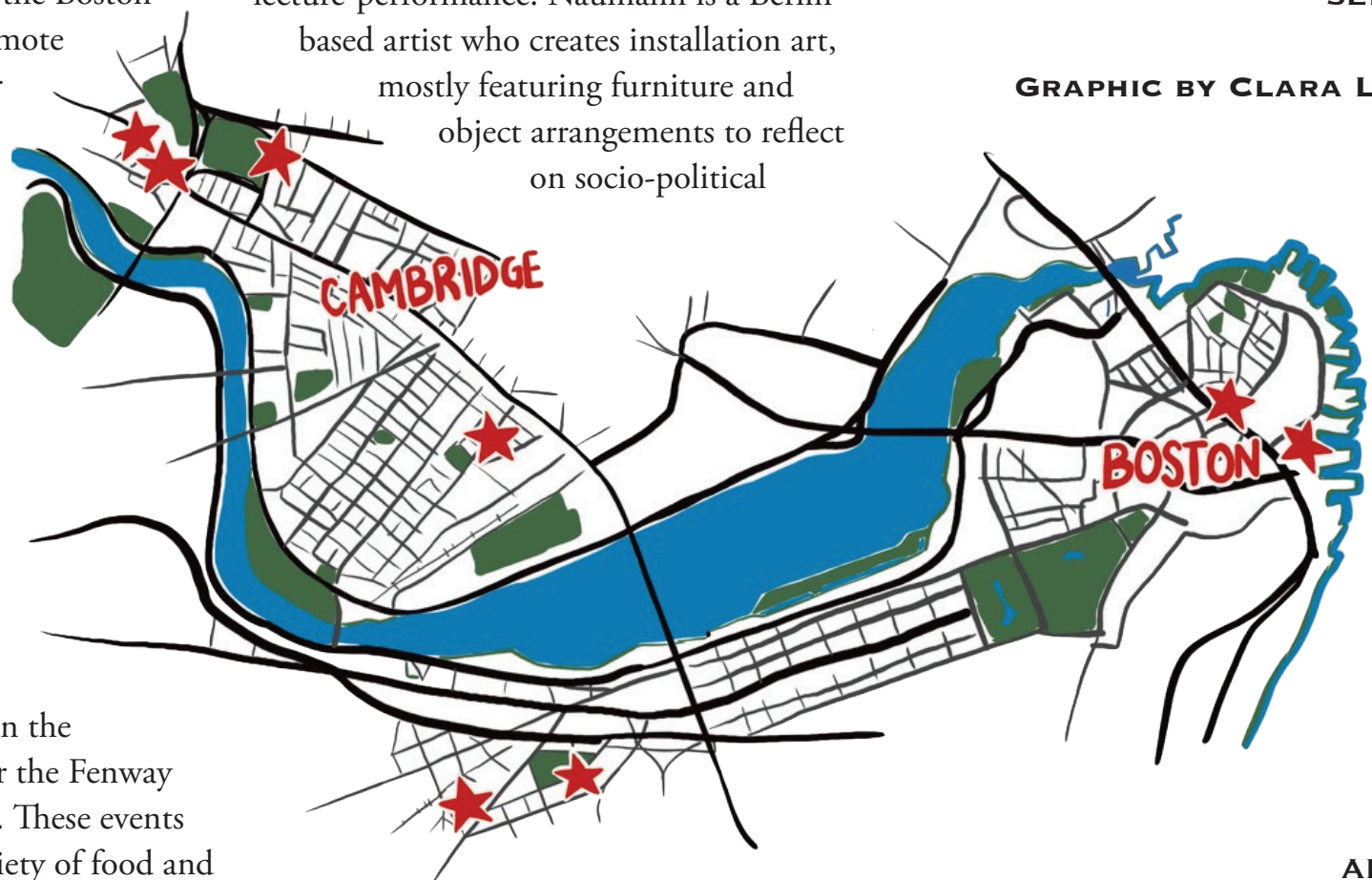
Rudy Pankow from Outer Banks and Emilia Suárez from Up Here shine as star-crossed lovers in a rendition of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Come watch at the Loeb Drama Centre and support the five Harvard undergraduate students who worked on this production! Get access to discounted student tickets or take advantage of \$10 off your tickets if you buy them through Sept. 3. Opening night is Sept. 5.

Grrl Haus Cinema: International and Local Short Films

The Brattle Theatre is a small art-house theatre, which will be showing films like "The Virgin Suicides," "The Talented Mr. Ripley," and "A Clockwork Orange" this fall. On Sept. 5 at 7 p.m., the cinema will screen 17 short films (ranging from 2 to 20 minutes each) that explore themes of "identity, transformation, and resistance." These films utilize a variety of styles and come from filmmakers all over the world, with a total runtime of less than two hours.

SOPHIE DEPAUL '27 (SOPHIE_DEPAUL@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WILL BE BRAVING THE T FOR SOME OUT-OF-HARVARD ADVENTURES THIS SEMESTER.

GRAPHIC BY CLARA LAKE '27



Harvard's Hottest Hits

Your new semester playlist.

BY ILANA FEDER '26

Welcome back to campus, everyone! As you all have been finalizing your fall semester classes, flipping coins with your roommates to see who gets the double, and saying goodbye to your friends and family, likely, many of you haven't had the time to create a new playlist for the school year. Music will play a major role in making your transition back to Harvard *that* much better. This is especially important for you first-years, so open your Spotify or Apple Music and take notes. While my friends never let me have aux, as you'll learn, Harvard is truly all about being open-minded and trying new things.

First, let's recap the artist of the summer: Chappell Roan. The 26-year-old's pop hits grew hot largely thanks to TikTok, landing her to play the largest crowd in music festival Lollapalooza's history this past August. The redhead has been compared to Lady Gaga, with drag influences in her unique makeup, clothes, and overall music. My favorite moments of the summer were blasting "Femininomenon" with my girlfriends driving home from the beach or going on a run with "Pink Pony Club" pumping through my headphones. While I nominate Roan to be the artist of the summer, I know many of you would hand the title to Charli XCX. Although I like the brat aesthetic, the album didn't quite do it for me. I'll leave "360" on my playlist though.

A top-tier playlist must incorporate songs for all different moods. At Harvard, it's crucial to start your mornings off happy and energized for the long day ahead. Here are some great waking-up songs to play when you're getting up and ready in the morning, especially if you have a 9 a.m. GENED that will put you right back to sleep.

"Best Day Of My Life" by Jesse McCartney
"Waking Up in Vegas" by Katy Perry
"Makes Me Happy" by Drake Bell
"O-o-h Child" by The Five Stairsteps

Next up are songs to listen to while walking to class. Nothing gets you more amped up than putting on the perfect song to walk across the Yard, feeling as confident as ever as you walk past a hundred tourists. Whether you have AirPods, headphones, or good old wired earbuds, jam sessions while walking to class are an imperative component of being a college student. Here are some of my all-time favorites that give me an extra pep in my step.

"The Night Chicago Died" (Rerecorded
14 | ARTS Version) by Paper Lace

"Maggie May" by Rod Stewart
"Start All Over" by Miley Cyrus
"How Far We've Come" by Matchbox Twenty
"Forgot Your Name" by Bird3
"Nine In the Afternoon" by Panic! At the Disco

While it is unlikely that you'll be sitting alone in Annenberg or any dining hall the first couple weeks of school, a solo lunch in between classes is bound to happen at some point. But these times are also great opportunities to look cool and mysterious, so listen to music that will help you play the part.

"Quiet, The Winter Harbor" by Mazzy Star
"Alone Again (Naturally)" by Gilbert O'Sullivan
"The Killing Moon" by Echo & The Bunnymen
"Between the Bars" by Elliot Smith
"The greatest" by Lana Del Rey



Although I'm not the type to go to the gym every day, it's always nice to take a trip over to the MAC or Hemenway and get a good sweat in before hitting the books. Listening to good music is the only thing that can keep me on the treadmill for 30 minutes. These are my top songs to get my heart pumping.

"Miss Alissa" by Eagles of Death Metal
"The Drug in Me is You" by Falling in Reverse
"Pt. 2" by Kanye West
"Black Betty" by Ram Jam
"Wing\$" by Macklemore and Ryan Lewis

When I'm studying, especially when I'm reading, I often can't listen to music because it's more difficult for me to focus. However, certain songs keep me in the zone rather than take me out of it.

"Going the Distance" by Bill Conti
"Don't Let Me Get Me" by P!nk
"Easy" by The Commodores
"Renegade" by Styx
"Have You Ever Seen the Rain?" By Creedence Clearwater

"Chinatown" (feat. Bruce Springsteen) by Bleachers
"Music for a Found Harmonium" by Patrick Street

And if you're specifically working on p-sets, here are a couple of good ones.

"Fire Water Burn" by Bloodhound Gang
"Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees
"I'm Not Okay (I Promise) by My Chemical Romance
"Work Bitch" by Britney Spears

Whether you're planning on attending the First-Year Fling or not, it's important that you have some sick pre-game songs ready to roll out. The energy needs to be high, and these songs will be sure to help you let loose and party.

"Sippin Yak" (Morgan Seatree Remix) by Cloonee & Morgan Seatree
"Take Over Control" (feat. Eva Simons) [Radio Edit] by AFROJACK
"Take You There" by Sean Kingston
"Peanut Butter Jelly" by Galantis
"Stadium Rave" by Spongebob Squarepants
"Renaissance" by BUNT. & VisionV

Now, let's say you find that special someone at Tasty Basty and you want to "hang out" after. But bad news—you BOTH live in prison cell-sized doubles. Looks like you're all alone for the rest of the night. Here are a few bangers to help you do some creative daydreaming and make up delusional scenarios in your head before falling asleep.

"The Harold Song" by Kesha
"Fresh Out The Slammer" by Taylor Swift
"Lover, You Should've Come Over" by Jeff Buckley
"Won't Go Home Without You" by Maroon Five
"Sex on Fire" by Kings of Leon
"Lips of an Angel" by Hinder
"Thinking of You" by Katy Perry

Now, you and your ears are finally ready for the school year. Good luck!

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

GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26

SPORTS

Summer of Sports at Harvard

A recap of the major Harvard sports news since Graduation.

BY LUKE WAGNER '26

Summer might be the offseason for college athletes, but it still brought some major updates to Harvard sports. Every four years, one sporting event eclipses all other summer competitions: the Summer Olympics. Harvard was extremely successful in the Paris Olympics—it was one of the most successful performances by the school's students in its history. And while some Harvard athletes flourished, others saw their time at the University come to an end, as Harvard remains reluctant to fund athletes through scholarships or spend on NIL (Name, Image, and Likeness) deals.

Starting with the Summer Games, Harvard sent 26 athletes to Paris, winning 13 medals to reach the highest tally in school history. Of those 13 medals, Harvard athletes claimed eight golds, one silver, and four bronze medals. Five different athletes claimed gold this summer, none of which had previously won a gold medal at the Olympics.

Three of Harvard's athletes claimed more than one medal. Gabby Thomas '19 (USA) claimed three gold medals in track and field, winning the women's 200m, 4x100m relay, and 4x400m relay. Kristen Faulkner '16 (USA) rode her way to an individual gold medal in the women's road race and a team gold in the women's team pursuit event. Rising senior Lauren Scruggs '25 (USA) claimed silver in the women's foil individual event as well as gold in the women's foil team event.

Additionally, Lisa Tertsch '21 (GER) claimed gold in the triathlon mixed relay, and Liam Corrigan '19 (USA) claimed gold in the men's rowing Four. To wrap up the medal count, David Amber '20 won bronze in the men's rowing Four for Great Britain, while Clark Dean '23, Peter Quinton '20, and Christian Tabash '19 all won bronze rowing for the Eight for the U.S.

However, even across the Atlantic Ocean, Harvard was not able to escape negative press coverage. The Wall Street Journal posted an article about the men's

sabre team, which was composed of all Harvard students, with the subtitle, "Bad news, America. It's time to root for Harvard." While the article does not explicitly bash Harvard, the subtitle points out that people have not been rooting for Harvard recently, and even struggle to do so in the Olympics. The article describes fencing as "chess with swords" yet explains how Harvard has sent eight fencing athletes to the Olympics, which is more than 43 countries' fencing teams.

During Olympic years, there is generally strong communal support for American athletes and a renewed sense of patriotism for the U.S. Despite the athletes' status as Americans, some people found it hard to root for the sabre athletes, not due to their performance, but because of their affiliation with Harvard. The controversy surrounding the University overshadowed its achievements, leading to criticism that seemed more focused on the educational background of the athletes rather than their academic performance. Even in spaces as unifying as the Olympics, the reputation of the institution can supersede that unification as it did for the men's sabre team.

Moving away from the Olympics, this summer, Harvard lost some of their best young talents through the NCAA transfer portal. Harvard's refusal to spend money on the NIL scene will continue to hamper the school's ability to retain elite athletes. Not only is this doing a disservice to athletes, but it also hinders Harvard's ability to compete with other schools that are utilizing NIL to develop strong programs.

Just this summer, Harvard lost one of their best freshman tennis players in recent memory, Cooper Williams '27, to Duke as well as their two best and highest scoring basketball players, Malik Mack '27 and Chisom Okpara '26, to Georgetown and Stanford, respectively. These transfers will open up playing time for other athletes within the program but leave massive holes for Coach Tommy Amaker and the

Crimson's basketball team, who have not won an Ivy League Title since 2019.

Harvard's football program faced a significant setback with the transfer of five senior players, all of whom had remaining eligibility and secured undisclosed NIL deals. These players were Thor Griffith (Louisville), Tyler Neville (UVA), Logan Bednar (Eastern Michigan), Matthew Hudson (Memphis), and Jacob Rizey (FSU). These transfers are a massive hit to the team, which will need to regroup and recover, particularly given the University's unwillingness to allow graduate students to compete on their varsity teams.

Furthermore, with the largest university endowment in the world, Harvard still has yet to create athletic scholarships for its student-athletes, while almost every other college in the nation provides this money to attract and retain talent. With this refusal, many athletes will see Harvard as a springboard to show their talents and shine in the Ivy League, gain traction and popularity, and then make money elsewhere at universities that have programs to pay players. CBS has recently deemed the Ivy League a stepping stone for a lot of athletes because of the recent NIL money coming into play.

This summer was one of joy and sadness. While Harvard's athletes performed amazingly on the world stage, the school's sports faced challenges and showed signs of larger institutional issues. Without spending any more on NIL or providing scholarships, Harvard will likely continue to struggle to gain elite athletes and compete on the national scale.

LUKE WAGNER '26

(LUKEWAGNER@COLLEGE.

HARVARD.EDU) WISHED THE

UNIVERSITY CARED MORE ABOUT

THEIR SPORTS TEAMS.

Our Olympic Playground

How to play around like the Olympians, right on campus.

BY CLARA LAKE '27

This fall, I'm ready to declare my concentration as "Olympics" with a secondary in "Navigating NBC Peacock." It's been a long, studious summer of laying on the couch, judging Olympians and thinking, "I could probably do that." Now that the Paris Olympics are over and we trickle back to Cambridge, it's time to get off of the couch and indulge in the activities that the Olympics have you itching to try. Ride this post-Olympics high through the semester to stay active and get a little competitive on campus.

Exercise is the best possible way to improve long-term health, according to Harvard epidemiologists. Fortunately, you do not have to be a varsity athlete or on an Olympic Gold Medal track to enjoy the benefits of exercise. You can strive to emulate the success of the Harvard student-athletes who won 13 medals in Paris by trying out their sports in Cambridge.

Gabby Thomas '19's three track gold medals are an incredible feat that is out of reach for most of us. However, if you're interested in one-upping this Olympian, you can start by running over a mile. Thomas shared that she only does so once a year. So, take a pair of running shoes down to the Charles River bike path, where you can make a mile-long loop or go farther for some on-foot city exploration in Boston. If you're feeling competitive, level up by registering for the Charles River Marathon—ten laps of a 2.6-mile loop around the Charles.

For some company, invite your roommate to run with you. Freshmen, get to know your new roommate better by bringing them to the bike path and asking them, "What's your life story?" My roommate used this line on me last year, and six miles around the Charles River later, we both knew much more about each other and were slightly trauma-bonded from the 90 degree heat. Harvard College Running Club is also another option for meeting new people and racing.

Kristen Faulkner '16's two gold medals in cycling were groundbreaking, and they came after she had only started biking at age 24. While in Cambridge, you can get a head start on all other future Olympic medalists planning to pursue venture capital first. Rent a Blue Bike from one of the several locations around Harvard Square, and the Boston Metropolitan Area will become your oyster. Ride three miles down the Charles River bike path to Newbury Street, or any other destination in Boston. If

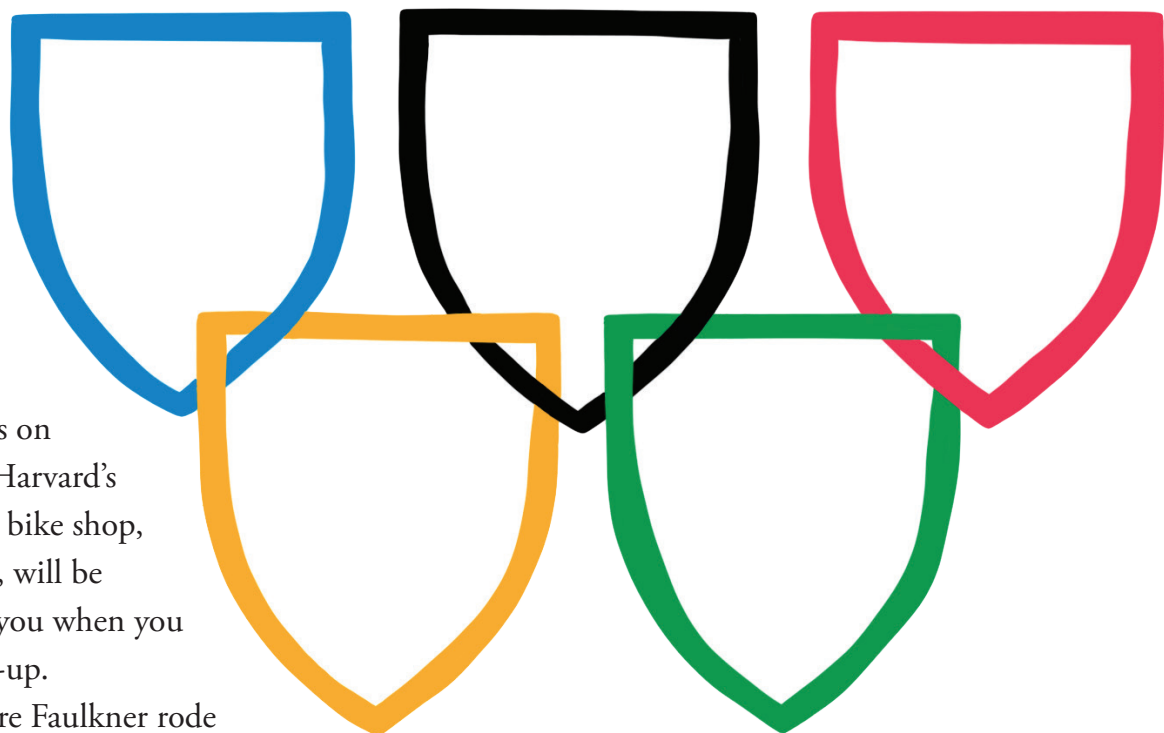
you have a bike on campus, consider joining the Harvard Cycling Club, or trying some of the routes on their page. Harvard's student-run bike shop, Quad Bikes, will be waiting for you when you need a tune-up.

Before Faulkner rode for Team USA, she rowed for Radcliffe. The Charles River is a breeding ground for success, as seen by the five rowing medals won by Harvard crew alums in Paris (Liam Corrigan '19, David Ambler '20, Clark Dean '23, Peter Quinton '20, and Christian Tabash '22). Harvard students can make a reservation to row recreationally from the historic Weld boathouse. Another option, embody *The Boys in the Boat* and go for gold by representing your house in Intramural Crew.

A rowing hub, the Charles River is less known for swimming. However, the river's E. coli levels prove it to be cleaner than the Seine, where Lisa Tertsch '21 won gold in the triathlon mixed relay last month. If you don't "love that dirty water" that much, the Blodgett Pool is an Olympic-sized alternative with recreational swim hours. Harvard Recreation offers Swim Lessons and Lifeguard Certification courses if you are interested in risk reduction instead of competition.

If you'd like to try your hand at combat sports rather than racing, model after Lauren Scruggs '25, who wowed with an individual silver medal and a team gold medal in foil fencing. Whether this piqued your attention to the sport of fencing, or you hope to continue pursuing it at Harvard, you can check out Harvard Fencing Club for some swordplay.

If you dream of becoming a champion in a sport outside of the five where Harvard student-athletes medaled in Paris, the rest of the nearly 50 registered club sports at Harvard provide tons more Olympic event overlap. Options include Archery, Karate, Sailing, and more. Harvard Badminton Club offers a chance to learn how to handle a shuttlecock, or even challenge at the National Championships; sadly you'll have to make do without Snoop Dog's commentary. Or, step outside the bounds of



Olympic sports and explore the new Pickleball Club (who is to say it won't be added for 2028?).

Beyond Olympic sports, there are plenty of other options around campus to stay fit and be active. The greatest obstacle to doing so once the semester picks up is often homework. A wise friend of mine introduced me to a new level of multi-tasking: coursework and cardio. All Harvard students can access the Malkin Athletic Center (MAC) and Hemenway Gymnasium for free. So, take advantage of their combined 130 treadmills, ellipticals, stair masters, and spin bikes to work out and knock out some p-sets and readings. The MAC and Hemenway also host strength training equipment and group fitness classes. Pilates, yoga, and other workouts are offered, though no breakdancing unfortunately for Raygun fans. Outside of Harvard's offerings, Cambridge is home to a Central Rock Gym and other fitness studios like Down Under Yoga and BREATHE Cambridge.

Every active person needs a rest day now and then. While not competing, the Olympians enjoyed their time in Paris with tourism and treats. On your rest day, consider some active recovery with a stroll around the Harvard Art Museums, or to your cafe of choice.

This fall, embrace activity like an Olympian. Who knows, it could be your start down the #RoadtoLosAngeles2028.

CLARA LAKE '27 (CLARALAKE@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WONDERS WHICH OLYMPIC SPORT MIGHT BE HER UNDISCOVERED TALENT.

GRAPHIC BY NATALIE MENDEZ '26

Sports Spotlight: Mitchell Saron

The pathway from Star Wars to Olympic Sabre.

BY KATE OLIVER '26

Mitchell Saron '23 has loved sword-fighting since before he can remember. An early introduction to the *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings* franchises stoked that fire, leading Saron to attempt to duel everyone in his life: "I had this huge lightsaber and toy sword collection, and I would always ask [my parents] to fight with me in the yard." His enthusiasm eventually got to the point that Saron's mother was struggling to stop him from running around the house with swords by third grade.

Luckily for Saron, his mother unsuspectingly stumbled upon the solution. "She was complaining to her doctor, and she was like, this kid's driving me nuts. And the doctor's like, 'One of the top clubs is right by you guys.'" Upon walking into the club for the first time and seeing each of the three weapons, Saron knew this was the sport for him. He dropped all other athletic commitments and began his journey towards becoming an Olympian.

Saron traded his lightsaber for a real sabre after learning about the three distinct fighting styles for fencing epee, foil, and sabre. For epee, fencers can hit their opponent anywhere on their body, but it can only be a poke. Foil has the same rules about the type of touch, but the target area is restricted to the torso and back. Saron describes a sabre "like a real sword" that is slashed at the opponent's upper body and head, similar to Jedi duels, but less deadly. Sabre bouts are divided into three three-minute periods, with each fencer hoping to achieve 15 touches before the nine minutes are through. If no one has reached 15 touches by the end of the allotted time, the winner is the competitor with the most touches.

Like most amateur athletes, Saron has always dreamed of competing in the Olympics. After becoming part of the USA fencing pipeline through Cadets at age 14, he began to age through the system, leaving Cadets at age 17 to compete with the Juniors as a U-20. At age 18, he began to realize that competing in the Olympics could be a legitimate possibility after his success at multiple tournaments. In addition to his involvement with international fencing, Saron also pointed to his watching the London 2012 Summer Olympics as the starting point for his Olympic journey.

"I went to London with my dad and my sisters to watch, and I saw Olympic fencing for the first time when I was 11. I got this bracelet, and I didn't take it off. It's just London 2012; I got it there, and I was like, 'I won't take this off until I qualify for the Olympics.' I've had this on for a long time."

To continue to develop as a fencer, Saron chose to take his talents to Harvard while continuing to

compete on the international level. "Harvard had a track record of Olympic fencers," he explained. "There was a trend of a lot of fencers continuing to do international fencing alongside collegiate fencing." Many fencers stop any competitions outside of their university once they step foot on campus, so Saron knew that he wanted to be surrounded by other fencers at Harvard who were like-minded in their competitive drive to hopefully contend for Worlds and Olympic spots.

Saron was also specifically drawn to Eli Dershowitz '19, the Crimson's assistant coach and two-time Olympian representing the U.S. in sabre fencing. Dershowitz is heavily decorated both collegiately and internationally, winning two individual NCAA titles during his four-year All-American career in addition to his U.S. national and world championships. In addition to coaching the Crimson, he continues to compete on the international level and trains with Harvard athletes. A childhood idol of Saron's, the relationship came full circle when both were named to the Olympic squad.

After graduating from Harvard in the spring of 2023, Saron moved back to New York to begin training full-time with hopes of making the Olympic sabre team. The qualification process for Paris required Saron to be one of the top four fencers in the country by April 2024; in non-Olympic years, the top four fencers head to the Pan American Games and World Championships once they are named to the squad. For his preparation, Saron was bouting almost every day, on top of taking private lessons with his coach, attending conditioning sessions, and cooking all of his meals. His hard work paid off when the team was announced, and to his shock, all four members of the squad were current or former Harvard athletes. "It just felt so cool that it was the four of us. The four of us had such personal connections with one another," Saron stated.

Saron came into the individual competition ranked 17th in the world; similar to March Madness, upsets are extremely common, so initial ranking does not make or break the chances for medaling. His first opponent was against Maxime Piafette of France. "My heart was beating out of my chest. And then they called my name, and I ran out and it was very loud." His opponent then entered the arena and the volume exploded. After beating Piafette 15-12,

he took his mask off and shushed the French contingent in the crowd.

Following a close loss to number one seed Ziad El Sissy of Egypt in the round of 16, Saron stated, "I had to fence the number one in the world, and I lost 15-13 which is obviously super disappointing [and] painful, but I thought I did the best I could." He then turned his focus to the team event, where the team had been extremely dominant throughout every competition in the last year. "The last nine international tournaments before that, we meddled at every single one, and we got gold in five."

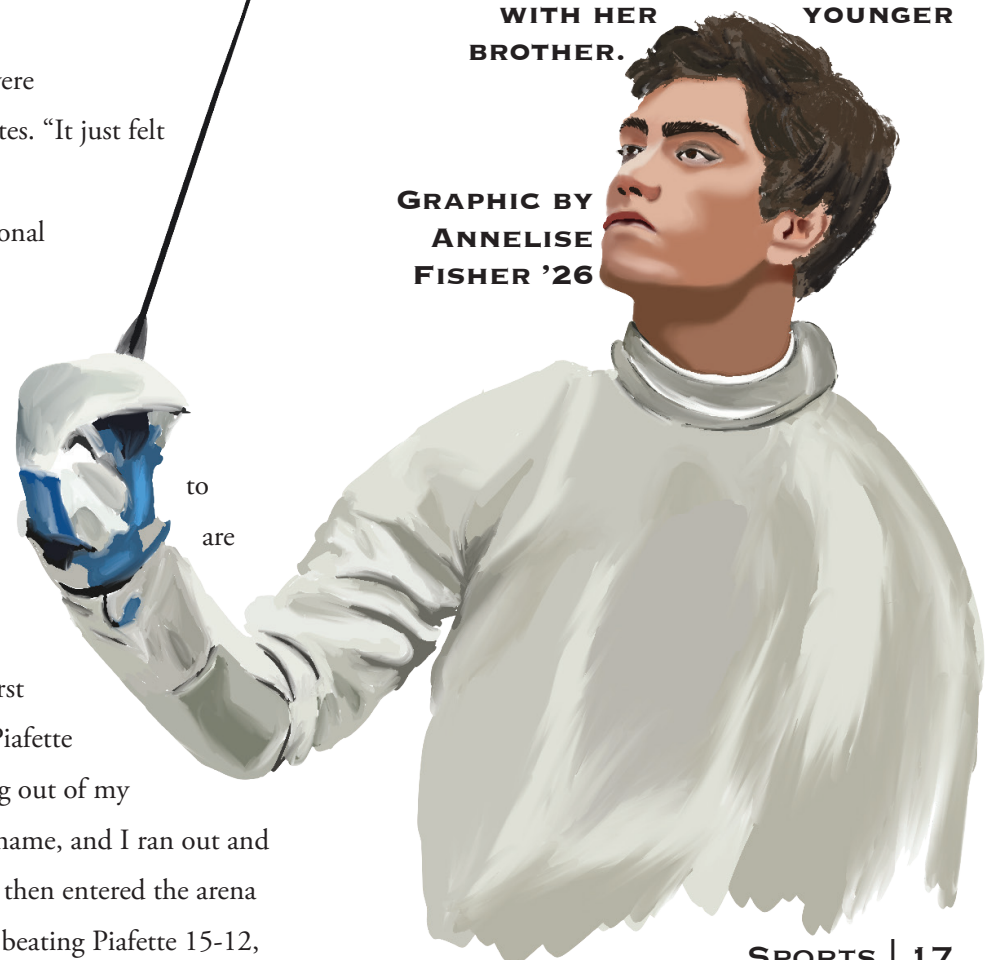
In a shocking upset, the U.S. men's sabre team fell to Iran in the opening match 45-44; Saron was in disbelief that a team poised to win a gold medal had their Olympic dreams dashed so quickly. "I would have been disappointed with a bronze because I thought we were so good. It was crazy to me, because I was like, 'How could this have happened?' This is the perfect amalgamation of everything coming together. And then we lost."

Despite an unexpected ending to his time as an Olympian, Saron is extremely grateful for the opportunity to represent the U.S. on the ultimate world stage. He is planning to spend time with friends and family in addition to allowing his body to heal before beginning to fence again. While he may not have a gold medal around his neck, he still wears the London 2012

bracelet as a reminder of the dream he was able to fulfill and the power of following through on your commitment to a goal.

KATE OLIVER '26 (KOLIVER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) USED TO HAVE LIGHTSABER DUELS WITH HER YOUNGER BROTHER.

GRAPHIC BY ANELISE FISHER '26



Indy Sportsbook: Setting the Line for the New Year

The hottest lines for the most highly contested stats for the upcoming semester.

BY LUKE WAGNER '26

Everyone's favorite column is back for another semester. For the first issue, the Indy Sportsbook decided to create some preliminary lines for academic statistics for the upcoming semester, Harvard style. Not everyone on campus may agree with our predictions, but here are some of our favorite lines for the upcoming 14 weeks in Cambridge:

Classes missed: Over/Under 6.5

– Depending on how many courses you take, your classes' timing, and if attendance is required, this number may vary. However, the Indy Sportsbook is pretty confident in this line after four semesters of classes at this school. Taking five classes (or more) can definitely push this number a little bit higher (to around 8.5), but over a semester you are going to miss your alarm, get sick for a couple of days, or just be too lazy to attend that three-hour seminar.

Sports Games attended: Over/Under 3.5

– Now you might look at this number and think, 'Wow that line is abysmally low,' but do not be fooled. Many people attend either zero or one sports game the entire year (that one game being Harvard-Yale). For people who are interested in sports at the school (trust us, we do exist), this number does not necessarily apply. But for the larger student body, this is a pretty aggressive line. We hope you prove us wrong, but after seeing the attendance at sports games last season, we ultimately find this reasonable.

Failed talking stages: Over/Under 5.5

– Depending on how many people the average student talks to during a

semester, this line could be wrong, but for someone who has been single for all of college so far, we think college students tend to get somewhere around these numbers over 14 weeks of their life. You never know, though—you might hit off an early relationship that could lead to something bigger, or you might strike out all year and hit double digits. The ball is in your court.

Active Extracurriculars: Over/Under 2.5

– Most people are involved in at least one serious or academic club on campus. Add in organizations that they take part in to stay active or have fun and, the big question then becomes, how much time do you *really* have? Taking five classes, the members of the Indy Sportsbook generally lean on two dedicated extracurricular commitments. However, if you have a lighter class schedule or are more adventurous, that number could be higher.

Coffee Cups Consumed: Over/Under 117.5

– Coffee is the fuel that keeps many students going through long nights of studying and early morning classes. Our line considers the average student drinking about one cup per day, with some extra cups thrown in during midterms and finals. Of course, if you're the type to down a couple of cups before that 9 a.m. lecture or pull all-nighters regularly, you might be looking at smashing the over on this one.

Hours Spent in the Library: Over/Under 120.5

– We at the Indy Sportsbook hate doing our work in the library, but the library is a second home for many students, especially as assignments pile up at the end of the

semester. Our line assumes students spend about 8-10 hours a week, but it can vary widely depending on how early you start studying for finals, how much group work you have, or how many papers you need to write. Some students might not even come close to this, while others could live in the stacks.

Last-Minute Assignment Completions:

Over/Under 20.5 – For this one, we are considering finishing an assignment within 30 minutes of when it is due as "last minute." Procrastination is a staple of college, especially at Harvard. Considering how many P-Set classes you have and how many assignments you end up doing the night before or the morning they are due will determine how close this line will be. If you're someone who thrives on last-minute pressure, this might be the line where you bet the over.

As the semester kicks off, these lines are here to add a little extra fun to the ups and downs of our time living in Cambridge. Whether you are the type who practically lives in the library, a die-hard Crimson fan who never misses a game, or someone who always seems to finish assignments right under the wire, there's a line here for everyone. So, keep an eye on how your semester is shaping up, compare notes with friends, and see if you can beat the odds.

LUKE WAGNER '26

(LUKEWAGNER@COLLEGE.

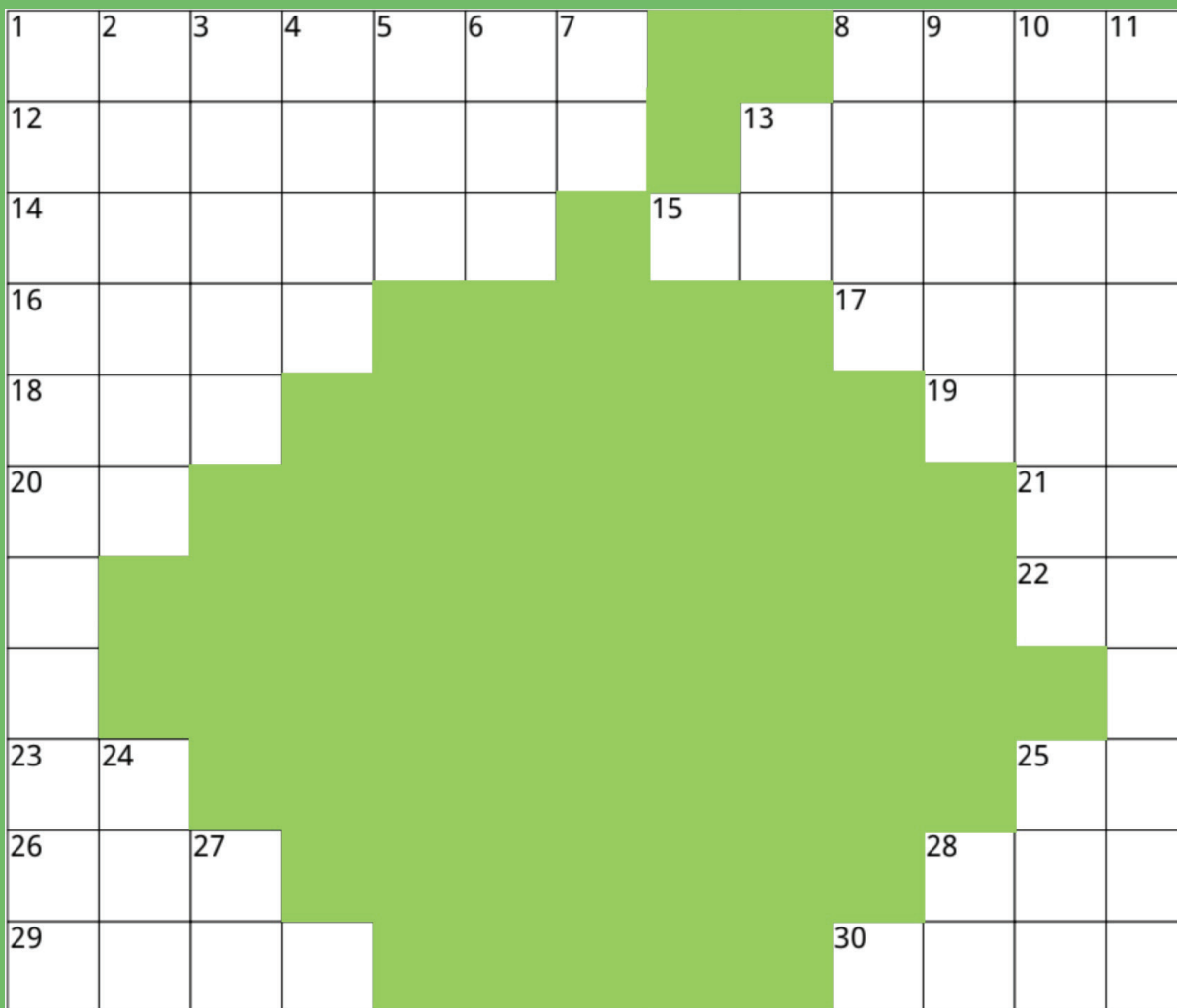
HARVARD.EDU) LOVES ANALYZING

AND OVERTHINKING MANY

ASPECTS OF HIS LIFE.

Brat

BY HAN NGUYEN '27



ACROSS

1. Share with your Twitter followers
8. Ziegfeld and others
12. Words of admission
13. Phony persona
14. "Boom Clap" singer
15. Heckler
16. Full house, e.g.
17. Advantage
18. Director Lee

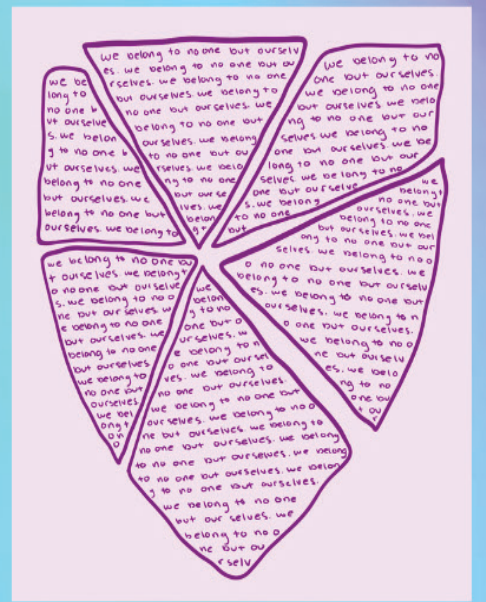
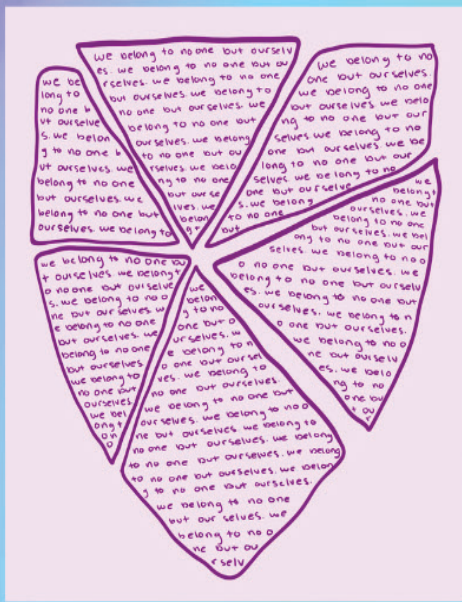
19. Afore
20. Concerning
21. By
22. Short for mister
23. "Gotcha"
25. Rookie of Indiana Fever
26. Muslim Holiday
28. Actress Sandra
29. Rotten kind
30. Secure, as a ship

DOWN

1. Nathan's accomplice
2. Flammable gas
3. Banjo sound
4. Hospital section
5. Bilingual subject
6. U.K. record label
7. Spanish for tea
8. Gratis
9. Feature on "Girl, so confusing"
10. Weight of a Japanese yen coin
11. "The Fast and the Furious" competitor
13. Atomic number 26
24. Wine aperitif
25. Corporate VIP
27. Attorney general
28. Execute

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WE WANT YOU, JUST THE WAY YOU ARE, TO COMP THE HARVARD INDEPENDENT

SEPTEMBER 7: COMP DARTY AT 2PM!

SEPTEMBER 8: INFO SESSION (TIME TBC)

COME TO 12 ARROW ST TO LEARN WHY YOU SHOULD COMP THE INDY!

THE *HARVARD INDEPENDENT* PUBLISHES EVERY WEEK DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR BY THE *HARVARD INDEPENDENT*, INC., 12 ARROW STREET CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

Eliza Kimball

Andrew Spilman

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

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