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ABOUT THE INDEPENDENT

As Harvard College's weekly undergraduate newspaper, 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.

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Finance Fever

A LOOK AT THE UNDERGRADUATE FIXATION ON FINANCE AT HARVARD.

BY PIPPA LEE '28

(HUCBE), and Harvard Undergraduate Venture Capital Group (HUVCG).

HUVCG takes the interest of hundreds of freshmen every year. “532 people signed up for comp. By the last round of the comp, we had around 100 compers, and we took 32 analysts,” said the Director of Recruitment, Harron Lee '27. The number of students who applied for their comp would represent around 32% of the first-year class—a testament to the popularity and visibility of the club.

Jessie Pitsillides '25, the Head of Education for HFAC, explained how HFAC differs from the other finance clubs. “We are a massive club, given just how many people we graduate every semester. We assume zero knowledge going in, which, I think, is pretty rare,” said Pitsillides. “And as such, it means that we are kind of people’s starting points.” HFAC is structured like a course at Harvard, with weekly sections and lectures to teach first years about finance. “This fall, which is my first fall teaching it, we have 374 [compers] currently,” said Pitsillides. Assuming most of these are freshmen, almost ¼ of the first-year class is comping HFAC.

These clubs are not without a rigorous process. Many students choosing to have to go through a written application, multiple meetings, research and preparation for investment pitches, and interviews—if they make it far enough. Yet, while these clubs might have some influence on securing a job in investment banking or venture capital, it is uncertain whether top firms actually prioritize participation in these competitive pre-professional organizations.

It seems the cycle of applying to incredibly competitive programs

never ends. Goldman Sachs, a top finance firm, has an acceptance rate of less than 1%. Goldman Sachs CEO David Solomon explains that acceptance into Goldman Sachs is not just about one’s resume and intellect. “I’ll tell you one thing that we’re finding less and less inside the firm that I think is an important skill set, but actually we find it from students that come from Hamilton or other liberal arts backgrounds, is an ability to write,” Solomon answered during a panel in 2019.

Writing is one of the many skills that Goldman Sachs values, yet it is often overlooked due to the common assumption that only experience in finance and a background in math and economics are important. According to Solomon, Goldman Sachs values a diverse package of skills. Perhaps Harvard’s obsession with concentrations and clubs relating to careers in finance is not necessarily what firms like Goldman Sachs are looking for. If 300,000 students from top schools are applying for the job, maybe it’s more important to find a way to be different from the other applicants.

As Harvard’s overwhelming focus on finance clubs continues to shape its campus culture, it raises critical questions about the balance between ambition and authenticity in students’ academic and professional journeys. While these pre-professional clubs undoubtedly offer valuable experiences and networking opportunities, students must also consider the importance of individuality and the broader skill sets that top firms like Goldman Sachs seek. Maybe it’s not the resumé full of finance-related extracurriculars, but instead one that showcases a diverse array of interests that will truly stand out and secure a job at a top firm.

PIPPA LEE '28 (PIPPALEE@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS COMPING THE INDEPENDENT.

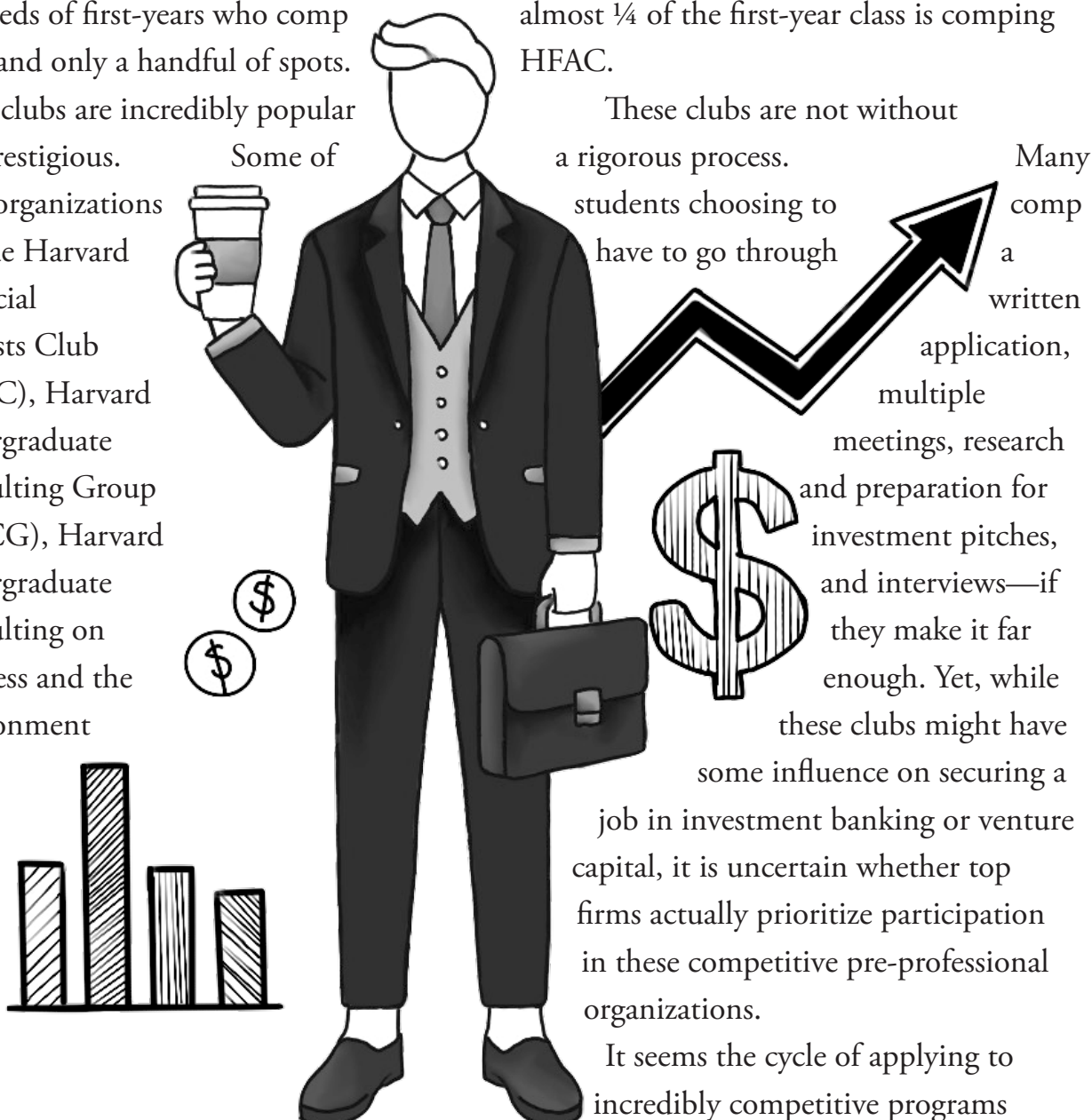
GRAPHIC BY ALLYSON XU '28

Getting into Harvard is no small feat, with just over 3.6% of the 54,008 applicants admitted into the College in the most recent class. However, incredibly low acceptance rates, intense applications, and extreme competitiveness don’t end with the College’s acceptance letter, especially if you want to join a pre-professional finance club.

In the first two to three weeks of school, the feeling of stress among freshmen applying to clubs was palpable. Entering a library on campus meant seeing hundreds of freshmen frantically pacing or frozen behind their computers researching companies and investments, working on slide decks with prospective pitches, and booking a quiet room for an interview. Harvard’s undergraduate student body seems to be overtaken by students wanting a career in finance, with many students seeming to think these clubs are the key to achieving their goals.

There are many different pre-professional finance-related clubs, each with hundreds of first-years who comp them and only a handful of spots. These clubs are incredibly popular and prestigious.

Some of these organizations include Harvard Financial Analysts Club (HFAC), Harvard Undergraduate Consulting Group (HUCG), Harvard Undergraduate Consulting on Business and the Environment



The Languages Less Taken

HARVARD OFFERS NEARLY 100 LANGUAGES, YET UNDERGRADUATES RARELY ENROLL IN COURSES ON MOST OF THEM.

BY JULES SANDERS '28

Harvard College offers courses and tutorials on 98 world languages, with even more available upon special request. From Mandarin Chinese, spoken by 1.1 billion people worldwide, to Old Church Slavonic, a medieval proto-Slavic language only occasionally used in some Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic church services today, undergraduate language offerings span continents and millennia—yet few students take advantage of the diversity of courses available.

Even fewer students choose to devote the core of their academic career to the study of languages and their respective literatures and civilizations: for the Class of 2023, the College conferred just 31 degrees in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, Romance Languages and Literatures, Linguistics, Comparative Literature, and the Classics.

Some students might feel that less common languages have limited use in the professional world, whereas Chinese, Spanish, Japanese, German, French, Arabic, and English are the primary languages of the world economy. Even in graduate education, there is little incentive to know rarer languages besides pursuing a degree in these languages themselves. For all of Harvard's master's programs in history besides the program in the history of Latin America, knowledge of French and German can fulfill part or all of the language requirement.

Nonetheless, some students still embark on the road less traveled. Michelle Chung '28 is one of three students—two undergraduates and one postdoc—taking an elementary Danish language tutorial. “First of all, I wanted to watch Danish movies,” Chung said, explaining her decision to

take the language course. “I also want to study abroad there, so I think it'd be nice to know the fundamentals of the language.” Since the beginning of the semester, Chung and her two classmates have learned the basics of the Danish language. “I can count to 100, I can say the alphabet, I can do grammar,” she elaborated.

According to Chung, most people react to her decision to take Danish with confusion. “They're like, ‘Why would you take that?’” However, Chung explained that her course selection generally differs from that of most other first-year students: “I'm also taking Philosophy 4. I don't know many other first-years in that class.”

Chung views lower-enrollment courses as beneficial to her learning experience at Harvard. “I also like it when it's a smaller class,” she stated. “If it's a more niche topic, I feel like the professor's more interested in it.”

The process of enrolling in tutorial-based language courses is more complicated than simply adding the class to one's semester schedule. Rather, students must complete a brief course application. “I did petition for the language,” she said. “The lady I emailed, she was like, you have to fill out this form saying why you want to take it and how it'll help your academic interest.”

Any student who wishes to take an independent language tutorial must apply for departmental review with an explanation as to why that language would contribute significantly to their

educational goals. “Mere interest in the language is not sufficient for approval,” reads the Slavic Languages and Literatures Department's page on language study.

“If I was a researcher in the field of social studies and sociology, then I would love to study their government,” she remarked when asked if Danish has any relevance to her future career.

“But in my current path, no, only in terms of studying the language.”

Much like Chung, Ida Chen '27 is taking a niche language through her study of Modern Irish at Harvard, taught by Dylan Cooper. “One of my favorite movies of all time

is *Song of the Sea*, and the theme song that was sung in Irish, ‘Amhrán Na Farraige,’ piqued my interest in the language,” she recalled. “I was also quite into Irish liling and fiddling.” Liling is a traditional Gaelic form of singing characterized by pitch modulation and a swing rhythm.

Like Chung, Chen emphasized the small-class dynamic of her Irish course and the community of learners she has met. “The small class size really makes it special,” she said. “We meet four times a week at 9:00 a.m., and it is a perfect little hour to start the day off with.”

Chen said the style of instruction matches the class's atmosphere of connectivity. “The learning is informal and indirect because we're such a small group, and I feel like I get to learn much more than just the language,” she said. “Dylan is a linguist, so she's always pulling in etymology and phonology and comparing our studies to other languages.”



Chen doubts that the Irish language will play a significant role in her career. “I plan on studying Economics and History of Architecture (HAA), so I am not sure if this will help me content-wise,” she admitted. “I guess it might help me in the art department, but some of the most famous visual artworks to come out of Ireland don’t actually use Modern Irish.”

Chen enthusiastically recommends that others take Modern Irish. “The language is actually so cool, and the culture in the Gaeltachtaí is so interesting to learn about,” she said. Gaeltachtaí refers to the regions of the contemporary Republic of Ireland where Irish is predominantly spoken. Although some may consider the study of Irish niche, in the Republic of Ireland, it is recognized as a valuable cornerstone of national culture and identity. Efforts by the Irish government to revitalize Irish language education have created a new generation of Irish speakers in Ireland.

Liv Birnstad ’27 is currently taking her first semester of Norwegian. “I decided to take Norwegian because my mom immigrated

here from Norway and I hold citizenship, but I didn’t have a good grasp on the Norwegian language,” she explained. “I wanted to be able to connect with my family and community more when I visit Norway.” She is one of just two students enrolled in the course, but, like Chen, she identified the class atmosphere as a highlight of her experience taking Norwegian. “I feel like I enjoy learning Norwegian more than any other language because I get to do it in an intimate, small-group setting,” she elaborated.

Similarly to Chung and Chen, Birnstad recalled the confused reactions of other Harvard students to her choice to take Norwegian, and she expressed doubt that the language itself would assist her in her career search. “I don’t think that Norwegian will help me specifically in my job since I plan to work in the U.S., but I think the process of learning a language is a valuable skill,” she said. “Being bilingual tends to be helpful when applying to jobs.”

Chung, Chen, and Birnstad’s testimonies point toward the intellectual

enjoyment that can come from enrolling in a less commonly studied language course.

Beyond the 98 languages listed on the Harvard language website, students can propose plans of study for any language they wish to learn, and the department most closely associated with that language will try its best to find faculty or an unaffiliated instructor to teach the course. Given the College’s renewed emphasis on intellectual vitality among the student body, the faculty’s maintenance and instruction of numerous language courses with under 10 students demonstrates a strong commitment to diversifying the educational paths available to undergraduates.

“I would highly recommend people get to know, not just Ireland, but just small corners of the world that pique your interest,” Chen said. “I think it will always be worth it.”

JULES SANDERS ’28 (JULESSANDERS@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS CURRENTLY LEARNING ESPERANTO ON DUOLINGO.

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To Be, or Not to Be (Pre-Med)

HEAR FROM MEMBERS OF THE HARVARD COMMUNITY ON VARIOUS WAYS TO SOLVE THE PRE-MED DILEMMA.

BY RAINA WANG '28

I sat down for a typical lunch at Annenberg. “So, what classes are you taking?” my table-mate asked, a classic conversation starter.

“I’m taking a History of Science class, a Gen Ed on heart disease, and LS1a,” I responded, thinking about the work cut out for me later.

“OMG, are you also a pre-med?” they questioned, recognizing our shared interest in STEM and looking for reassurance.

“Hahaha...as of right now? Yes. But check back in a year,” I answered half-jokingly, like hundreds of other first-years on campus. We’re all aware that people often get “weeded out” by the notoriously difficult CHEM 17: Principles of Organic Chemistry or drawn away by the allure of Wall Street. Yet there are those who persevere through the difficult classes and resist the temptation of alternative paths, determined to see the pre-med track through.

Luke Lawson '26, a biomedical engineering concentrator at the College, has known that he wanted to pursue medicine since early in his high school career. In an interview with the Independent, Lawson explained, “I thought medicine was a very good way to put my efforts and use my intelligence in school to then develop it into something very clear that helps people.”

But there are also many students who choose to leave the pre-med track behind. “I think the draw of money is a big one for econ away from pre-med,” commented Lawson. The time commitment is no joke either: from four years of undergraduate education to four more years of medical school, and then three to seven years of residency—who knows when life is expected to *actually* begin?

Speaking on behalf of his peers, Lawson relayed the dilemma that many students face. “[They think], ‘Wait a minute, there are so many other jobs that I could be making equal or more money in, that I could get a year out of college or two months after I graduate.’” When asked about what alternative careers his peers have been turning to, he said, “The big one is going to some sort of econ-finance industry job, like investment banking, venture capital, private equity,

things like that.” Lawson observed that regardless of the path others choose, each one leads to some form of success.

“I’ve had a couple friends who, for their summers, they’re going and working for Bank of America or Goldman Sachs, or some financial big tech or big company, and they come out of the summer making 30k,” he explained. “Meanwhile, the pre-med kids are doing the PRISE program for research over the summer, where the exciting thing is you get free housing, and you work 40 hours a week for 10 weeks. And at the end of the summer, you get a 3k stipend.”

There are many components of the life sciences that can draw students toward a STEM concentration, beyond just the pre-med track. “Among other things, science concentrators are learning how to test hypotheses, synthesize large amounts of information, and explain complex concepts,” commented Deb Carroll, the Interim Director at the Mignone Center for Career Success (MCS).

Carroll elaborated that through internships, research, classes, or other extracurricular experiences, students can learn what they like beyond the conventional pre-med track. For example, many students find the opportunity to do research in different labs throughout their time at Harvard.

Lawson explained that through these experiences, students figure out if they “can see themselves doing biological research for either academia, which is strictly for the purpose of figuring things out for just the sake of knowledge, or for the industry, where you would go work for a pharmaceutical company...for the purposes of developing something that will be commercialized and then sold for profit.”

Despite the career paths outlined by Lawson and Carroll, such as medical school or medical research, some pursuing a classic “pre-med” concentration often find themselves at a crossroads. A Harvard alumna who wished to remain anonymous studied Integrative Biology at the College, and admitted that she frequently felt like the only person in her biology classes who did not intend on pursuing a doctorate. Although she loved the intellectual challenge that biology presented, she believed a career in finance and business



suiting her entrepreneurial personality better. This alumna secured her post-graduate job in her sophomore year of college, and now, she continues to work in investment banking.

“Even today, I don’t really know how to reconcile those two things,” she commented. “Should I do life science investing? Should I try to do something in AI and biology?”

Her advice for undergraduates is to explore both the academic and career possibilities during college. She believes it is worth it for students to study something that excites them, regardless of whether it aligns with future career prospects. “Even for students interested in medicine, nearly 80% will not apply to medical school until they are alumni and have had one or more years of work, study, research, or other experience,” Carroll emphasized.

And for the students who don’t know where to start, MCS provides a vast range of resources. “No matter what a student chooses to study, we have career advisors who work with students interested in careers in a wide variety of industries, [such as] biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, global health, and environmental careers.”

Just as there are many types of pre-med students, there are also many types of life sciences students. The best way to discover what “type” of pre-med (or non-pre-med) student you want to be is to explore.

RAINA WANG '28 (RAINAWANG@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS CURRENTLY HAVING A CRISIS ABOUT HER OWN IDENTITY AS A NON-STEM PRE-MED STUDENT.

GRAPHIC BY REEVE SYKES '26

Behind the Wheel

HOW HARVARD UNDERGRADUATE AUTOMOTIVE SOCIETY'S (HUAS) FORMULA SAE TEAM IS CRUISING TOWARD BECOMING A POWERHOUSE IN COLLEGIATE MOTORSPORTS.

BY KALVIN FRANK '28

There has never been a more exciting time to be a Harvard engineer. With the recently built \$1 billion campus in Allston and its ever-growing student body of engineering, computer science, and applied mathematics concentrators, Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) has seen a meteoric rise. The most impressive part is that SEAS is just 17 years old, founded in 2007.

As more Harvard students explore possibilities in SEAS, new teams of engineers have started to form. Harvard Undergraduate Automotive Society (HUAS) now houses the Solar Car Challenge. In this challenge, participants are asked to design and build a car that races across the country and is powered only by solar energy. HUAS also has its Formula SAE team participants design and build a vehicle that gets scored on various metrics. There is also a rocket propulsion club that builds real-life rockets. With all three teams growing rapidly, Harvard engineering is on a roll.

Multiple executive board members in HUAS shared their plans for the SAE racing team with the *Independent*. This team plans to register its car for the May 2026 Formula SAE race at the Michigan International Speedway. Though challenging, the members expressed excitement toward

gearing up and preparing for the race.

President Rayhaan Saa'im '25 explained how the Formula One SAE has worked towards this lofty goal. "These senior theses...they'll provide a major framework for the car." A thesis is a component of earning a Bachelor of Science degree for multiple SEAS programs, and many of the team members are doing their theses on a component of the car. "This year, we have seven seniors doing their thesis on other components of the car, namely rear suspension, steering, improving on the chassis, aerodynamics, as well as drivetrain," Saa'im explained. This car will have significant research backing it from combining individual projects.

Even as seniors lead the charge, juniors, sophomores, and first-year students make up a significant portion of the club. Tanya Nuno '27, a sophomore on the team and the Business Development Executive Chair, is in charge of obtaining most of the funding for this race car from sponsorships and fundraising. This is an essential role, as the car could cost over \$80,000 to build when including the budgeted list of about 40 parts ranging in price from \$161 for a fuel tank to a \$6,000 Honda engine.

When looking into clubs as a freshman, Nuno "wanted to join hands-on clubs, especially since [she] didn't have too much experience besides being on her high school's robotics team."

Nuno pointed out that this is a turning point year for many of the engineering clubs at Harvard.

Clubs like Formula SAE are now working on engineering challenges and competitions, but it wasn't always this way. Despite wanting to join "hands-on" clubs during her first year, Nuno said, "Clubs that [she] joined weren't really doing that. It was more of getting people to come in, panelists, to come in, or just building a community." While building a community among engineers is essential, building things while creating a community is an exciting development for Harvard engineers.

Both interviewees are excited about the coming year and working on this project. "Momentum has never been greater than it is now," Saa'im asserted. Nuno is most excited about "Seeing people actually make a car from the ground up and working together." Teamwork is what this Formula SAE team is all about.

In May 2026, we could see the Harvard race car barreling down the track, potentially winning the Formula SAE race. To follow the team's journey, look out for updates online or contact Saa'im at rsaaim@college.harvard.edu with any questions.

So, Harvard College, start your engines. On your mark, get set, go, and watch as Harvard Formula SAE races to build their first official race car.

KALVIN FRANK '28 (KFRANK@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS EXCITED TO SEE A RACE CAR BUILT AT THE SEC.

GRAPHIC BY ANNELISE FISHER '26



The Overcommitment Illusion

HOW MY HABIT OF STRETCHING MYSELF TOO THIN HAS HAMPERED MY LEARNING.

BY GAURI SOOD '26

The psychological concept of illusory correlations, or perceived relations between two things, intrigues researchers across the field of psychology. The catch is, there is no actual relationship between the two variables. Some external thinking process—perhaps a social phenomenon, highly available stereotype, or rampant bias—creates this relationship out of thin air. This falsified relationship then causes individuals to act in ways that reinforce the “correlation.” As a result, it strengthens the illusion in the minds of others, creating a feedback loop of misinformation.

In my first two years on Harvard’s campus, I fell into an illusory correlation myself—of overcommitment and its relationship with productivity. Hidden fears of imposter syndrome elicited my need to be constantly busy. How else could I prove my worth in a space with such talented individuals?

As I pushed myself to take on more responsibilities, I began to notice several changes. I became disillusioned with mastery—to juggle many things at once created an appearance of great success. Yet, as I now know both scientifically and personally, there is no such thing as multitasking; instead, we are rapidly switching from one thing to another, thereby giving each task less attention and effort. I sacrificed thorough engagement with any one project because I was so focused on keeping up with peers who seemed to juggle seven at once.

This lack of deep involvement created invisible costs. I recall putting off a research assignment for a psychology lab where I’ve worked for the past two years. The project’s impact could help improve the mental health of students in war-torn Ukraine. Yet, somehow, the potential for good was overlooked by a plethora of other tasks that took up my brain space, making me delay my portion of its completion repeatedly. Looking back, I cringe at this memory.

The joy we as students find from our wholehearted, genuine academic pursuits is what stimulates

us to continue working hard and explore our passions. Or so it should be. When I was distracted by the next item on my to-do list instead of focusing on the task at hand, both tasks suffered. The moments of excitement that should have followed after my engagement didn’t do so, leaving me depleted and unmotivated.

This burnout strained friendships, leaving little time for the connections that make this place so interconnected and special; namely, the bi-weekly or so catch-ups with acquaintances from different organizations and spaces on campus. I found sparse moments for rest, which I spent thinking about my next assignment and worrying about the future. I ignored my present, instead contemplating ways to add more to my plate.

Embarking on a career path that followed this constantly active, overburdensome mindset was what I began imagining. I did not realize how harmful this could be in the long term, creating both an extensive focus on external validation and a flawed version of balance. To reach the next milestone, I found myself exploring internship applications that had nothing to do with my interests, failing to seriously consider how these opportunities would mold my path. Future career opportunities lost all excitement; instead, it felt like another “task” to get to, which I erroneously believed could only result without a mere minute to breathe.

Yet, the moments of breathing are those in which everything begins to make sense. Laps around the Charles, running through every past moment of weekly stress on the phone with my dad. Choreographing the next Bhangra segment with my friends

in our cramped, candlelit common room. Finding thirty minutes for the gym, a habit I’m avidly trying not to lose from my yearly summer streak of optimism.

These are the activities that bring back my vigor for academic work, stimulate my passion projects, and reignite my excitement for the future. I continue to take on new challenges, but only with the promise that my time for reflection is never lost.

I acknowledge that young adulthood is the greatest time for trying new things. What better a place to learn your strengths and weaknesses than a college campus, where you hold little immediate responsibility for anyone besides yourself, and the options for extracurricular involvement, even within your interest subgroups, are copious?

There is, however, a drastic difference between being busy and being immersed (the latter of which I’m attempting to get closer to mastering). When you can’t deeply, fully contribute to something, both your own benefit and group commitment falter. You might feel occupied, but do you feel fulfilled?

Consider redefining your connotation of overcommitment. Instead of burdening yourself with perfunctory performance across multiple projects, “overcommit” (or in other words, immerse yourself) in a few choice undertakings, with room for reflection. Watch them, and you, blossom.

GAURI SOOD '26 (GAURISOOD@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS TRYING TO GET BETTER AT SAYING NO. SHE ALSO APOLOGIZES IF THIS HIT A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO HOME.

GRAPHIC BY ANNELISE FISHER '26



So You Want to Work?

A GUIDE TO THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD'S BEST KEPT SECRETS AND JOB INTERVIEWS.

BY THE JOB RECRUITMENT FOUNDATION

So you're looking for a job? Well then, you're in the right place. Here at the *Harvard Independent*, we know that navigating the job market is like trying to date someone in this day and age. Confusing. Miserable. And just when you think you're on the up, you're hit with yet another blow.

But there's no need to fear. Technicals, coffee chats, and super days are right around the corner, and we have everything you need to know before heading to that Goldman Sachs recruiting event.

****WARNING:** This guide may lead to an overwhelming number of LinkedIn connection requests.**

What is the job for me?

This is the most important question to ask yourself before going any further in this guide. Naturally, answering this boils down to how much money you want to make over the course of the next fifty years of your life.

Nine to five feeling far too basic for you? Look no further than venture capital or private equity. We've heard your supervisors will even pay for a free in-office snack after midnight! With such generous bosses, why would you not want to work in one of these coveted positions?

Or perhaps you want to take a different route. The *Independent* can't make this decision for you, but wants to remind you that you already missed the HUCG application deadline. If you aren't currently making your spring comp slide deck, we suggest you stop reading here since you don't have a chance of even reaching the interview stage.

The Prep Work

If you've made it this far, congratulations! You are truly committed to finding success, and just five more minutes of your time could be the difference between visiting your parents' house or living in it.

First impressions matter, and a good résumé is imperative to your success in the recruiting process. The most important thing to remember when boiling down

your entire character onto one page is to be different. Everyone uses Times New Roman on an eight-and-a-half by eleven sheet of paper. But think about Elle Woods' originality. While we would not recommend copying her pink, scented vision, here at the *Independent*, we want to remind you that size, in this case, matters. The only way to make your résumé better is to make it bigger! Find the largest poster board possible, and get cooking.

The Interview Itself

Play hard to get: Forget about the suit and briefcase. Channel your inner Jesse Eisenberg as Mark Zuckerberg in *The Social Network* and show up in that bathrobe and slippers. The interviewer will see your confidence, confuse it with professionalism, and likely hire you on the spot. It's even better if you're a little late. Showing up fifteen minutes after your intended start time shows your interviewer you are the main event. No one wants an employee with no outside life.

Don't settle: When you walk into that room, quickly take notice of the person who is about to shake your hand. Sweaty palms? A skinny tie? It is obvious that this person is not important enough to talk to you. Refuse to sit down until the head of recruiting arrives. Know your worth.

List your best assets: Performing well in a job interview may very well be the most important thing you will ever do in your life, and selling yourself short is a guaranteed way to end up unemployed. Don't be modest. Your interviewer should know if you were the line leader in first grade.

Estimate: A little rounding up never hurt anyone. Did you pull weeds from your garden, or did you save an entire arboretum from an invasive species? Do you have two weeks of experience or two years? Personally, we don't see much of a difference. And what are your interviewers going to do? Fact-check? We doubt it.

The rule of six: You didn't walk all the

way from Lamont Library to a recruiting event for Blackstone at the Barker Center just to learn that their starting salary is inadequate. If they offer anything less than six figures, walk right out of that door, and don't stop until you end up on Wall Street.

Borrow that cup of sugar: There's no shame in ringing up your dad's cousin's dog's best friend's owner's neighbor. Ask for that internal referral. Don't be shy!

The Follow-up

Oh, so you thought the interview was over when you walked out the door? Rookie mistake. The follow-up is just as crucial as showing up in the first place. "Tens, tens, tens across the board" is the slogan to remember.

Ten seconds after you say your goodbyes, write an email with your most profound "thank you." Consulting Bruce Mitchell's *A Guide to Old English* will ensure that you are not being too informal.

Ten minutes after that, shoot a text asking your interviewer to get coffee. This will remind them that you are a candidate who goes beyond the cubicle.

When you've reached the ten-hour mark, it's time to pick up that landline. Give your interviewer a call and let them know how much fun you had getting to know them today. And don't worry. If they seem annoyed on the phone, it's just because they are thinking about how horrible their life is going to be while they wait for you to sign that job offer paperwork.

We can guarantee that if you follow all of these steps, a Patagonia vest, checkered button-down, and khakis will most definitely be in your future.

THE JOB RECRUITMENT
FOUNDATION IS HOSTING A CAREER
FAIR IN TASTY BASTY THIS
SATURDAY NIGHT.

GRAPHIC BY REEVE
SYKES '26

INDY
BARKER CENTER
FOR CAREER SUCCESS,

Discovering Harvard's Jewish Spaces

RECONNECTING WITH MY JEWISH HERITAGE THROUGH A REFLECTION ON HARVARD'S OFFERINGS.

BY MIA WILCOX '28

The past few weeks have been a very important time for the Jewish community, both at Harvard and around the world. The coinciding of the high holiday season—in which the community celebrates Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur among others—and the first anniversary of Oct. 7 provides a prime time to reflect on our campus community.

As a Reform Jew who didn't participate much in my Jewish community outside of family events, I have taken this time as an opportunity to explore many of Harvard's offerings, attending events and speaking to leaders and participants of campus groups such as Chabad and Hillel. What I discovered was a community centered around support, openness, religion, and love.

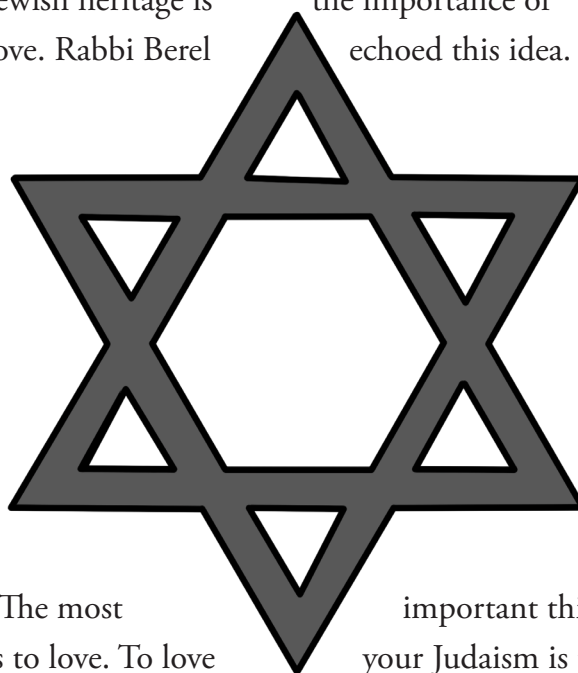
My first experience with Harvard's Jewish community was Shabbat 1000, hosted in early September. I was surprised to see that so many people showed up. I found myself at a table where I was the only Jew, which initially surprised me, though I quickly came to realize this reflected the openness of Harvard's Jewish community and the desire of many students to participate in and learn about traditions that are not their own. As a first-year student, this event proved to be a great way for me to make new friends and sparked my curiosity to discover more.

"I find it very invigorating," Chabad Rabbi Berel Feldman stated when asked about his experience being a Rabbi in a college environment. "I feel like people are very open, surprisingly, very open to hearing ideas, hearing perhaps takes on our religion that they have encountered in the past, takes on God in the past and the ability to be part of a community, to learn and to grow, not just intellectually, but morally and ethically."

Rabbi Berel reflected on how the events of Oct. 7 have impacted the Jewish community at Harvard. "I think the events of October 7 really exemplify, after everything that happened in Israel, [that] the Jewish community is a very small community, and everyone knew someone that was affected, and everyone had someone that was involved. And it really brought the Jewish community even closer together: to lean on each other, to support each other, to help each other, to really try to find comfort with the community that you have right here."

of the victims of Oct. 7 and their families confirmed Rabbi Berel's sentiments. By the time I arrived at Widener steps a few minutes before the start time, there was a large crowd, including students from the College, graduate schools, faculty, families, as well as University president Alan Garber. I recognized the faces of many friends, both Jewish and non-Jewish. Students and faculty made speeches and sang songs, while attendees held candles. It was incredibly moving to see the community come together with strength and compassion during a time of collective mourning.

A core message I was taught throughout my childhood while learning about my Jewish heritage is the importance of love. Rabbi Berel echoed this idea.



"The most important thing is to love. To love your Judaism is to love who you are as a person. Just like you should love your first name, you should love your last name. The most important thing is to love your identity."

At the end of our interview, Rabbi Berel encouraged me to come to Tuesday night Chinese dinner at the Chabad tent on Banks St. Upon arriving, I immediately understood why I had heard so many good things: a warm tent, good food—which was a nice break from Berg—and good company from those of all religions.

To gain a well-rounded perspective of the Jewish experience, I talked to Dani Kobrick '27, a student member of Hillel. Recounting her first experience with Hillel during Visitas, she said, "It was casino day. Hillel Casino Day. And so I was like, 'Hey, I love blackjack. Why don't I show up, meet some people?' Hopefully meet both students, prospective students, current students, and then maybe even Hillel staff. And so I went, had an awesome time. We were just there to have fun and talk and learn about each other's experiences."

Hillel, Kobrick described her experience with Jewish Learning Fellowships (JLF). "It's essentially encouraging Jewish students to learn more about their Judaism, learn more about themselves. And so there's one specifically for freshmen," Kobrick explained.

Kobrick described the structure of the program and its commitment to making first-year students feel connected. "Let's say we have a theme for a week: we were talking about home. What does it mean to be away from home now that we're in college?" she described. "We also read a little bit of text about, 'What did the Jews say about it?' It was just a wonderful way to talk to other freshmen about if you're homesick, and other emotions that everyone has as a freshman." Kobrick's experience reflects the general feelings I have encountered from other students involved in Jewish spaces on campus—a strong sense of welcome and a safe community.

In recent years, I have found myself feeling disconnected from my Jewish identity. I am no longer required to go to synagogue services by my grandparents, holiday dinners have become harder to coordinate, and I have completely forgotten any Hebrew I learned in childhood. Despite wanting to, it can be hard to find the time to appreciate this part of my identity.

However, through my conversation with Rabbi Berel and attending organized events, I have reflected on my favorite parts about being Jewish—the prevalence of song in services and community gatherings and the emphasis on togetherness. As a first-year student in a new environment that encourages involvement, it feels like a fresh opportunity to reconnect with this part of myself.

Rabbi Berel left me with thought-provoking questions as I continue this exploration. "Do you have the goods that it takes to be a good Jewish leader?" he asked. "Are you maintaining your identity? Are you proud of who you are, and are you using your talents to find the way that you could lead this generation and forthcoming generations?"

MIA WILCOX '28 (MWILCOX@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS COMPING THE INDEPENDENT.

GRAPHIC BY EL RICHARDS '26

Don't Give Up on Your Dream Job, Just Wait on It.

TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE MAKING YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE.

BY RANIA JONES '27

Sitting in an airport diner, my blockmate and I talk about our hopes and dreams. Over Caesar salads and Diet Cokes, we ask each other the question: “What did you want to be when you grew up?” We laughed about the silly answers we’d once thought we could be, like movie stars and astronauts.

As we compared and contrasted the ways in which we could imagine our dreams realistically coming true, we came to a conclusion. We decided that it is still possible for us to pursue our biggest and brightest career ambitions later on in life, perhaps after a decade or two of hard, less interesting work. We reveled in the idea of pursuing a second-act career.

The idea of the proverbial “dream job” has always existed—but is it a myth? Typically, we refer to dreams as the literal images that conjure in our heads as we fall asleep. Other times, we use the word to represent future goals and ambitions, ideals that we aspire to. A dream job is the ideal career that we envision for our future selves. It’s a career that we imagine will bring us all the good stuff: money, recognition, power, and fulfillment. What we don’t do, though, is dream about reality and our day-to-day—the struggles and stress of sacrifice and hard work. But that’s what makes the dreams dreams: they’re a way to escape reality.

As it stands, this idea of the “dream job” so often leads to disappointment. From the time we’re little, the question asked of us is what we will be when we grow up, not *who* we will be.

For the better part of the first twelve years of my life, I believed I was going to be the next great American fashion mogul. My label, as I planned, was to be called *Rania Noor*. Somewhere not long after summers of sewing camps, weekends watching Project Runway, mornings spent sketching at the kitchen table, afternoon trips to Joann Fabrics, and evenings spent pinning fabric and picking threads out of the creases of my bedroom floor, I lost this dream.

My next dream job was to be an

Editor-in-Chief, somewhere in a high-up, glassy Manhattan skyscraper. After that, it was to be RBG, or maybe a civil rights lawyer. But after countless iterations of imagining what I could and would be one day, and then giving up on it, I grew a harsh, crushing sense of reality—that I in fact could probably not do anything I wanted right after college.

Early in our adolescence, we’re encouraged to set our sights on stable careers with powerful titles, big salaries, and respect from peers. Careers where we work hard for promotions, focused on moving up the career ladder. But with this narrow vision, we’re left, more often than not, unfulfilled, uninspired, and trapped.

In a sometimes suffocating environment like Harvard, we are constantly forced to question whether our true academic and intellectual passions can secure us a steady job or a spot in a graduate school after our four years. According to *The Harvard Crimson*, concentrations such as Economics, Computer Science, and Government that are more immediately applicable to occupations, and thus more immediately financially rewarding, continue to lead in popularity. It’s possible that our generation truly loves economic theory, but it’s also possible that we just have increasing anxiety about our job prospects.

There’s also a growing contemporary pressure in the job market that every job we pursue should be our “dream job,” not only providing us a living, but also stimulation, emotional fulfillment, and a sense of purpose. This image of every career being a complete source of passion is endearing, but in some ways unrealistic.

I’m a proponent of the growing realization that we don’t necessarily have to follow a traditional path to fulfill our ambitions—or give up on pursuing our ideal jobs just because it seems the moment has passed. I’m in favor of taking a few diversions on your journey towards your dream job.

A 2011 study from Civic Ventures found that of the 9 million boomers who went on to have second-act careers, a majority

had been thinking about it since before age 50. I understand a second-act career to be what a person pursues after transitioning away from a previous career. It’s often a major career change that can pave the way for more meaning and excitement in life with so many advantages. However, to seriously consider a second-act career, we need to be in responsible financial positions and be comfortable in our emotional support systems—privileges that aren’t the easiest to retain. Money matters, especially when considering changing careers later in life.

There’s a privilege to all of this. At Harvard, I still at times feel the illusion that the whole world is at my fingertips. I know that with hard work and dedication, Harvard can provide me the opportunity to succeed financially and intellectually in the future. I feel so lucky to have this pseudo-safety net, because my dreams still feel within reach, no matter how long it may take me to reach them.

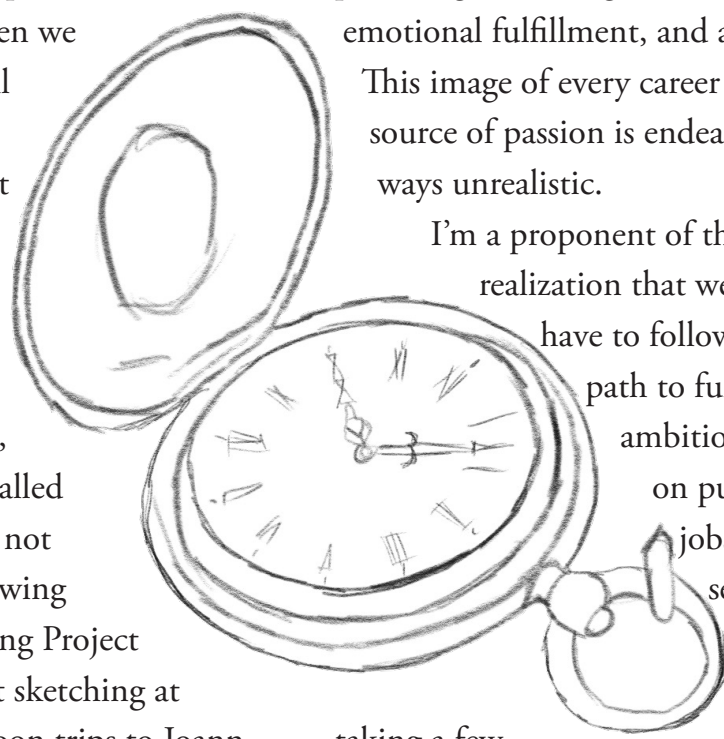
Generally, though, we need to work at changing the narrative that there’s an age barrier when it comes to pursuing our dreams. Dream jobs don’t have an expiration date. In fact, the lessons we will learn throughout our lives will equip us for what’s to come. Whether we will or won’t have experience in our dream job, the knowledge and experience that we *will* have is valuable and not stifling. It’s never too late to start learning a new skill.

I love dreams, and I will never stop dreaming. We just need to allow ourselves the capacity to linger and take time to decide what we actually want and what we need to do to get there. Just take the first step, then the second. Personal fulfillment doesn’t retire when we do.

Believe in the conviction that following your dreams will always be worth the jump. Our dreams are waiting for us whenever we’re ready to reach out and grab them. So give yourself the permission to keep dreaming. Don’t rob yourself of a future that you still have the ability to be the architect of.

RANIA JONES '27 (RJONES@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) WILL ONE DAY WRITE A BOOK.

GRAPHIC BY NATALIE MENDEZ '26



Stop and Smell the Roses at Brattle Square Florist

EXPLORE THE OLDEST FLOWER SHOP IN HARVARD SQUARE, STILL IN THE HANDS OF THE FOUNDING FAMILY.

BY HEIDI HEFFELFINGER '26

When you step into Brattle Square Florist, not only are you greeted by a vibrant array of flowers, but owner Stephen Zedros welcomes you with a smile. At this remarkable flower shop, fresh-cut flowers coexist with the deep-rooted family history the shop has in Harvard Square. Brattle Square Florist is the oldest flower shop in all of Cambridge, and Zedros is a member of the original founding Gomatos family.

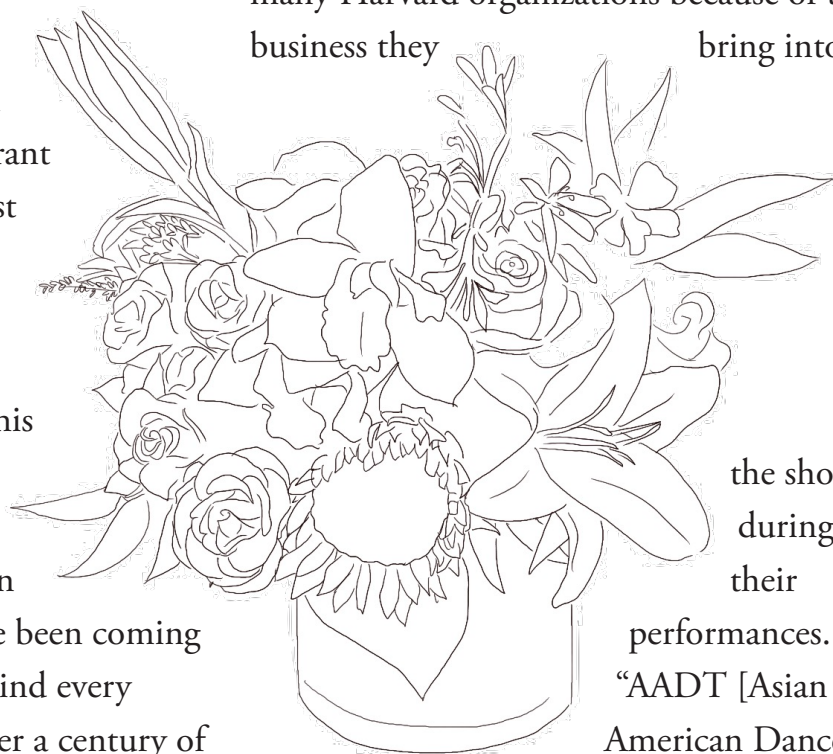
Currently located at 52 Brattle Street and nestled between L.A. Burdick Chocolates and Italian restaurant Toscano, Brattle Square Florist has been in business for over 100 years. Zedros recently reclaimed the store in 2022, returning ownership back to his family, but has been involved with the shop since long before that. “[The] store’s been around for 107 years, and I’ve been coming in for about 45,” he said. Behind every beautiful bouquet, there is over a century of family tradition.

The loyal customers are one of the leading reasons why Brattle Square Florist has stayed in business for so long. Zedros is known for his charming personality and extraordinary ability to remember every face that walks into his shop. Even during our interview, he stepped away for a moment to speak with a customer he seemed quite familiar with. When asked about the customer’s connection with Brattle Square Florist, Zedros explained how “she’s been coming in for 20 years.” These long-standing customer relationships are a testament to the integrity of the shop. “Value and quality,” Zedros claimed, are the reasons his customers keep coming back.

On top of Zedros’ connections with his customers, the staff’s incredible dedication to the shop has ensured customer loyalty. “The store’s open 363 days a year,” Zedros noted. “I’m here all 363 days.” Even in 2022 when the shop

moved locations from 31 to 52 Brattle Street, there was no letup in operations. “We were continuous. We closed that store down one day and came here the same day, the next day we continued on. Didn’t take any days off,” Zedros proudly reported.

One relationship Brattle Square Florist has maintained throughout its years is with Harvard students. “Whenever the school session is in it’s very, very busy,” said Zedros. He noted his familiarity with many Harvard organizations because of the business they bring into



the shop during their performances. “AADT [Asian American Dance

Troupe], and then Eleganza...the plays, and the musicals, and the choirs,” he listed. “I have to know when [those events] are so I [can] order extra bouquets.” Referring to the Harvard students, he said, “They’re great. Absolutely great. Each and every one,” Yet performances from the Harvard student body are not the only thing Zedros needs to prepare for.

April showers bring May flowers, which for Brattle Square Florist means a new variety of products. “Different flowers for different seasons,” noted Zedros. Last Thursday, a number of orange flowers began to pop up in the store. “Those are marigolds. It’s Day of the Dead October 31st, that’s the flower,” said Zedros. “Next will be probably Thanksgiving, and that’s like Mum plants.” Zedros takes the holidays seriously, because for him, they mean business. “For Christmas, red and white poinsettias,” he said. “Valentine’s Day, tons of roses. Most

of the guys like roses, they don’t want to deviate.” It is clear that Zedros is an expert in his field.

The changing of the seasons may be predictable for flowers, but Zedros could not have guessed all of the changes that would impact Brattle Square Florist in his extensive time in Harvard Square. For one, the products available. “It used to be things were grown around here and Holland was a big producer, and now Ecuador and Colombia have learned the trade and they send a lot of flowers over,” said Zedros. The internet has additionally been a huge modernizer. “It’s actually better because it’s faster. The order goes through fast, it’s processed faster, and we make the delivery faster.”

Despite these benefits, there have also been drawbacks to the change. “I would say it was more interesting back then,” noted Zedros. “It’s been really hard for people to stay in business with how expensive it is to be in Harvard Square.” The changing atmosphere of the square is undoubtedly detrimental in some ways. But through the changing times, Brattle Square Florist has customers who keep coming back.

Brattle Square Florist is a testament that hard work truly does pay off. The shop’s commitment to excellence along with Zedros’ outstanding leadership and passion have created a warm, welcoming flower shop that keeps customers returning for decades. And that’s the best part about the job—at least for Zedros: “The people you meet. It’s amazing.”

HEIDI HEFFELFINGER '26
(HEIDIHEFFELFINGER@COLLEGE.
HARVARD.EDU) WONDERS IF 107
YEARS OF FAMILY FLOWER SHOP
WISDOM CAN HELP HER FINALLY
KEEP A SUCCULENT ALIVE.

GRAPHIC BY CLARA LAKE '27

Cambridge's New Luxor Cafe

A MEDITERRANEAN-INSPIRED HIDDEN GEM JUST OUTSIDE OF THE SQUARE.

BY ANTONIA SALAME '28

There are enough coffee shops, restaurants, and stores in Harvard Square that a college student could likely spend all four years between Massachusetts Avenue and Brattle Street and never need to venture further for sustenance. Though I'm certainly a regular at Tatte and Blank Street, this week I decided to wander just outside of the Square and onto Auburn Street. There, I visited a new, Mediterranean-inspired cafe: Luxor.

Luxor Cafe includes any coffee lover's go-to options—you can order an iced vanilla latte, cappuccino, or Americano just like at one of the larger chains in the square. More in the mood for a classic breakfast sandwich? Try Luxor Cafe's "Harvard Yard:" eggs, bacon, cheddar, and avocado. In addition to this classic, if you're in the mood for something new, like "Eggs with Pasterma" (Egyptian cured beef), Luxor has you covered. Luxor offers a wide range of Mediterranean-inspired menu items: a Baklava Latte, a Veggie Hummus Sandwich, and Shakshuma to name a few.

Luxor opened just last May, describing itself as "featuring a blend of Mediterranean flavors from Egypt to Turkey." But its connection with Mediterranean culture does not end with its unique coffees and sandwiches.

Upon entering Luxor, you'll notice that it has a distinctly different ambiance than other cafes in the area. Luxor's logo—a scarab beetle with a coffee bean—symbolizes rebirth, regeneration, and protection. Their menu board is adorned with drawings of pyramids and palm trees, and their walls are decorated with interesting art depicting Egyptian hieroglyphs. Potted plants and intricately designed tea cups are dispersed throughout the cafe, making you feel as though you may have stepped out of Cambridge and into a different place entirely.

Sure, Luxor's Mediterranean influence

sets it apart from other cafes. But beyond that, I had a distinct feeling that Luxor was designed to not only be a place that you go, but a place that you *stay*.

When I walked into Luxor this week, I was immediately greeted by a friendly, warm ambiance. There was a group of women sipping from mugs from home, filled to the brim with steaming Luxor coffee. A leashed dog sat nearby as they chatted and laughed. The employees greeted me warmly and happily answered my questions about the menu. I didn't feel rushed to immediately pick my order and took my time to take in the unfamiliar menu.

As I sat waiting for my latte, my initial feeling deepened. In addition to the hieroglyphic-adorned walls, I noticed that Luxor actually had a lot of big tables and comfortable seating. On the shelves in front of me rested a collection of board games including Life, Monopoly, and Othello stacked among the potted plants. I could clearly imagine myself sitting with a friend, sipping a Lavender Latte, and snacking on one of Luxor's specialty sandwiches while engaging in an intense game of Uno.

Though the cafes in the Square are certainly an exciting place to be, I usually find it difficult to find a seat. Luxor's location slightly out of the Square means that visitors to Cambridge won't just stumble across it. It seems like a spot more likely to be filled with locals and students, which I believe makes it optimal for a more relaxed environment.

The welcoming vibe, quality coffee, and wide array of seating options make Luxor an ideal place to take a moment to enjoy the moment

and the latte in hand. Unfortunately,

I fear it may be a place that Harvard students currently miss out on. Luxor has long and inviting hours:

Monday-Thursday: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Luckily, it's open more than early enough for a croissant and latte pre 9 a.m. math class. Furthermore, it'll still be open when you come back for an afternoon pick-me-up on your way to a long afternoon at Widener. Luxor's late closing times on Friday and Saturday mean it could even be the perfect place to get a casual dinner near the Square or finish up some work in an environment more relaxed than the typical university libraries.

With the busy schedules that many students take on, some may shy away from taking the extra five minutes to explore a new place and instead revert back to their typical Pavement or Tatte run (no hate toward either of these fine establishments, they see a lot of me). However, I believe that there's real value to slowing down, taking a slightly longer stroll, and enjoying the medley of people, refreshments, and atmosphere that Luxor has to offer.

ANTONIA SALAME '28 (AMSALAME@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) LIKES HER VANILLA LATTES WITH AN EXTRA SHOT.

GRAPHIC BY EMILY PALLAN '27



SPORTS

Indy Sportsbook: NHL 2024-25 Predictions

HOT TAKES FOR AN ICE-COLD SEASON.

BY ELLEN MOLLERUS '26

At tricks, dirty hits, and the dreaded playoff odds circle: the NHL is back, baby!

Hockey returned last week with a bang (okay, technically Buffalo and New Jersey played the weekend before in Prague, but we're not sure anybody but Bob Dylan knew about that). We here at *Indy Sportsbook* have prepared some extremely premature takes for your betting pleasure.

To get this out of the way, last year's runner-up the Edmonton Oilers are currently the favorites to win the Stanley Cup at +800. The Oilers have had a surprisingly rough start to the year, going 0-3 for the first week (including a 6-0 loss to the Winnipeg Jets, of all teams). But we're not worried yet. In 2023-24, the Oilers came back from a 9-12-1 record to finish second in the Pacific Division standings and clawed back a 0-3 deficit in the Cup finals to force Game 7. The turnaround was largely attributed to the arrival of new coach Kris Knoblauch in November. Perhaps the coach and his team are experiencing some growing pains during their first full season together, but they have plenty of time to figure things out before the playoffs.

The real concern for the Oilers is their lack of offensive depth and elite goaltending. Over a quarter of their points last season came from just two players, and goalies Stuart Skinner and Calvin Pickard had save percentages of just .805 and .778 respectively over the first three games. Nevertheless, the Oilers remain our pick to win the cup. They showcased impressive grit and determination throughout last season, and we have no reason to think they can't stage another comeback. *After all, what is hockey without a little drama?* Maybe adding

certified good vibes guy Jeff Skinner from Buffalo over the summer will be enough of a boost to propel them to a cup victory.

Sticking with the Oilers, you can feel confident betting on their captain and human highlight reel Connor McDavid to win the Art Ross Trophy—given to the player who leads the league in regular season points. Considering McDavid has been one of the top three point scorers for the past eight seasons and won the award five times, his -160 odds seem pretty reasonable. Last season, he earned 132 points for third in the league, becoming just the fourth player in NHL history to record 100 assists in a single season. This is also a potential contract year for McDavid, who is eligible to sign an extension next summer. The Oilers recently signed McDavid's teammate and best friend Leon Draisaitl to a massive eight-year, \$112 million contract, so it's clear they're ready to spend. McDavid is always impressive, but we expect the dual motivation of a Cup finals loss and a contract year to fuel McDavid for one of his best seasons yet.

For other end-of-season awards, we have to give a nod to former Harvard player and current New York Ranger Adam Fox at +600 for the Norris Trophy—presented to the best all-around defenseman. *Is this an incredibly biased pick?* Absolutely. But Fox is a dynamic, two-way player whose defensive skills and impressive stats have consistently earned him a place in the Norris conversation in recent years. After struggling with a knee injury last season, he sits in second place to Cale Makar (+230); however, Fox is coming into the 2024-25 season healthy and ready to get back to his peak.

One final awards prediction for you: we're taking Matvei Michkov to win the Calder Trophy—given to the rookie of the year—at +250. Michkov, drafted seventh

overall by the Philadelphia Flyers in 2023, has been hailed as the team's long-awaited savior by always passionate Philly sports fans. After uncertainty regarding whether he would be able to play in the NHL before 2026 because of his contract in Russia, Michkov's arrival in Philly this summer was a welcome surprise. His professional experience in the KHL gives him a leg up on fellow Calder contenders who were playing college or junior-level hockey before signing with their NHL teams. With the Phillies out of the baseball playoff race, the city of Philadelphia is placing all its expectations on this Russian teenager, and we expect him to deliver.

Now, enough with the positivity; let's place some bets on the biggest losers this season. The San Jose Sharks are at +150 odds for the worst regular season record this year, but we recommend going with the Anaheim Ducks at +600. With first-round picks Macklin Celebrini and Will Smith, and a quality goalie in Yaroslav Askarov joining the roster this season, we think San Jose might just be poised to surprise everyone with a stronger-than-expected season.

And, finally, we don't have odds on this one, but you can bet the house on a Toronto Maple Leafs first-round exit from the playoffs this year. Sure, they've got a new captain, a new coach, and an Oreo sponsorship to go with their milk jerseys. That doesn't change the fact that they've only won a single playoff series since 2006. If you know a witch in the greater Toronto area with experience breaking curses, send her the Leafs' way. They'll need it.

ELLEN MOLLERUS '26

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HARVARD.EDU) IS STILL NOT OVER THE 2024 EASTERN CONFERENCE FINALS.

GRAPHIC BY SEATTLE HICKEY '25

Harvard Crimson's Midseason Update

AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT CRIMSON SPORTS TEAMS.

BY LUKE WAGNER '26

Midterms are finally upon us. Despite the academic demands, Harvard Athletics continues to thrive, with student-athletes excelling both in the classroom and on the field. From recent victories to upcoming matchups, here's a quick roundup of the latest updates in Harvard sports as we hit the midpoint of the semester.

Football:

The men's football team's season is underway, and they have had a somewhat promising start to the season with a 3-1 record. With the team's loss of coach Tim Murphy after 30 seasons, the pressure is mounting, with all eyes on the Crimson to see how they perform this season. This past weekend, they had a massive 38-20 win against Cornell. However, on Sept. 28 they lost to Brown in Providence, ending a winning streak against the Bears that dated back to 2011. There might be some growing pains for this team, but they have played better lately and have a massive tilt this weekend against Holy Cross at Harvard's stadium.

Soccer:

Men's soccer has had a rocky start to the season. The team underwent some issues and poor play early on; however, their Oct. 12 1-0 win against Yale demonstrated strength in the team. The Crimson's Nico Nyquist '26, Erling Haaland's look alike and fellow Norwegian, netted the only goal for the Crimson against Yale in the 49th minute of the match. While the team is now 2-4-4, this win away at Yale has been a very strong boost to the men's team as they move forward. They are looking to capitalize on this momentum when they head to Rhode Island to face Brown.

Women's soccer has had a better start

to the season, with a current record of 5-2-5 and a 1-2-1 conference record. On Oct. 13, they had a huge 5-0 blowout win against Cornell. Josefina Hasbo '25 and Áslaug Gunnlaugsdóttir '25 currently lead the Crimson with six and four goals respectively. They have drawn against multiple ranked teams including USC and Pepperdine. Next weekend, they play Princeton away; this will be a massive match given that Princeton is 8-0-4 and has received votes to be ranked in the NCAA Top 25.

Rugby:

Currently, the women's rugby team is 3-1-1 with a recent heartbreaking loss to Dartmouth which saw Dartmouth score in the final minutes of the match. Harvard women's rugby came into the matchup ranked second in the country and fell to the number one-ranked Dartmouth 19-26. The Crimson is still on track to make the playoffs and will face off against Queens University of Charlotte this weekend, away in North Carolina.

Volleyball:

Women's volleyball has had a solid start to the season, with a current record of 8-6 and 3-2 in Ivy League play. This past weekend saw a slight hiccup during their road trip where they got swept by Princeton and lost in five sets to UPenn. Next up is Yale at home this weekend in a rematch of last year's Ivy League Tournament semifinal. Men's volleyball does not play until the spring.

Water Polo:

Men's water polo has been playing extremely well this season, with a 12-2 record and an undefeated 5-0 record in conference play. They are currently on an 8-game winning streak, with their last defeat on Sept. 15 against ranked #15 Fordham University. James Rozolis-Hill '26 broke the all-time

goal record for Harvard in their game against Brown, which is now his second Crimson record. This upcoming weekend is an exciting weekend for the Crimson, as they host the Harvard Invitational at home. Women's water polo does not play until the spring.

Field Hockey:

The women's field hockey team is currently on a roll, with a 10-2 record with their only losses coming to ranked teams in #19 UAlbany and #2 Northwestern. The Crimson are 3-0 in Ivy League play and will be hosting Princeton this weekend in a rematch of last year's Ivy League Tournament Championship to defend their Ivy League title. This weekend is also the 50th anniversary of Harvard field hockey, so show out and show your support!

Cross Country:

The cross country team had an unfortunate start to their season, losing to Yale in their home opener. The women's team finished first at the Paul Short Run 6k for the first time in school history this past weekend, while the men's team finished second at the Paul Short Run 8k. Next up is the ECAC/IC4A championship this weekend in New York and Pre-Nationals in Wisconsin.

As the fall semester progresses and midterms continue, Harvard's athletes consistently demonstrate their resilience both on and off the field. Across every sport, they've shown that success requires focus, discipline, and teamwork. With exciting matchups on the horizon, the second half of the season promises even more action and memorable moments for Crimson fans. Stay tuned as we continue to support our student-athletes in their pursuit of excellence.

LUKE WAGNER '26 (LUKEWAGNER@COLLEGE.HARVARD.EDU) IS THE SPORTS EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT.

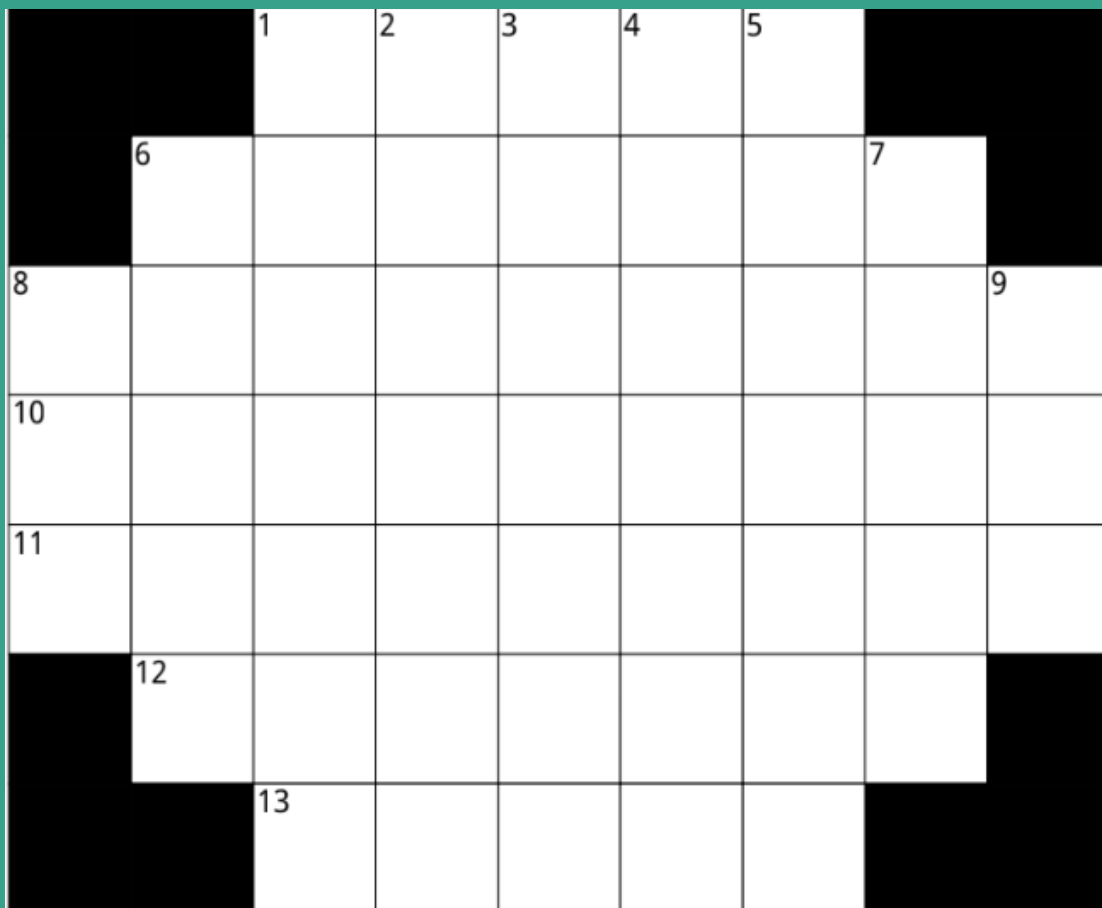
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Job Well Done

BY HAN NGUYEN '27

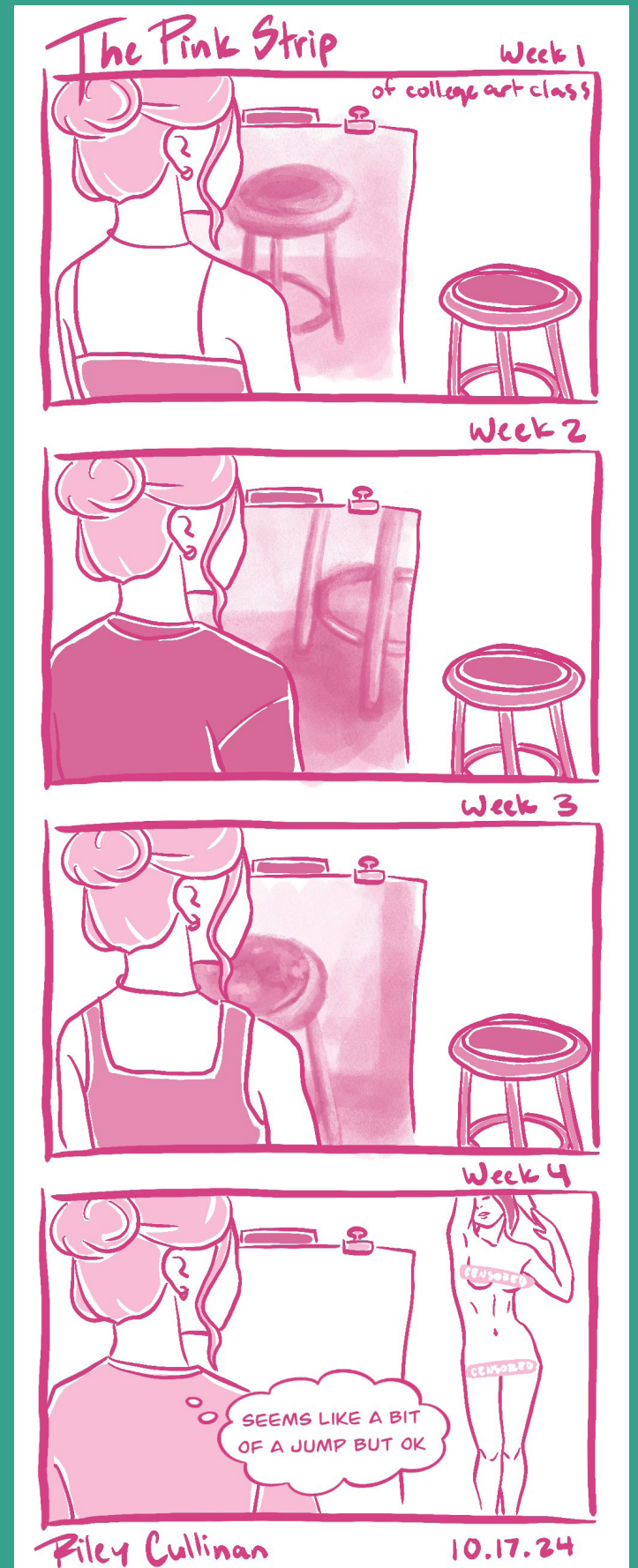


ACROSS

1. Let go
6. Maura of "ER"
8. Poured pints
10. Almond pastry
11. Gets some words in edgewise?
12. Slid (over)
13. French beings

DOWN

1. Back, in a way
2. Pigweed, for one
3. Player with Legos, for example
4. Run over
5. Pre-election events
6. Many new drivers
7. Went off course
8. Placeholder abbr.
9. Blog feed letters



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