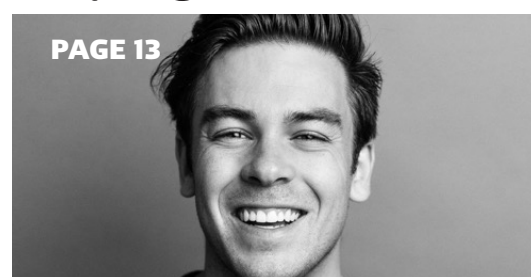


THE HARVARD CRIMSON

THE UNIVERSITY DAILY, EST. 1873 | VOLUME CL, NO. 8 | CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS | FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 2023

ARTS

Cody Ko on His YouTube Channel and Staying Motivated



PAGE 13

SPORTS

No. 7 Harvard Men's Ice Hockey to Face No. 8 Ohio State



PAGE 15

UNIVERSITY



First Uni-Wide Policies on Bullying Created

NEW PROCEDURES. Harvard released final versions of the school's first University-wide non-discrimination and anti-bullying policies on Wednesday, establishing resolution procedures for discrimination and harassment.

SEE PAGE 4

LANGUAGE

Harvard to Offer First Tagalog Course

TAGALOG AT HARVARD. Harvard will hire a preceptor to teach Tagalog starting the 2023-24 academic year, marking the first time the University will offer the language. The initial appointment is for a three-year term.

SEE PAGE 4

POLICE



City Officials Meet with Policing Activists

CITY MEETS ADVOCATES. As roughly 100 protesters rallied on the steps of the Cambridge City Hall Annex Tuesday, city leaders met with local activists after months of demonstrations over the police killing of Sayed Faisal.

SEE PAGE 11

ALLSTON

Allston Adds Affordable Housing

CONSTRUCTION. The Boston Planning and Development Agency approved a slew of affordable housing across four sites in Allston-Brighton last week, drawing criticism from local artists.

SEE PAGE 11

ACCEPTITAS



College Consultants 'Ghosted' by Founder

'A QUIET FIRING': Clients and former admissions mentors are still seeking refunds, compensation, and answers more than six months after the acquisition of college consulting startup Acceptitas, which cut ties with its mentors in late 2022, leaving many unpaid and unaware of their termination for months. **SEE PAGE 6**

TOBY R. MA—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

LABOR

Mass General Brigham, Hospital Trainees Spar Over Union Drive

UNIONIZATION BATTLES. Mass General Brigham and trainees seeking unionization are at the center of a monthslong dispute.

BY CAM E. KETTLES
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

After beginning to collect union cards for official recognition in November, residents and fellows at Mass General Brigham received a surprise announcement via email: a bonus of \$3,500 for the 2022 academic year.

When organizers launched their public unionization campaign in late February, MGB administrators sent a slew of emails: one on March 2 announcing a 10 percent salary raise, an increase of the annual stipend to \$10,000, and expanded benefits; two on March 7 warning against the unionization effort; and one on March 16 disputing organizers' talking points.

"We respect the fact that some of you have had questions about the union. We are always open to your questions," read a March 7 email signed by 30 of MGB's department chairs. "However, it's our hope that we can move beyond those questions, so that we can focus all our available energy on our educational programs and see what we can achieve by working together."

In a March 16 email, MGB Interim Chief Academic Officer Paul J. Anderson and Vice President of Education J. Kevin Tucker sent residents and fellows two documents argu-

ing against unionization.

"If there were ever a time not to sign a union card, that time is now," one handout stated.

MGB leadership have made the case to housestaff that working directly with the administration is preferable to union bargaining.

"Your entire relationship with Mass General Brigham—including program and education leadership—would change, and in many ways you might not like," their website reads.

The unionization campaign, named MGB Housestaff United, hopes to file for a union election by the end of the academic year.

Mass General Brigham, which includes both Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, employs more than 2,500 residents and fellows, otherwise known as housestaff. Many of its member hospitals are teaching hospitals affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

MGB Housestaff United is affiliated with the Committee for Interns and Residents, a local of the Service Employees International Union. The CIR represents roughly 22,000 housestaff nationwide.

"We have shared experiences working for this large hospital system that really led us to want to form a union," said Kayty E.W. Himmelstein, organizing committee member and Infectious Disease Fellow.

MGB Housestaff United are asking workers to sign union cards that indicate they support unionization and authorize

the CIR to act in their interests.

If a majority of housestaff sign cards, MGB Housestaff United can ask hospital administrators for voluntary recognition. If more than 30 percent of eligible workers sign cards, MGB Housestaff can file for a union election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board to be officially recognized even if MGB doesn't voluntarily recognize them.

Organizers said they did not begin their card campaign until they were confident that they had support from a majority of MGB housestaff.

"We spoke to over a thousand people who verbally told us like, 'Yes, I think I would support this campaign if you were to get to the point where you had an election,'" said Sascha N. Murillo, organizing committee member and a third-year Internal Medicine resident.

'A Seat at the Table'

Citing compensation, workplace safety, and burnout prevention as top priorities, MGB Housestaff United organizers seek greater employee representation in decisions that affect them.

"The union was formed out of a desire for us to have a seat at the table to talk about what working conditions we need, what types of pay and benefits we need, and really what our patients need as well," Himmelstein said.

SEE PAGE 5

SEARCH

IOP Director Search Down to Four Finalists

BY MILES J. HERSZENHORN,
ASHER J. MONTGOMERY,
AND THOMAS J. METE
CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

The search for the next director of the Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics has narrowed to an initial shortlist of four finalists, according to five people familiar with the student deliberations.

The finalists—former U.S. Representative Val V. Demings, former Transportation Secretary Anthony R. Foxx, former U.S. Representative Stephanie N. Murphy, and interim IOP Director Setti D. Warren—sat for interviews earlier this year with current and former IOP Student Advisory Committee members.

Harvard Kennedy School Dean Douglas W. Elmendorf continues to search for a successor to former IOP Director Mark D. Gearan '78 after he unexpectedly departed in August 2022 to serve a second stint as president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges.

Foxx emerged as the clear favorite among the students after interviews with all finalists were completed, according to four people familiar with the deliberations. Despite demonstrating some unfamiliarity with the IOP, Foxx won students over with his enthusiasm for the role, the sources added.

Students ranked Demings' candidacy as the weakest among the four candidates because of a perceived lack of clarity in her vision for the IOP, according to four people familiar with the deliberations.

HKS spokesperson Sofiya C. Cabalquinto declined to

SEE PAGE 4

COMMENCEMENT

Tom Hanks Will Address Class of 2023 Graduates

BY MILES J. HERSZENHORN
AND CLAIRE YUAN
CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

Tom Hanks, an acclaimed actor and filmmaker, will speak at Harvard's 372nd Commencement in May, the University announced Tuesday morning.

Hanks will address Harvard's Class of 2023 during Commencement's Morning Exercises, which will be held in Tercentenary Theater on May 25. Hanks will also be awarded an honorary Harvard degree during the Commencement exercises.

This year's Commencement marks a return to the ordinary for Harvard. After in-person ceremonies for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 were canceled due to the pandemic, the University held two Commencement Exercises last year: one for the Class of 2022 and another joint ceremony for the Classes of 2020 and 2021.

A household name, Hanks is a Hollywood fixture credited for roles in nearly 100 films, most notably "Forrest Gump," "Sleepless in Seattle," and "Saving Private Ryan." He has won two Academy Awards—out of a total of six nominations—one Golden Globe award, seven Emmy awards, and the American Film Institute's Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 2014, Hanks received the Kennedy Center Honor. In 2016,

SEE PAGE 5

LABOR

Grad and Undergrad Unions Unite



STUDENT UNIONS. Members of Harvard’s graduate student union voted at a meeting Tuesday to affiliate with undergraduate student workers currently collecting union cards for official recognition. The resolution passed 58 to 4, with one member abstaining. Should Harvard Undergraduate Workers Union successfully win official union recognition, it will join Harvard Graduate Students Union-United Automobile Workers under Local 5118 of the organization’s parent union, UAW, after negotiating its first contract with the University. BY CAM E. KETTLES AND JULIA A. MACIEJAK—CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

IVY LEAGUE

Athletes File Suit Against Ivy League



STUDENT-ATHLETES. Two Brown University student athletes have filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of all present and former Ivy League athletes recruited since March 2019. Demanding a jury trial, the suit claims the eight Ivy League colleges unlawfully colluded to reduce financial aid and compensation for student-athletes. Grace Kirk, a current member of Brown University’s women’s basketball team, and Tamenang Choh, a former member of the men’s team, filed the lawsuit March 7 in the U.S. District Court in Connecticut. BY PATON D. ROBERTS AND SOPHIA C. SCOTT—CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

METRO

Boston Appoints New ‘Night Czar’



NIGHTLIFE ECONOMY. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu ‘07 appointed Corean Reynolds as Boston’s first director of nightlife economy in February, calling the new position a part of her administration’s plan to help the city’s economy bounce back from the challenges of the pandemic. Reynolds took office on March 6 with an aim to increase business and diversity in Boston’s night scene. She previously served as the director of economic inclusion at The Boston Foundation, a nonprofit that supports philanthropic efforts in New England. BY DYLAN H. PHAN AND JACK R. TRAPANICK—CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

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AROUND THE IVIES

The Week in Photos

BROWN REACHES FUNDRAISING GOAL TO END STUDENT LOANS

Brown University achieved its fundraising goal set in 2017 to eliminate undergraduate loans from the student financial aid package, according to a press release Thursday. The university announced the Brown Promise Initiative in Sept. 2017 that aimed to eliminate undergraduate loans from the financial aid package upon reaching a \$120 million fundraising campaign.

THE BROWN DAILY HERALD

PENN REFINES POLICY FOR LEGACY ADMISSIONS

The University of Pennsylvania is refining its legacy admissions policy under Dean of Admissions Whitney Soule. The change features a subtle change in wording on the Penn Admissions information webpage during the Class of 2026 admissions cycle. Though the university’s previous definition of a legacy applicant did not change, the new wording eliminated the implication that legacy students should apply through the Early Decision program for the best chance of acceptance.

THE DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN

INVESTMENT ANALYSIS FIRM PROJECTS HIGH RETURNS FOR COLUMBIA ENDOWMENT

Markov Processes International, an investment analysis company, predicted the Columbia University endowment to have the third-highest percentage returns among Ivy League Institutions behind the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University. Columbia’s endowment faced a difficult fiscal year in 2022, dropping \$1 billion and reporting the worst returns of the Ivy League at 7.6 percent. But for the 2023 fiscal year, the MPI Transparency Lab predicted a high percent return and low investment risk for Columbia’s endowment.

THE COLUMBIA SPECTATOR

PRINCETON MEN’S BASKETBALL REACHES SWEET 16

For the first time since 1967, the Princeton men’s basketball team has reached the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA Tournament. During the competition’s first two rounds last weekend, the team achieved two upset wins over Arizona and Missouri that boosted Princeton in the rankings. To enter the Elite Eight, Princeton will face up against Creighton on Friday night. This matchup last occurred 62 years ago, a game that Princeton lost.

THE DAILY PRINCETONIAN



COMAROFF FACES CONTINUED CAMPUS BACKLASH

HARVARD YARD. In a demonstration against Professor John L. Comaroff, who is under fire for allegations of sexual harassment, a protester taped posters of Comaroff’s face labeled “creep” on the John Harvard statue. BY JULIAN J. GIORDANO—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

Read more at [THECRIMSON.COM](https://thecrimson.com)



CULTURAL RHYTHMS. Decorative banners have been hoisted in preparation of the 37th annual Cultural Rhythms festival this Saturday. Hosted by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations, the event will honor writer, producer, and actress Issa Rae with the Harvard Foundation’s Artist of the Year award. BY JULIAN J. GIORDANO—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



FAISAL. About 100 protestors rallied in front of Cambridge City Hall Annex Tuesday in continued protests over the police killing of Sayed Faisal. In the past months, demonstrators have called for justice, repeatedly organizing protests around Cambridge. BY FRANK S. ZHOU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



NIGHTLIFE. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu ‘07 appointed Corean Reynolds as the city’s first director of nightlife economy. BY JOEY HUANG—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



SOCRATIC. Agnes Callard, an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Chicago, discussed Socratic politics and freedom of speech at the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Ethics on Thursday. BY FRANK S. ZHOU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



SUNSET. This week has brought warmer weather to Cambridge, ushering in the spring with highs near 60 degrees. The Charles River also saw beautiful sunsets along with the nice weather. BY JULIAN J. GIORDANO—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

IN THE REAL WORLD

FED RAISES RATES BY QUARTER POINT IN AN EFFORT TO CURB INFLATION, CALM INVESTORS

After multiple bank failures, Federal Reserve policy makers voted unanimously to raise interest rates by 25 basis points Wednesday, bringing the benchmark federal funds rate to 5 percent. Chairman Jerome Powell and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said they would not commit to insuring all depositors in a joint panel. The Fed has now raised interest rates nine times in the past year. Expected to raise interest rates by 5.1 percentage points in 2023, the Fed will likely raise rates again this year.

GRAND JURY DELAYS VOTING ON TRUMP INDICTMENT

A Manhattan Grand Jury did not meet Wednesday on inciting former President Trump, delaying possible indictment. The Manhattan District Attorney is investigating the legality of Trump's payments to porn star Stormy Daniels via his former lawyer Michael Cohen after an alleged sexual encounter in 2006. Cohen, who paid Daniels \$13,000, said the Trump Organization falsely identified the reimbursements as legal expenses. Cohen previously pleaded guilty to related financial crimes. The grand jury expected to vote on whether to indict Trump on criminal charges early next week.

U.S. AND CANADA REACH DEAL TO TURN ASYLUM SEEKERS AWAY AT UNOFFICIAL BORDER

The U.S. and Canadian governments have agreed to close the unofficial border between the two countries at Roxham Road, in between New York and Quebec. The two countries previously followed the Safe Third Country Agreement, which allowed the U.S. and Canada to turn back asylum seekers from official borders, but does not include unofficial entry points like Roxham Road. Now, the officials plan to update the STCA to allow them to turn back unauthorized asylum seekers from any entry point.

TIKTOK CEO QUESTIONED BY LAWMAKERS AMID BIPARTISAN CONCERNS

Bipartisan lawmakers questioned TikTok CEO Shou Chew Thursday amid concerns over data privacy on the popular app. The five-hour hearing was focused on determining China's potential influence on ByteDance — TikTok's parent company based in China — and how this impacts users' data and privacy. Prior to the hearing, the Biden administration said that the company could face a possible nationwide ban if Chinese owners do not share their stakes. According to the New York Times, China's commerce ministry said shortly before the hearing they opposed the sale of TikTok. Lawmakers remain concerned about data privacy violations.

What's Next

Start every week with a preview of what's on the agenda around Harvard University

Friday 3/24

CULTURAL RHYTHMS FOOD FESTIVAL

Old Yard, 2 p.m.
Celebrate cultural representation in cuisine by joining the Harvard community at the Cultural Rhythms Food festival, a block party where student cultural organizations will provide food from around the world.

Saturday 3/25

HARVARD SOFTBALL VS. CORNELL

Soldiers Field, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Harvard softball will play its first game at home on Saturday against Ivy League competitor Cornell. The Crimson will also take on Cornell on Friday in a doubleheader. Harvard will enter the three game series against Cornell with a four-game winning streak under its belt.

Sunday 3/26

AMAZING ARCHAEOLOGY FAIR AT HARVARD

Peabody Museum, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Explore North American, South American, Egyptian, and Mesopotamian archeological exhibits through hands-on activities including DNA analysis, animal mummies, King Tut's throne, spear throwing, and flint knapping. Free with regular museum admission.

Monday 3/27

SOLIDARITY! TRANSNATIONAL FEMINISMS THEN AND NOW

Schlesinger Library, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
View 50 years of transnational feminist collections on the History of Women in America at the Schlesinger Library, including posters, newspapers, photographs, and memorabilia. The exhibition explores topics of global feminist solidarity and international women's rights, sisterhood, and alliance.

Tuesday 3/28

DOFT LECTURE: AN EVENING WITH TONY KUSHNER

Sanders Theater, 6 p.m.
Join Pulitzer Prize-winner, screenwriter, and activist Tony Kushner; Pulitzer honoree Stephen Greenblatt; and Harvard English professor John Cogan for a conversation at the Center for Jewish Studies. This event is free and open to the public with limited seating.



Wednesday 3/29

TECHNOLOGY AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST BOOK TALK

Lewis International Law Center, 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.
Haochen Sun of Hong Kong University will discuss his new book, which explores the ethical crisis unfolding at the intersection of technology and public interest.

Thursday 3/30

WRITERS SPEAK: RUTH OZEKI IN CONVERSATION WITH MENG JIN

John Knowles Paine Concert Hall, 6-7 p.m.
Join Writers Speak, a literary conversation series at the Mahindra Humanities Center for a conversation between best-selling novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest Ruth Ozeki and Meng Jin, author of the novel Little Gods.

Friday 3/31

A HACKER'S MIND: HOW THE POWERFUL BEND SOCIETY'S RULE, AND HOW TO BEND THEM BACK

Science Center Hall D, 6-7 p.m.
In this discussion featuring Boston Globe writer Hiawatha Bray and author Bruce Schneire will talk about powerful actors who hack and bend our economic, political, and legal societal systems.

3/22/23



Answer to previous puzzle

SPRINGTIME



ADDISON Y. LIU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

Newsday Crossword

SPRING IS HERE by Billie Truitt
Edited by Stanley Newman
www.stanwords.com

ACROSS

- 1 Gear teeth
- 5 Navy noncoms: Abbr.
- 9 Tear to shreds
- 14 Vegetable in gumbo
- 15 Camel's back feature
- 16 Get out of bed
- 17 Military invasion
- 18 Author Quindlen or actress Paquin
- 19 Small gift "of appreciation"
- 20 Sport that includes handSPRINGS
- 23 Geeky type
- 24 Response to "Look over there!"
- 25 Brand-name of toaster waffles
- 27 Twist, as a wet towel
- 30 Man's hairpiece
- 33 Rolling stone's supposed lack
- 36 Black road surfaces
- 38 Group of top players
- 39 "Caught you!"
- 40 Commonplace
- 42 Grand Canyon State campus: Abbr.
- 43 Remove suds from
- 45 Wild guess
- 46 Hawaiian instruments
- 47 More inquisitive
- 49 Rear of a ship
- 51 "Otherwise . . ."
- 53 Strikes lightly, as a window
- 57 After-dinner candy
- 59 Wearable timepiece once made with a mainSPRING
- 62 Speak without a script

DOWN

- 1 Welsh ___ (dog breed)
- 2 Gives approval for
- 3 Laundry dirt
- 4 "I'm sorry to say . . ."
- 5 Moral purity
- 6 Football kick
- 7 Prefix meaning "all"
- 8 Parking spot
- 9 Mouse's long-tailed relative
- 10 Resolve, as differences
- 11 Mountain near Colorado
- 12 Tech support caller
- 13 Remain unresolved
- 21 Scuba tank filler
- 22 Police rank: Abbr.
- 26 Project's objective
- 28 Midday snoozes
- 29 "Hominy" side dish
- 31 Make less difficult
- 32 Ostrich-like birds
- 33 Pre-noon period, in poems
- 34 Cleveland's state
- 35 Male spouses of your offSPRING
- 37 "Shoo!"
- 40 Adolescent
- 41 Helpers in crime
- 44 Refining, as flour
- 46 Needing to be topped with asphalt
- 48 Line of theater seats
- 50 Uncooked, as sushi
- 52 Garbage in a can
- 54 Apple cofounder
- 55 Farmland measures
- 56 Show gratitude to
- 57 Of primary importance
- 58 Fig. on a driver's license
- 60 Castaway's locale
- 61 Astonish
- 63 "Liquor not provided" letters

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THE HARVARD CRIMSON

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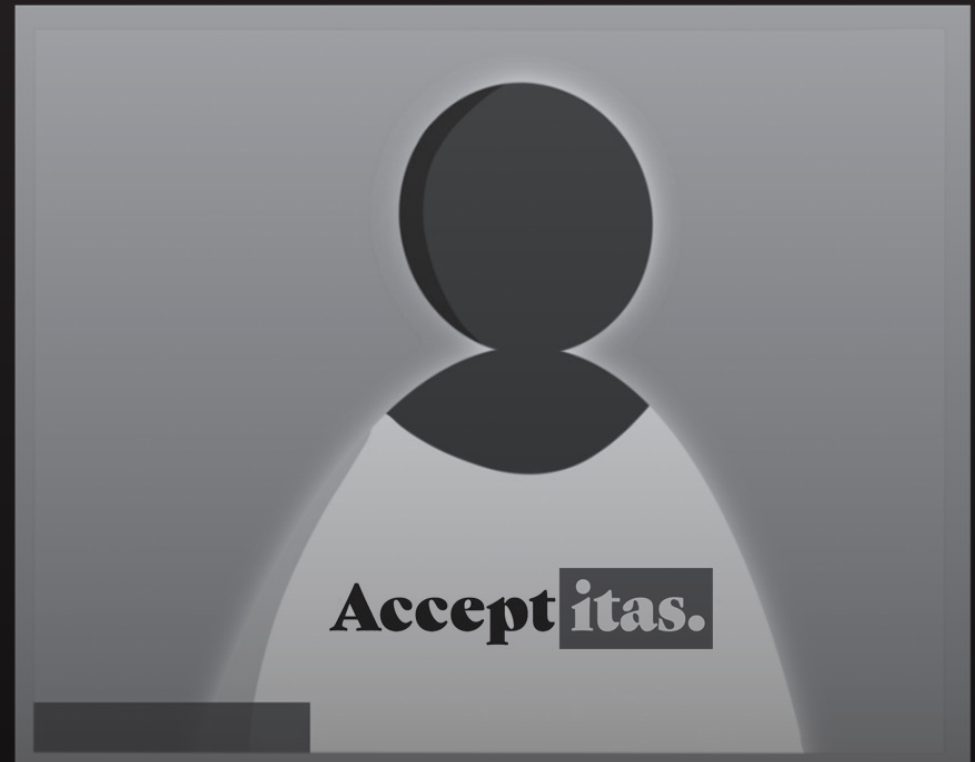
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CORRECTIONS

The Harvard Crimson is committed to accuracy in its reporting. Factual errors are corrected promptly on this page. Readers with information about errors are asked to e-mail the managing editor at managingeditor@thecrimson.com.



Seekings Answers From Acceptitas

SOPHIA SALAMANCA—CRIMSON DESIGNER

A 'TYPICAL HARVARD START-UP'? Emmet A. Halm launched Acceptitas in 2020. Just over two years later, mentors and clients say they were "ghosted."

BY MICHELLE N. AMPONSAH
AND EMMA H. HAIDAR
CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

Clients and former admissions mentors are still seeking refunds, compensation, and answers more than six months after the acquisition of college consulting startup Acceptitas, which cut ties with its mentors in late 2022, leaving many unpaid and unaware of their termination for months.

Emmet A. Halm — a self-described Harvard dropout and cryptocurrency entrepreneur — founded Acceptitas in August 2020, only to leave the company's mentors and mentees in the dark two years later after its acquisition by another college consulting group, Crimson Education.

Halm announced the acquisition to employees in an Oct. 24 Slack message — two months after the move had already taken place.

"There will be new opportunities for Acceptitas team members to expand the scope of their work," Halm wrote. "Mentors & outreach associates will have the chance to continue similar work under Crimson."

Five former Acceptitas mentors who spoke with The Crimson, however, said they never heard anything further about future work. Some continued to meet with their mentees for months, unaware that they would not receive payment.

"We weren't getting paid anymore," former Acceptitas mentor Elias E.Q. DeLeon '23 said. "And it was just very odd to see everyone just be so radio silent, especially after such a seemingly triumphant moment, like getting acquired as a company."

"He didn't say anything would change, really — everyone just kind of kept going on as usual," said former mentor Jara A. Wilensky '24, who continued to work with her mentee for three months. "They just stopped paying us."

In a March 7 statement to The Crimson, Halm said Acceptitas connected those who requested it to Crimson Education for

"similar roles," and he denied any wrongdoing.

"Only one of our mentors messaged me indicating interest in continuing with the new company, so I put them in contact. Everyone else continued wrapping up hours with clients," Halm wrote.

Halm wrote in the statement that "no one was fired; the company was acquired."

"Mentors finished up the remaining hours with their clients and Acceptitas didn't take in any new clients," he wrote.

On Feb. 22, Halm posted in the Acceptitas Slack for the first time since October.

"We've sent several mentor payments over the last two months that previously fell through the cracks," Halm wrote. "If anyone still has outstanding hours, please let me know asap."

Former Acceptitas mentor and Stanford undergraduate Enrique Flores said the Slack message contained "no acknowledgement" of the hours mentors spent trying to reach Halm following the acquisition, nor of the harm from Halm's "absence of communication."

"They did not fall through the cracks," Flores said. "You ignored them."

'(don't tell mentors or clients yet)'

In August 2022, Acceptitas was acquired by Crimson Education. Co-founded by Jamie J. Beaton '16, Fangzhou Jiang, and Sharndré Kushor, Crimson Education is a global college consulting company, operating on a similar premise to Halm's start-up.

On its website, Crimson Education advertises "former Admissions Officers, Ivy League and other top school graduates" among its college consultants.

By late September, Halm had started listing himself as the "former founder of Acceptitas" on his personal LinkedIn profile, though mentors had not yet been informed of the acquisition.

Halm wrote in a March 7 email to The Crimson that he could not discuss the terms of the acquisition by Crimson Education due to a nondisclosure agreement.

Desiree A. Rickett '24, Acceptitas' chief operating officer at the time, contacted Halm on Sept. 20 about refunds to mentees that had bounced and asked why the company's Calendly subscription had lapsed.

"We're having problems sending out money on the

PayPal," Rickett wrote in a text message obtained by The Crimson. "I'm trying to refund a client, but it keeps coming back as the bank refused the payment (our bank I believe)."

On Sept. 21, Halm responded, revealing the acquisition to Rickett.

"Hey Desiree, you can pause actions on PayPal. Acceptitas is being acquired by Crimson Education. This is not public information yet, so please keep on the DL (don't tell mentors or clients yet)," he wrote in a text.

"This means we'll be ceasing operations & transitioning folks to new exciting (& higher paid!) opportunities at Crimson," Halm wrote.

Rickett reached out to Halm again on Sept. 21 about what to communicate to clients expecting refunds. Halm responded on Sept. 22, writing, "Nothing atm — more announcements to come soon."

"Just don't respond yet — I can reach out soon," he added.

Halm asked Rickett to

information confidential until our press release in the coming weeks."

Neither Crimson Education nor Acceptitas published a press release on the move, however, leaving Acceptitas clients in the dark.

"If you have specific questions or want to indicate strong interest in taking on new roles & responsibilities, please message me," Halm added.

Mentors at Acceptitas worked as independent contractors, rather than employees of the company. The Crimson obtained three copies of mentors' contracts, which included a two-year noncompete clause and a termination clause.

"This agreement may be terminated by either party upon 15 days of written notice to the other party," the contract states.

Halm's Oct. 24 announcement did not include any reference to the termination of mentors' contracts or the discontinuation of their work with clients.

"It seemed like we were being

"No one was terminated; the company was acquired and mentors finished up the remaining hours with their clients," Halm wrote. "We just stopped taking in new business."

On Dec. 26, Amy Xiao, a junior at Brown University, reached out to Rickett on the Slack channel asking how to formally submit their resignation because they no longer had the time to mentor.

"Hi! Emmet didn't make this super clear, but the company no longer exists because you are technically 'resigned,'" Rickett wrote in response.

When Xiao asked if mentees had been informed of the company's acquisition, Rickett wrote, "I don't think so."

DeLeon said he considered no longer being employed by Acceptitas a "theoretical possibility" when he read Halm's Slack message. Still, he discarded the thought.

"I've heard, like, quiet quitting," DeLeon said. "But this is like a quiet firing."

'Dropped Off the Face of the Earth'

In the months following Acceptitas' acquisition, five mentors reported repeatedly failing to get in contact with Halm over missed payments.

Wilensky said she "didn't think much" of the October acquisition announcement, and continued mentoring for five more sessions, which would total \$150 in pay.

In a Jan. 7 meeting with one of her mentees, Wilensky said her mentee asked if the rumors were true — that Acceptitas was no longer paying its mentors.

"What are you talking about?" Wilensky asked her mentee at the time.

After trying to contact Halm through the company email, Wilensky received Halm's personal email from the client's parents, who were considering legal action.

It would ultimately take a month of Slack messages and emails to Halm for Wilensky to receive her payment on Feb. 2.

By the end of October, Flores had completed eight sessions with mentees, amounting to \$240 in pay, and had not received any compensation for them.

After three weeks without payment, Flores informed his mentees that he would no longer be able to work with them. The payment issues coincided with a critical period in the college early application process, with many application deadlines set for Nov.

LAUNCH OF ACCEPTITAS

ACCEPTITAS got its start in August 2020 when founder Emmet A. Halm — then a Harvard student — conceived of a service that would foster prospective students' "passion projects," while also offering essay and admissions advice. Two years later, competitor Crimson Education acquired the startup.

BY THE NUMBERS

5

Five former Acceptitas mentors said they had difficulty obtaining compensation from its founder after the startup's acquisition

\$1,700

Price Amit Mathur paid for 20 tutoring sessions for his ninth-grade son. Mathur is still seeking the refund for 18 of the 20 sessions.

2.5

Hours of work Elias E.Q. DeLeon '23 says he has still not received payment for. As of March 24, DeLeon said he has yet to receive it.

15

Days notice required for termination according to copies of three mentors' contracts obtained by The Crimson.

Jan. 3, 2022

Halm posts application for "Moonshot Internship" on LinkedIn

May 12, 2022

Phan is accepted to Moonshot Internship

August 2022

Crimson Education acquires Acceptitas LLC

Sep. 21, 2022

Halm tells COO Desiree Rickett that the company is being acquired and asks her to "keep it on the DL"

Oct. 24, 2022

Halm announces acquisition in mentor Slack channel

Oct. 31, 2022

Client Amit Mathur requests a refund, after paying \$1700 dollars for a 20 hour package.

Dec. 26, 2022

When mentor Amy Xiao asks about how to resign, Rickett says they are already "technically resigned"

Jan. 7, 2023

Former Acceptitas mentor Jara Wilensky finds out from her mentee that mentors are no longer being paid.

Feb. 2, 2023

Wilensky receives payment from Halm

Feb. 12, 2023

Phan asks about status of internship program in Slack channel

Feb. 14, 2023

Enrique Flores receives \$240 compensation after more than two months of outreach

Feb. 22, 2023

Halm posts in Slack channel for the first time since October

DeLeon emails Halm about outstanding payment but does not hear back

March 24, 2023

As of the time of publication, Mathur has not received a refund and DeLeon has not received all compensation.

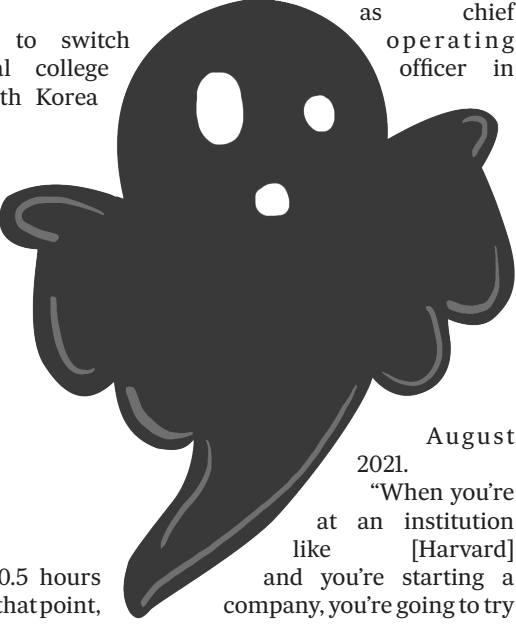
1. "As I was trying to send messages to the Slack about getting paid, I was more patient and trusting because I didn't want to just cut him off right before he had to apply to his number one school," Flores said of his mentee. On Nov. 7, Flores messaged the Slack channel, but received no response. On Nov. 18, he messaged again. "So, should I assume we are

school junior living in South Korea—learned about Acceptitas through TikTok in early 2022, during his sophomore year. He paid \$1,449 up front for a 30-hour mentoring package, but he took a break from Acceptitas in April 2022 due to difficulty coordinating meetings across the time difference. Youn decided to switch to a professional college consultant in South Korea

college admissions process. Halm hired Arin J. Mishra — then a sophomore in high school — as an unpaid intern in February 2020. Mishra would later become the company's paid head of marketing. Halm hired Sarah J. Benedict, at the time a recent high school graduate, as chief operating officer in

'Ghosted'

Halm posted an application for Acceptitas' "Moonshot Internship" on his personal LinkedIn profile on Jan. 3, 2022. "If you know any entrepreneurial-minded high school or college students, applications are open," Halm wrote in the post. "Intern(s) will receive mentoring & a unique chance to lead their own start-up initiative." Julie T. Phan first learned of Acceptitas' internship program through one of the company's Instagram posts. Phan, who attends a Title I public high school, said she found Acceptitas and its mission "really inspiring." Phan completed Acceptitas' social media internship application through a Google Form. On March 23, 2022, she received an interview request from Mishra, identifying her as an "exemplary applicant." But Phan did not hear back after replying to the request for an interview. She followed up on April 5, 2022, but she still did not



“I genuinely don’t understand why paying your workers has been such a struggle for you all, but it is unacceptable.”

Enrique Flores
Former Acceptitas Mentor

just no longer getting paid? Because I've yet to have someone reach out," Flores wrote. On Nov. 25, after receiving Halm's personal phone number from another mentor, Flores texted him directly and did not receive a response. Flores followed up on Nov. 28, but the silence continued. Rickett texted Halm later that day about Flores' outstanding wages. "I have it on the amounts owed spreadsheet, did you happen to already send it out to him?" she asked. After messaging Rickett on Dec. 2 and Dec. 7 with no response, Flores messaged her on Slack on Dec. 11. "Hi Desiree, I feel I have been rather patient and have yet to hear anything," Flores wrote. "I have detailed what has been happening with Acceptitas with my parents, and they are considering taking legal action." "I genuinely don't understand why paying your workers has been such a struggle for you all, but it is unacceptable," he added. On Dec. 26, three weeks after Flores had first privately messaged Rickett, she responded saying that she hadn't "gotten an answer from Emmet in a while." Rickett offered to send Halm's phone number, writing, "I don't know what to tell you."

after completing 10.5 hours with his mentor. At that point, he still had 19.5 hours left in his package, valued at \$941.85. After deciding to terminate his mentorship with Acceptitas, Youn reached out to his mentor for a refund on the remaining hours. In a Nov. 27, email the mentor informed Youn that "I effectively no longer work at the company." "I was like, 'What about my remaining money?'" Youn said. Youn reached out to Crimson Education's headquarters in South Korea and the United States and said he sent around 40 emails to Acceptitas and his mentor. Eventually, Youn said he asked his parents for help in the matter and told Halm that "legal actions may follow" if the team continued to be "nonresponsive." Youn ultimately received his refund in early February. Still, he had to cover the cost of the PayPal fee for the payment, which totaled 4 to 5 percent of the amount owed. Halm did not respond to a request for comment on the fee. On Aug. 16, Amit Mathur purchased 20 sessions with a mentor, totaling \$1,700, to help his ninth-grade son explore

August 2021. "When you're at an institution like [Harvard] and you're starting a company, you're going to try to use its name as much as you can," Mishra said. "You can look at our earlier advertisements, and it'll say, 'Harvard students helping you with your application.' It's a dream come true," he added. After an initial free consultation, Acceptitas paired high school students with undergraduate mentors. Students could purchase packages of sessions — paying for up to 30 hours upfront. As Acceptitas expanded, mentors were paid between \$20 and \$30 an hour based on how many clients they took on — a way to incentivize mentors to accept more clients. Benedict said the number of clients a mentor could work with at one time was capped at six. Mentors signed independent contractor agreements with Acceptitas, but Rickett and Benedict — who were in operational roles — said Halm did not provide them with a legal contract. Benedict said she directly asked Halm for a contract but never received one. Halm did send Benedict an IRS 1099 form for tax purposes — typically filed



“It’s a bunch of people our age trying to act, to actually be CEO, COOs, that kind of stuff.”

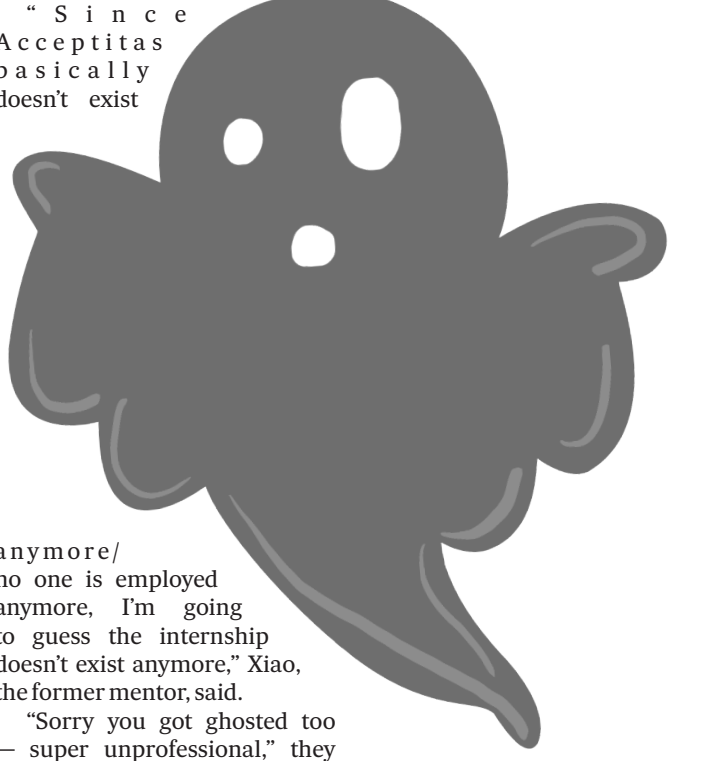
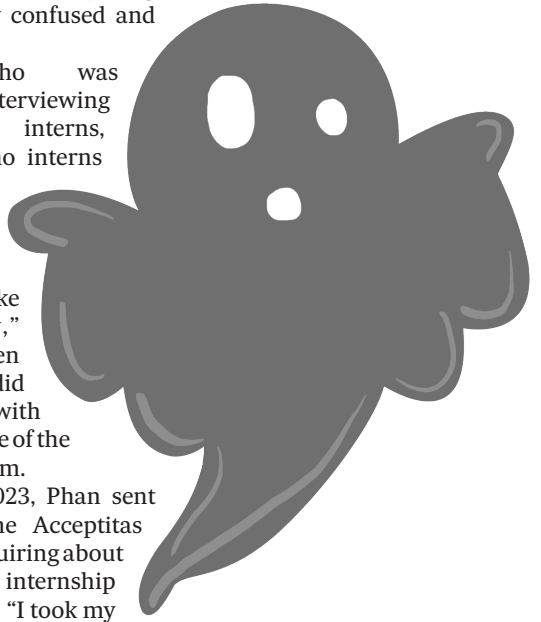
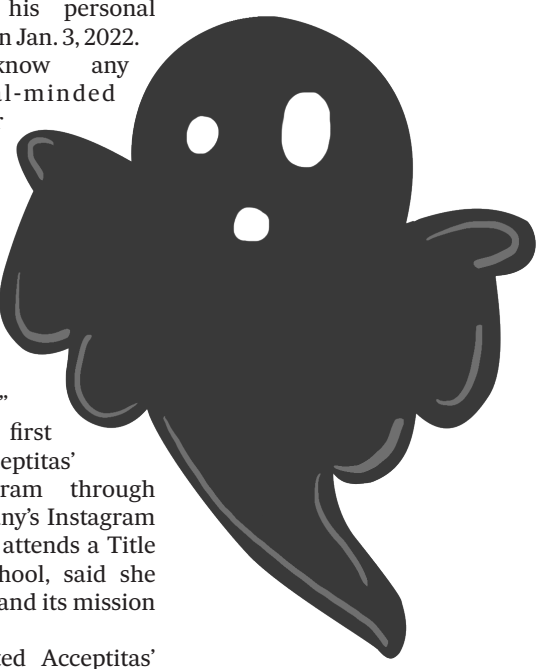
Elias E.Q DeLeon '23
Former Acceptitas Mentor

"I haven't had access to the bank account for months and he isn't answering calls/emails/texts," she added. Flores reached out to Halm again on Feb. 13 — this time through Halm's personal email. "I have been trying to get a hold of you about payment for my time at Acceptitas and was informed that this is a better email to contact you with," he wrote. "I would like to be paid as soon as possible, considering it has been over 4 months," he wrote. On Feb. 14, more than two months after Flores' initial outreach, Halm responded via email. "Sent — hope your semester is going well," he wrote. Seven minutes after Halm published his Feb. 22 Slack message encouraging mentors to reach out about outstanding compensation, DeLeon emailed Halm regarding payment. He never received a response. DeLeon's last payment from the Acceptitas PayPal account is dated Oct. 11, 2022. He said he is still awaiting payment for 2.5 hours of work. "I wouldn't call it late payments. I'm technically still owed \$70 in payment," DeLeon said. "So it's not necessarily late, it just also dropped off the face of the earth." Former Texas Assistant Attorney General Kerry V. O'Brien, who specializes in labor and employment law, said mentors "could expect and demand" to be paid on the same regular payment schedule of the contractual relationship, "regardless of the absence of anything specific in the contract." DeLeon said Acceptitas seemed like a "typical Harvard startup." "And even when it may not have the legs, it's a bunch of people our age trying to act, to actually be CEO, COOs, that kind of stuff," DeLeon said. "It's a lot of pressure, and a lot of things can fall through the cracks in terms of professionalism and workflows."

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for independent contractors — and a nondisclosure agreement, she added. "I can't see a reasonable scenario in which somebody who is the COO in title, form, and function is properly an independent contractor," O'Brien, the employment attorney, said. Halm did not respond to a request for comment on the Acceptitas' COO being an independent contractor. Halm denied that he did not provide executive-level managers with contracts in a March 7 email to The Crimson. "This is objectively false," Halm wrote. "All our exec-level positions have clearly defined & signed formal contracts." Halm attached as evidence a screenshot of a Google Doc, last edited April 26, 2022, listing "COO responsibilities," including "immediate tasks," "future tasks," and a to-do list. The screenshot also showed base pay for the position as \$600 per month, with a bonus of 5 percent of gross revenue — though no other employment terms are referenced. The screenshot Halm provided did not show a signature by Halm or any Acceptitas executive on the document. "I definitely wasn't paid \$600/month," Rickett wrote when asked about the terms included in the document. She wrote that her compensation rate remained \$30 per hour even after transitioning to COO. Halm did not respond to subsequent requests for comment on the COO contract or compensation, and he did not respond to a request to provide a signed copy of the document.

receive a response. And then, on May 12, 2022, Phan received unexpected news. "Welcome to Acceptitas!" Mishra wrote in an email to Phan and 21 other students. Though Phan joined the company Slack, and Mishra's email promised a Zoom call with the full intern cohort, Phan said she and the other interns received no further communication or direction. "I poured my whole soul into the application — whatever I do, when it involves students and community — I value that the most," Phan said. "And so, when I didn't hear anything back, I felt really confused and disappointed." Mishra, who was tasked with interviewing prospective interns, confirmed that no interns were actually brought on. "That's on my end completely. I mean, I'll take accountability," Mishra said when asked why he did not follow up with Halm on the future of the internship program. On Feb. 12, 2023, Phan sent a message in the Acceptitas Slack channel inquiring about the state of the internship program, writing, "I took my time to apply, got in, and didn't receive any future updates." The response was not what Phan had hoped. "Since Acceptitas basically doesn't exist anymore/ no one is employed anymore, I'm going to guess the internship doesn't exist anymore," Xiao, the former mentor, said. "Sorry you got ghosted too — super unprofessional," they added.



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MATEO GOMEZ, a Harvard Kennedy School student in the mid-career master in public administration program and a special agent for the FBI, was born in Medellín, Colombia, and immigrated to Miami when he was 10. Friends and family remember Gomez as a fierce advocate for LGBTQ+ rights who was passionate about giving back to those around him.

BY ASHER J. MONTGOMERY
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

When Mateo Gomez invited his older sister, Andrea Gomez, to visit him at his home in New York City for her 33rd birthday, he had a plan.

The pair saw a drag show and watched “Dear Evan Hansen” on Broadway, walking for hours between each stop on the trip. As they walked, Mateo Gomez told his sister — a Miami, Florida resident — that each destination was just around the corner.

“It was so much fun, every walk everywhere because he will say, ‘Oh, it’s just right here,’ and I will walk and walk and walk for hours,” Andrea Gomez said. “I was like, this is not funny. We don’t walk in Miami like this.”

For his sister’s birthday last year, Mateo Gomez flew in from Boston to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he took a train straight from the airport to a club in downtown Miami to attend her party.

“All the way down from there to the club with his luggage to go party with me,” Andrea Gomez said. “That was very sweet — very special.”

Mateo Gomez, a Harvard Kennedy School student in the mid-career master in public administration program and a special agent for the FBI, was born in Medellín, Colombia, and immigrated to Miami when he was 10. Friends and family remember Gomez as a fierce advocate for LGBTQ+ rights who was passionate about giving back to those around him.

Gomez died by suicide at his residence in Boston on Dec. 17, 2022. He was 32.

When Mateo Gomez was admitted to Cornell University for his undergraduate degree, Andrea Gomez said it was an important moment for their family. The family learned to speak English through the many jobs they worked in the service industry, she said, and none spoke English before moving to the United States.

“It was the first one of us leaving home to go to a university, and my mom was very excited and very supportive,” Andrea said. “We all were, and were very proud of him. And we always supported him in whatever he wanted to do.”

‘Deeply Committed to Public Service’

In summer 2012, after his graduation from Cornell, Mateo Gomez began working at Teach for America, a national nonprofit that trains recent college graduates to serve as teachers for underserved classrooms.

He moved to Los Angeles for training, where he met Phil Y Kim, another Teach for America member.

“I think anyone who met Mateo immediately felt a sense of community with him,” Kim said. “He had this ability to relate to people in a way that was just really affirming and welcoming.”

Together, they threw parties and “were meeting everybody they could,” Kim said. They bonded over a similar desire to give back to the education system that they felt they had benefited from.

“He and I were both similar in that we wanted to do something meaningful that had a high impact,” Kim said. “We both cared deeply about our education system and wanted to make a contribution towards the system that really took care of us and benefited and supported us along the way.”

When Gomez began teaching at a middle school in San Jose, California, he developed strong ties with his students, according to Kim. After his death, videos surfaced of Gomez dancing with his students.

“His ability to connect with young people was just so evident



OBITUARY

Mateo Gomez 1990–2022

Mateo Gomez, a Harvard Kennedy School student and a special agent for the FBI, is remembered by friends and family as a caring and selfless person who gave back to those around him. COURTESY OF ANDREA GOMEZ



Mateo Gomez was a HKS student in the yearlong mid-career master in public administration program. COURTESY OF ANDREA GOMEZ

in his teaching days, and I know that subsequently, since he left the classroom, he would always fondly recall his relationship with his kids and families that he really enjoyed,” Kim said.

Kim said he believes this same desire to give back led Gomez to join the FBI, starting with working a part-time job in linguistics, then transitioning to full-time work combating cyber crime.

“He has always been someone deeply committed to public service and just really believed in trying to improve things for everyone by working from within,” Kim said.

Gomez’s partner of six months, Luis C. Herrera Favela, said Gomez had a strong drive to

improve the world around him.

After the 2016 Pulse Nightclub Shooting in Orlando, Florida, Gomez immediately volunteered to aid the FBI investigation, Herrera Favela said he learned from a colleague following Gomez’s death. Gomez, who shared a Latino and gay identity with many of the victims, helped to comfort those affected by the tragedy, Herrera Favela said the colleague told him.

“In this school, everyone is bragging about things. He never said anything. And he actually was in the frontline of really important things,” Herrera Favela said.

“He always had this amazing sensibility to step back,” Herrera



Mateo Gomez helped revive the FBI’s participation in New York’s Pride March. COURTESY OF ANDREA GOMEZ

Favela added. “Usually here leadership is understood as the opposite, that stands front. But for him, when he had the opportunity, leadership was exactly the opposite, he would step back and allow other people to say things.”

Harvard Kennedy School Dean Douglas W. Elmendorf and Senior Associate Dean for Degree Programs and Student Affairs Debra E. Isaacson shared condolences after Gomez’s death in a statement on Dec. 18, 2022.

“When Mateo arrived here for the MC/MPA Summer Program, he described his interests in wonderfully broad and meaningful terms, citing travel, languages, and international affairs alongside coffee, democracy, social

justice, and ‘inclusion and equality in the new world,’” they wrote.

“Mateo’s passing is a heart-breaking loss for his family and friends, for everyone at the Kennedy School, and for the many people he had already served in his life or would have served after graduation,” they added.

‘Very Open, No Shame’

Mateo Gomez was always open about his identity as a gay man, Andrea Gomez said.

“Very open, no shame,” she said. “My parents have always been very supportive. My dad has gay flags everywhere.”

During his time in the FBI and beyond, Gomez looked to create

spaces for LGBTQ+ people. According to Kim, Gomez helped revive the FBI’s participation in New York City’s Pride March and worked to start an LGBTQ+ affinity group within the FBI.

When Gomez first moved to New York at the start of his career with the FBI, he had a challenging time making friends, Kim said.

When Kim visited, the pair decided to attend a drag event put on by the Gay Latino Collective — a New York-based social and professional group — in order to meet more people. When the pair walked in, they didn’t know anyone.

“Of course, with Mateo, we were running late because he’s always doing his hair,” Kim said.

When the pair left the venue, they realized Gomez had learned names but not gotten numbers or social media accounts.

“And classic Mateo, he was both incredibly fun and outgoing and also super shy at the same time,” Kim said. “And I was like, Mateo, go back in and go talk to someone and get a number.”

Ultimately, Gomez became deeply involved with the organization, Kim said.

“Since then I think he just kept on meeting more and more people and he ended up becoming somewhat of a leader in the group, helping to organize things,” Kim said.

“I know they really embraced him,” he added.

In a Dec. 18, 2022 post, the Gay Latino Collective said Gomez’s “calm demeanor” and “dry sense of humor” will “forever bring smiles to our faces.”

“But to us, it’s your love of family and cultural identity that will remain the highlight of your life, for it’s what initially drew us together and always kept our interactions genuine and joyful!” the group wrote in the post.

‘Caring, Calm, and Selfless’

Though Gomez was open about his sexuality, he rarely discussed his work with the FBI. After his death, family and friends learned more about his stories working as a special agent from his colleagues.

Andrea Gomez recalled a recent Christmas when their family planned on reuniting in Miami. Mateo Gomez canceled three days before with little explanation, saying only that it was work-related.

It wasn’t until after her brother’s death that Andrea Gomez learned about his role investigating Venezuelan criminals who lived in Cabo Verde. He was the only agent in his group who spoke English, Portuguese and Spanish, and the FBI needed him to translate for the operation.

“They were surprising in a way because we didn’t know the level of how important his position was, since he never really spoke much about what he did in his job,” Gomez said. “But at the same time, the way he was as a person and professional — it all made sense. All his coworkers loved him very much because he was very caring, calm, and selfless.”

Still, Gomez’s privacy around his work did not take away from his ability to connect with those around him.

“He had this really calm demeanor about him that I think a lot of people really, really loved about their relationship with him,” Kim said. “You could sit down and talk to him for hours and hours about pretty much anything.”

Herrera Favela said it was “so easy” to be with Gomez, who was “not judgmental at all.”

“Maybe it was a piece of how he talked. He was always interested in you,” Herrera Favela said. “He always memorized small details of your life.”

asher.montgomery@thecrimson.com

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

If you or someone you know needs help at Harvard, contact Counseling and Mental Health Services at (617) 495-2042 or the Harvard University Police Department at (617) 495-1212. Several peer counseling groups offer confidential peer conversations. You can contact a University Chaplain to speak one-on-one at chaplains@harvard.edu. You can also call the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988 or text HOME to the Crisis Text Line at 741741.

STAFF EDITORIAL

We Can Have Our Code and Eat Camus, Too

HUMANITIES VS. STEM. When it comes to sweeping pronouncements about the extinction of English, we remain skeptical. This crisis narrative seems exaggerated and anecdotal at best.

BY THE CRIMSON EDITORIAL BOARD

Are we the last generation of English majors? A recent New Yorker article warns we might be. The piece worries that humanities enrollment — which has declined by 17 percent over the past decade — is in “free fall” due to a mixture of professional pressures, changing university investment patterns, and economic incentives facing students.

It’s only the latest contribution to the now-ubiquitous humanities versus STEM dichotomy — including two nearly decade-old opinions from this Editorial Board, titled “Let Them Eat Code” and “Let Them Eat Camus,” in which we found the latter ascendant and the former moribund.

However, when it comes to sweeping pronouncements about the extinction of English, we remain skeptical. This crisis narrative seems exaggerated and anecdotal at best, stemming from a lack of detailed statistics regarding the so-called decline of humanities.

To start, the very definition of what constitutes a humanities field is in flux. Different definitions of a humanity include or omit fields like History inconsistently, and adjacent or interdisciplinary fields — think of Harvard’s own Social Studies or History of Science concentrations — often expose students to humanities scholarship, even if they’re not officially counted as such.

We do know that the absolute number of humanities degree holders has, on net, increased over the

past five decades. Furthermore, students of other disciplines can and do benefit from humanities education at most modern universities, thanks to core and distributional requirements.

Before making broad claims about the vitality — or, more specifically, the lack thereof — of the humanities, we find it crucial to look at data such as per-year enrollment statistics for humanities classes in order to paint a more granular image of the state of Camus on campuses today.

Of course, the humanities are incredibly worthwhile; none of our skepticism about the statistics attached to the narrative of their extinction, as over-sensationalized as we may consider it to be, should be taken to suggest otherwise. There is both innate and instrumental value to literature, philosophy, and art — subjects that have illuminated human civilization for millennia and will almost undoubtedly continue to do so even amidst dramatic projections of their decline.

However, many who decry the “death of the humanities” falsely see the humanities as claiming exclusive rights to complex conversations about what it means to be human — conversations that, the logic follows, will disappear along with the humanities as we know them. This displays a fundamental misunderstanding about the purpose of STEM scholarship. Biology and chemistry investigate the complex mechanisms allowing for human life. Mathematics and physics model every aspect of our quotidian existence using reason and logic. And increasingly, computer science is dealing directly with questions about what it means to be human as it tries to create humanity without the human — through artificial intelligence.

The discourse around the decline of the humanities also tends to focus on the most traditional and Western-centric fields, particularly English, ignoring the emergence of novel fields like ethnic studies. Generalizing the decline of English degrees into

the decline of the humanities as a whole reduces the humanities to only one point of view, ignoring newfound diversity in the ways we tell stories about the human experience.

We would also be remiss not to address one of the primary sticking points in the alleged conflict between code and Camus: doubt regarding the employability of humanities majors. There is a perceived relationship between students’ majors and their career prospects. Some students, especially those from low-income backgrounds, may feel pressured to choose their major with this perception in mind.

But in general, we do not definitively know why students choose the majors they do. Each student weighs various questions when making this personal decision — and employability, although a realistic concern for most, is often just one among multiple factors. Attributing perceived declines in humanities degrees solely to perceptions of employment reflects a general bias against the humanities as unemployable fields of study.

Given the magnitude of careers out there, every discipline can be studied on multiple pre-professional paths with varying levels of desirability and starting salary. Humanities degrees like history, English, and philosophy are incredibly popular among future high-profile lawyers. Meanwhile, many STEM students, especially those in more theoretical fields like pure mathematics, could spend much of their careers in the more opaque world of academia.

We reject many of these artificial divides between disciplines altogether. All too often, we perceive a sensationalized conflict between STEM and the humanities, pitting each side against each other in an unproductive Manichean narrative. In reality, our world is nothing if not interdisciplinary, especially when addressing important questions about what it means to be human. And the benefits of a broad, well-rounded education are manifold: As political theorists have long recognized, a well-functioning society is oiled by

informed, engaged public discourse among citizens knowledgeable in a variety of fields.

Accordingly, it’s essential for Harvard — and all schools — to fund disciplines, no matter their enrollment, in line with their needs. Dwindling numbers can reflect many things, especially shifting attitudes and demographics amongst students. They do not, however, determine how important a discipline is, and should not be treated as such.

In the meantime, we feel that it’s time to rethink the General Education system. Courses are too easy and too shallow, allowing students to skate through Harvard by only ever taking challenging and engaging courses in their chosen discipline. This is not only contradictory to the promise of a liberal arts education but also detrimental to our collective understanding of the world. We urge Harvard to consider amending the GenEd system to instead focus on foundational, survey-style courses across prominent disciplines, allowing students to deeply and systematically engage with the diverse lines of inquiry in academia.

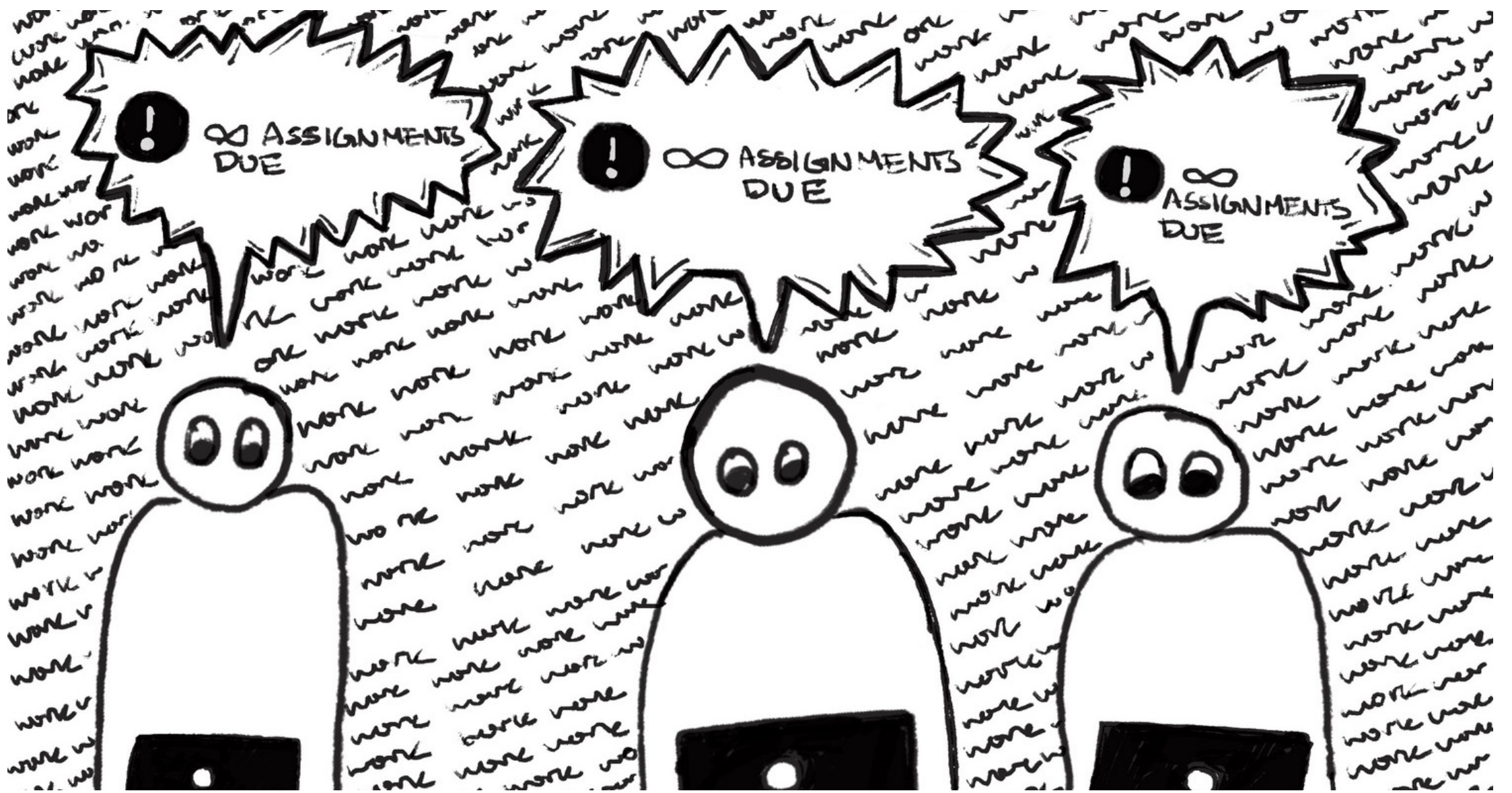
Are we the last generation of English majors? No. We’re also not the last generation of computer scientists, biologists, or mathematicians. The future is interdisciplinary. The energy currently invested in unproductive squabbles between STEM and the humanities should be harnessed into collective dialogue and inquiry seeking to drive our current world forward.

In short, we not only can, but also should, have our code and eat Camus.

—This staff editorial solely represents the majority view of The Crimson Editorial Board. It is the product of discussions at regular Editorial Board meetings. In order to ensure the impartiality of our journalism, Crimson editors who choose to opine and vote at these meetings are not involved in the reporting of articles on similar topics.

OP-ART

THE HARVARD WORK-LIFE BALANCE. Overburdened, over-committed, over it.



—Sami E. Turner '25, a Crimson Design Chair, is a Social Studies concentrator in Dunster House.

OP-ED

Whither the Magic of Course Registration Period?

BY SAM E. MEACHAM

The course registration period never fails to fill us with a sense of wonder. If you are like me, at the end of each break, your Crimson Cart is filled to the brim with any class that you have any interest in at all, and your August and January days contain hours of perusing Harvard’s manifold course offerings in search of hidden treasures.

Fresh from our time spent away from campus, our stores of curiosity replenished from the crushing weight of the last semester, we bask in the endless opportunities before us: to try out a new subject, to broaden our grasp of our field of concentration, or even to fill a credit that brings us closer to the promised land of graduation. All of it fills us with a sense of possibility that pushes us to read dozens of syllabi for classes we will likely never take, to spend hours game-planning our weekly schedules, and to show up to the first one or two lectures of the semester well-rested, with a new notebook and fresh pens, ready to learn.

Now, as we return from spring break and begin the concluding half of the semester, does anybody still feel

this sense of wonder?

We’re two months out of the course registration period, and I would wager that most of our current sentiments toward academic pursuits share very little in common with this beginning-of-semester sense of wonder. We aren’t nearly as excited about school as we used to be.

It doesn’t take long for the excited curiosity of the beginning of the term to wear itself out. For some, it might be the first 20-hour problem set that does it. For those more inclined towards the humanities, like myself, it could be the first 3 a.m. night cramming a Frankfurt School reading for Social Studies 10B tutorial — and the week with three essays due that follows it. No matter which way you cut it, our classes lose much of their luster by the time we reach spring break, and the week-long recess does little to restore it. Father Time is not kind to the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed students who walked into the first lecture with a spring in their step.

No matter how hard we try to stay excited about our intellectual experiences, it seems that a kind of motivational decay is inevitable. “Burnout” tends to make us cynical and uninterested in the activities we

have chosen to fill our days. Part of this unhappy descent seems inescapable: As more assignments and responsibilities pile up, our aspirations lower from the realm of pure intellectual curiosity to that of ensuring our academic self-preservation. Part of it is also a lack of novelty: As we spend more and more time within a class, no matter how engaging, the attraction it had during registration period must wear off.

But I am not content to let that be the end of it. After all, wouldn’t we all be more fulfilled with our academic lives if we could sustain the sense of amazement we possessed at the very beginning of the semester? This requires treating our academic pursuits as not only means to a professional end but, at least in part, as ends in themselves. It means holding onto the raw curiosity that fuels our love of learning and prompts us to study what we do.

I don’t profess to know the solution. Perhaps professors and teaching fellows designing courses should be more attentive that volume of work often trades off with the desire to do that work. Perhaps the academic calendar could incorporate more frequent breaks or wellness days.

But, in the end, the task of staying curious falls to us as students. We all find ourselves faced at times with the specter of hundreds of pages of reading, plus an essay, plus a pset. We should lose the all-or-nothing mindset, common at least to our high school selves, that encourages GPA and resume maximization at the expense of enjoyment. (God knows I am guilty of that mindset). Instead, we should recognize that we get only 32 Harvard classes over four short years and try to take advantage of those classes to the very fullest.

We are here not simply because we are capable but because we are curious and eager to learn. As easy as it is to forget our natural curiosity, we would all do well to remember how excited we were at the very beginning of the semester — and try to the best of our ability to find that feeling again. We should take the hiatus of spring break as an opportunity to renew our academic energy.

Maybe we can find the magic again.

—Sam E. Meacham '25, a Crimson Editorial editor, is a Social Studies concentrator in Pforzheimer House.

OP-ED

Why I Won't Celebrate Harvard for Teaching Tagalog

BY ELEANOR V. WIKSTROM

Most people's idea of a perfect lecture probably doesn't involve holding back tears for a full hour — but when the thing you've been waiting for over the course of your college career finally comes to fruition minutes after you take your seat, sometimes it can't be helped.

On February 1, an email from the director of the Asia Center elicited my own class-time encounter with this peculiar, salty joy. The news in my inbox? In the coming months, Harvard will hire a preceptor to teach Tagalog — the most-spoken language in the Philippines, the native tongue of my mother's family, and the language, as I uncovered for *The Crimson* in December 2021, that Harvard affiliates leading the United States colonial education system in the Philippines once worked to suppress.

Harvard has existed for nearly four centuries — all of those years as a settler institution on unceded Native land, over a third of them as an active site of enslavement, and approximately a quarter of them as an observer of the legacy of the overseas colonial education system that it helped to establish.

Through administrators that bore its degrees, its pedagogical training, and its presidential seal of approval, Harvard designed and implemented a system of mandatory English-only instruction in the Philippines — ignoring contemporaries' concerns that it would lead to cultural destruction and building the foundations for a pernicious, enduring form of internalized racism known as colonial mentality.

Yet for over 120 years following the U.S. invasion of the Philippines, which occurred concurrently with the installation of a Harvard graduate as the colonial superintendent of education, Harvard found no reason to offer the language of a country whose colonization helped launch the U.S. into its modern-day position as a global superpower.

Never mind that through the 1990s, Filipinos were the second largest immigrant group in the U.S. Never mind that today, Tagalog remains the fourth most-spoken primary language in the nation, following only English, Spanish, and Chinese. And never mind that students in the Harvard Philippine Forum spent years advocating for Tagalog courses, sending countless unanswered emails to the administration in what appeared to be the one exception to Harvard's notable commitment to funding "obscure languages."

The only possible reason for this lack of a reason is systematic ignorance: an inexcusable unawareness of the significance of Tagalog in the daily operations of this country, or a decontextualized false belief that Tagalog lacks use because most Filipinos

also speak fluent English. This belief that an entire language — and all of its embedded memories, legends, worldviews, and possibilities — is of little to no value compared with English and thus permissible to mute has colonial precedent; its hypothesized role here is nothing new. For over 120 years, Harvard has perpetuated the same brand of ideological ignorance in the academic setting both at home and abroad, its manufactured silence spanning the Pacific, its halls reverberating outwards with deafening white noise.

In the weeks since I first received that fateful email, my processing of the news has taken place in parallel with preparation for Cultural Rhythms, Harvard's oldest and largest multicultural production. Tomorrow, members of Harvard Philippine Forum will perform tinikling, a folk dance in which two dancers deploy strategic footwork between clapping bamboo poles.

Some say tinikling was inspired by the grace of the hopping tikling bird; others, the defiance of farm workers who learned to dodge bamboo-stick strikes to their ankles during the period of Spanish colonialism. Either way, it is one of the most popular dances in the Philippines and in the Filipino American community — a form of cultural articulation whose boisterous, joyous noise-making infectiousness invites more.

My mother lost the angles of her mother tongue by the time she finished high school in Los Angeles; like many second-generation Filipino Americans — a group that in 2004 lacked heritage language fluency at a rate nearly 40 percent higher than the average across Asian immigrant groups — my inheritance was a mouth rounded by soft English words, assimilated, accentless.

But my mother taught me tinikling when I was seven, her old college costume of woven piña cloth loose over my girlish frame. I learned to dance where my tongue was severed, borrowing another form of language to graft on the space of the wound.

The diaspora is like this: a series of survivors' translations, a making of music from shipwrecked tongues. Unable to speak Tagalog, I cannot name what was lost. But I have found other ways to speak — just as my mother did, and just as Filipino American scholars and students and advocates have for decades.

Amid institutions filled with white noise, we articulate translation after translation to keep our heritage alive, audible if you know how to listen.

Harvard's existence can be understood as both an overarching legacy and as a series of individual moments, including the present, within that legacy. This is how people can be harmed by what Harvard was, even if it is no longer — even if it repatriates the stolen artifacts, redresses the sinister ties, offers the severed language.

For groups experiencing the material and ideological effects of Harvard's role in U.S. empire, when do present instantiations of the University outweigh its legacy?

I do not mean to suggest that we seek a return to a mythical pre-colonial essence; such an aim is not only impossible, but also misrepresentative of the ever-shifting nature of culture and identity. From a material standpoint, however, Harvard's legacy is still largely a form of manufactured ignorance. Currently, only one course on the Philippines is offered at the College; Southeast Asia, made illegible between South and East Asian studies, entirely lacks a formal department; and the effects of Harvard's pedagogy still linger noxiously in the transpacific setting, producing psychological scars that cannot easily be unmade.

The hiring of a Tagalog preceptor is a necessary first step; it is also just one instantiation in a legacy made of instantiations, one novel articulation in a century-long speech. So while I am undeniably elated by the news of Tagalog's offering, I refuse to celebrate Harvard for a legacy it has yet to remake.

Instead, I celebrate those who made this current moment possible — those who have been gradually drowning out Harvard's systematic white noise by speaking alternate tongues of resistance all along. I celebrate the students who argued with an apathetic administration for years, making the presence of the community audible through rhythm and dance even when Harvard refused to listen. I celebrate the alumni in the Philippines who raised support for the new position, amplifying the call for Tagalog until it was heard by the right people. I celebrate director James Robson and the staff at the Asia Center who worked to create an institutional space for Southeast Asia, translating a decades-long dream into decisive action.

And most of all, I celebrate the preceptor and students who, in the coming months and years, will give new voice to once-muted words. Articulated through angular tongues and joyous noise, their proud, boisterous Harvard is the one that I hope, someday, to celebrate.

—Eleanor V. Wikstrom '24, a *Crimson* Editorial Chair, is a Social Studies concentrator in Adams House.

From Boston to Boylston.



COLUMN

HOPES AND HYPOCRISIES

Let's Dance Together! Bridging Cultural Siloes on Campus

INTERCULTURAL GROUPS. We could and should do better with intercultural dialogue — while protecting how Harvard student organizations cultivate their own flourishing spaces. Communities have the right to forge their own spaces, so perhaps, proactive solidarity is just as important as inclusion: to have all our voices heard, the way we want them to be.

BY VANESSA B. HU

I like to dance. But I have been met with amused bafflement at my two dance-related decisions on campus, from friends and strangers alike: one, my recent choice to join Candela, Harvard's Latin social dance group, and two, the fact that I have not once been in the Asian-American Dance Troupe since I "seem like I'd be in AADT."

Of course, these comments were made without malice. But the surprise that my (Asian-American) Candela dance partner and I would love to salsa, and my odd sense of shame at not being in AADT (like it's some rite of passage for any Harvard east-Asian girlie who ever had a K-pop phase) made me cognizant of the unspoken cultural borders divvying up campus organizations.

That is, we could and should do better with intercultural dialogue — while protecting how Harvard student organizations cultivate their own flourishing spaces.

Why the emphasis on diversity? Well, it leaves a weird taste in my mouth to have to "prove" this claim, but having a wide variety of friends makes you a better human. Research has revealed that a lack of meaningful interaction with those of other racial groups leads us to be less open-minded, resort to stereotypes, and to assume everyone's reality is similar to ours. In fact, one synthesis of 515 studies found that the more contact people had with those outside their racial group, the less prejudiced they were.

Unfortunately for us, one study based on 2007 national survey data found that friendships formed in college are among the least likely to be racially diverse compared to those formed in other environments. So even though Harvard admits a diverse pool of undergraduates, we (including myself, I admit) may be forming increasingly homogeneous social circles. (Though, it's worth pointing out that people of color do a better job: According to a 2022

study from the Public Religion Research Institute, Hispanic, AAPI, and Black Americans are much less likely than white Americans to have racially homogeneous friendship networks).

Still, as mentioned, we should still protect enclaves at Harvard that allow students to embrace their identities and create community. This is especially true for smaller and/or historically marginalized groups where it may be harder to find others that empathize with, and don't speak over, your nuanced experiences. Case in point: In 2019, students at a Harvard forum called "The Role of Asian Cultural Organizations on Campus" called out the overrepresentation of East Asians in "purportedly pan-Asian spaces" — implying that we shouldn't broadly prioritize intercultural groups over smaller, but more empowering and safer spaces of belonging.

Even amongst diverse classmates, we often experience homophily, the tendency to gravitate towards those similar to us.

You may argue that bridging cultural groups isn't a huge problem, since we can meet friends unlike us in many ways, like classes or non-culturally-affiliated clubs.

However, even amongst diverse classmates, we often experience homophily, the tendency to gravitate towards those similar to us. Furthermore, our classes might not be representative due to histories of racial exclusion in certain fields. For example, in Harvard's admitted class of 2026, 15.2 percent of Harvard's admitted class of 2026 identify as African-American and 12.6 percent identify as Hispanic or Latinx. By contrast, a 2022 survey revealed that each of these groups make up only 9 percent of undergraduates at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. So, given this self-segregation tendency and these patterns of historical underrepresentation, maybe your problem set buddies are more homogeneous than you realize.

Likewise, non-cultural organizations can still be dominated by certain identities, which may result in a feeling of implicit exclusion. No wonder our students have nurtured countercultural spaces to explore areas they've historically been unwelcome in from Lavender Room Magazine, which is centered on diversity in fashion; to LiFT, which represents Harvard Latinx in Finance and Technology; to HSBSE, the Harvard Society of Black Students and Engineers.

So what do we do? We should be more open-minded, but we shouldn't collect "diverse friends" like Pokemon, nor intrude on safe spaces that communities create for themselves.

Honestly, dance — and any cultural form of expression — is a great middle-ground to start dialogue. Harvard's Ghungroo, a dance and music showcase centering South Asian culture and the diaspora, does this well: Not only is it a stalwart of South Asian belonging at Harvard, it also actively welcomes — and successfully includes — eager non-South-Asian students regardless of dance experience.

Still, when making these spaces open to genuine allyship and curiosity, how do we not have marginalized groups sacrifice emotional labor and their sense of safety to cater to outsiders that might harbor superiority complexes for being culturally woke? (I think of those self-satisfied white dude influencers that surprise Chinatown locals with fluent Mandarin.)

A potential answer is collaboration. Some clubs are doing it already — from Harvard Creative Writing Collective's poetry reading last semester with the Black Arts Collective and the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, to a discussion of bodily femininity re-

cently co-hosted by the Asian American Women's Association and South Asian Women's Collective. However, such collaborations take a lot of intentionality and resources to plan — so the Harvard Undergraduate Association or the Harvard Culture Lab Innovation Fund, which supports initiatives fostering diversity and belonging, should more explicitly fund and encourage intersectional events.

As a first-year, I helped start The Wave Asian Arts Magazine, intended to pioneer pan-Asian creativity on campus.

But when it veered towards East Asian creators, and when that same year, Ghungroo created its own South Asian arts magazine, I felt like I failed. And I still feel that it's important to strive for equitable representation, and to find collective empowerment through what we find in common.

But maybe I should've viewed that "failure" as a chance to converse with other groups. Communities have the right to forge their own spaces, so perhaps, proactive solidarity is just as important as inclusion: to have all our voices heard, the way we want them to be.

Anyway, I'll be performing at Cultural Rhythms this Saturday with Candela (I'm nervous!). If you're there, I'd love to bond with you over our familiarities or unfamiliarities with the merengue, K-pop dance, or the famous guest they have yet to reveal (I'm hoping it's Lizzo).

And I hope that initial camaraderie we foster makes it easier to converse candidly when we meet again: about our hobbies, our histories, our hopes. After all, it's always wonderful to find another friend to experience the world with.

—Vanessa B. Hu '23-24 is a junior in Currier House studying Computer Science. Her column, "Hopes and Hypocrisies," runs on alternate Mondays.



SAYED FAISAL

City Officials Meet with Local Activists

JUSTICE FOR FAISAL. Protesters rallied on the steps of City Hall during a meeting between organizers and city officials.

BY RYAN H. DOAN-NGUYEN
AND YUSUF S. MIAN
CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

As roughly 100 protesters rallied on the steps of the Cambridge City Hall Annex Tuesday, city leaders met with local activists after months of demonstrations over the police killing of Sayed Faisal. Three representatives from the city of Cambridge — City Manager Yi-An Huang '05, Interim Director of the Community Safety Department Elizabeth M. Speakman, and Director of Communications and Community Relations Lee Giannetti — sat down with four organizers from the Boston Party for Socialism and Liberation and 13 local students to discuss their concerns.

Faisal, a Bangladeshi American student at the University of Massachusetts Boston, was fatally shot by Cambridge Police on Jan. 4. According to CPD, Faisal approached officers wielding a knife following a five-block chase. When a non-lethal sponge round failed to stop him, an officer shot and killed him.

In the months since, protesters have alleged police brutality and racism in Cambridge's police department and reiterated demands for the city to name, fire, and prosecute the officers involved, as well as release the full unredacted police report. Little progress was made on these points, according to Party for Socialism and Liberation organizer Joe Tache, who participated in the meeting and called the talks "frustrating."

"Unfortunately, the city wasn't willing to make any movement on the demands right now," Tache said.

City officials have maintained they will release the names of the officers involved and the police report only after the completion of an ongoing investigation by the Middlesex District Attorney.

In a statement Wednesday morning, Huang said the city and

activists have a "shared urgency" on police reform, but added that he was disappointed in the Party for Socialism and Liberation's approach to the meeting.

"I appreciate their passion and activism and the opportunity to have dialogue," Huang wrote. "I'm disappointed that Boston PSL is only interested in firing police officers without process and was uninterested in conversation about the how to achieve the change we all desire."

In an interview Tuesday morning, Huang said the city approached the meeting seeking a middle ground with the organizers.

"I have interest in a real conversation and a productive conversation," he said. "A lot of the direction that they're pushing in — for police reform, legitimacy, transparency, accountability — those are all things that we're really committed to."

"There's a broader conversation about police reform," Huang said. "Are the folks who are protesting interested in that or are they just interested in protesting?"

An hour before the meeting, protesters converged on the steps of City Hall to continue a rally that began the previous day. Speakers shared stories of personal encounters with police, led chants of "Justice for Faisal," and demanded change from CPD and the city of Cambridge.

"One thing that the city manager told us is that he's gotten advice to wait, and we'll go away," Tache told protesters, triggering a wave of boos.

At 5:22 p.m. the crowd of protesters marched to the City Hall Annex, where the meeting between organizers and city officials was taking place. Four CPD motorcycles accompanied them — to the jeers of protesters — and parked across the street at John M. Tobin Elementary School to observe the demonstration.

For nearly two hours, the demonstrators marched in a circle by the entrance of the City Hall Annex, waving signs, singing songs, and chanting "No justice! No peace! No racist police!" "Release the names," and "This racist system's got to fall."

"Negotiations with organiz-



Protesters rallied outside the City Hall Annex, calling for justice following the police killing of Sayed Faisal. RYAN H. DOAN-NGUYEN—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

ers are going on right now as we speak," said Meilyn C. Huq, an organizer with the Party for Socialism and Liberation and the demonstration's emcee. "Let's make some noise so the city manager can hear the energy in this crowd."

Despite the lack of action, protesters saw the meeting as a validation of their continued organizing.

"The city manager would have never held a meeting with community organizers if it wasn't for all the pressure that we have given them," said Safiyah Ogundipe,

a MIT student who participated in the meeting with the city officials. "We should all be super proud of ourselves."

Huang said in the interview Tuesday that he is accountable to residents of Cambridge despite his role as an unelected city manager — a feature of Cambridge's Plan E form of government that activists have called undemocratic.

"I am more accountable in these kinds of circumstances," he said. "If you look at my contract, ultimately, a majority of city councilors could terminate my contract at any time," he added.

Tache told the crowd that the demonstrations had already impacted the state of policing in Cambridge, pointing to a series of policing reforms made in the months following Faisal's death.

"Was Cambridge implementing these body cameras before these protests? Was Cambridge hiring PERF or other consultants about issues of policing before these protests?" Tache asked rallygoers. "These protests are the main reason that any reform is happening in this police department in the first place."

Amari M. Butler '25, who spoke

at the rally, said that the Tuesday rally evoked "optimism." Still, she said she wishes "to see more Harvard students engage in the struggle."

"This happened not very far from Harvard's campus. It happened in Cambridge," Butler said. "I have not seen the amount of Harvard people show out as I feel should."

"This is not the first rally we've had. It's one of many, and it won't be the last," she added.

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Cambridge Reiterate Support for AP African American Studies

BY SALLY E. EDWARDS
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CRIMSON STAFF WRITERS

Amid national controversy surrounding Advanced Placement African American Studies, Cambridge Public School Committee unanimously passed a motion re-emphasizing the district's commitment to the course at a meeting Tuesday.

The College Board introduced the AP course this year, after a decade of development by teachers and professors around the country. Harvard professors Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, who teach the Introduction to African American Studies course at Harvard, advised the development of the AP course.

Gates praised the course in an interview with Inside Higher Ed, saying it "provides students with a firm foundation of facts and evidence about this extraordinarily rich saga of American history."

The AP course was introduced in the 2022-2023 school year, with Cambridge Rindge and Latin School being one of 60 chosen to pilot the program.

Grace K. Clemente — a CRLS student and representative on the Committee who introduced the motion reiterating CPS' support for the curriculum — was one of the first students to take the course last semester.

"I think it was probably one of the most, if not the most amazing courses, I've ever taken in my life," Clemente said.

The Florida Department of Education wrote a letter to the College Board on Jan. 12 stating that the AP African American Studies course "lacks education-

al value," a belief which Clemente said was "egregious."

After hearing about Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' plan to ban the course in Florida public schools, Clemente was motivated to bring the motion to the committee alongside fellow student representative, Adelina R. Escamilla-Salomon.

"There's so much value that goes into this course, and so much intentionality behind creating the course, that I think it was really, really a huge step forward," Clemente said.

During the meeting's public comment portion, some CRLS students also said they support the motion. Helen Hailemariam, who took the course last semester, said many students including herself were "brought to tears" during a classroom discussion following DeSantis' statements.

"Over the course of the semester, the class not only became a space for learning about history that was representative of my lived experiences, but also a space where I could express my fullest self," Hailemariam added.

David J. Weinstein, a member of the School Committee and parent to two CPS students, said the student's commitment to the course was "really clear" and that the course "stands out as a really welcoming place."

"I think this really shows the power of an inclusive curriculum," Weinstein added. "You certainly can't understand American history if you don't understand Black history — you can't understand world history if you don't understand Black history."

School Committee member Ayesha M. Wilson said she stands "in solidarity" with the motion as a Black educator.

During the meeting, Wilson recounted a time when she was reading a book with eighth graders in a classroom and said her students were not familiar with the full extent of Black history and believed it started merely with "slavery."

"Our history does not start with slavery," Wilson said. "And there's just so much more that our young people need to know."

José Luiz Rojas Villareal, a member of the School Committee, proposed expanding the motion to include an Ethnic Studies curriculum — an amendment that was successfully adopted.

After more than an hour of public comment and discussion, the entire motion was passed unanimously.

While Clemente said the motion's passage is a positive step, she added that it is important that School Committee members continue to uplift student voices and extend their commitment to African American studies beyond this singular vote.

"How are we going to work towards this beyond just passing this motion — beyond today?" she asked. "What are we going to do, what steps are we going to take to really see this start, to really make an impact?"

Escamilla-Salomon said this motion presents the Committee with an opportunity to advance the diversity of experiences within CPS classrooms and AP curricula.

"When you feel represented in a classroom, when you feel represented by history, by the story that's being told, you'll show up," Escamilla-Salomon said.

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Allston Affordable Housing Raises Displacement Concerns

BY KATE DELVAL GONZALEZ
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

The Boston Planning and Development Agency approved a slew of affordable housing across four sites in Allston-Brighton last week, though some local artists took issue with the displacement of studio space.

All four developments are set to include affordable housing units, with three offering properties for ownership — together bringing nearly 500 new affordable residences to Allston-Brighton. The approvals come amid an affordable housing crisis in the neighborhood, which some residents have tied to Harvard's Allston expansion projects.

The BPDA Board of Directors met on March 16 to review development plans and hear public comments from residents. The board approved projects at 1234-1240 Soldiers Field Rd., 119 Braintree St., 52 Everett St., and 75 Tremont St., as well as four developments outside Allston-Brighton. The Davis Companies are set to invest \$366 million into the redevelopment of 1234-1240 Soldiers Field Rd., the former home of the Boston Skating Club. The site will include three residential buildings, comprising around 450 residential units, with 148 units of affordable housing as well as retail space and a hotel.

Resident Leonid Ostrovskiy, supported the project, adding that the old building's removal was long overdue.

"This site increasingly needs to be redeveloped and upgraded, as it's an eyesore to the community," Ostrovskiy said.

The development at 75 Tremont St. will incorporate approxi-

mately 82 affordable units, while the 52 Everett St. project, located in Allston Yards, will offer about 174 affordable housing units. Both are set to include new Bluebikes stations.

The project at 119 Braintree St. will include a 12-story building with lab, research, and office space and first-floor retail and restaurant space, as well as a residential building with affordable housing. The buildings will consist of roughly 88 rental units, 74 of which will be income-restricted. During public comment for the Braintree St. proposal, many artists came forward, some supportive and others apprehensive.

David Jackel, who co-runs a video production company out of 119 Braintree St. with his wife, Shana Bethune, said he is concerned for the future of the arts in Boston.

"Shana and I were saddened to learn about the plans to demolish this special building and displace the unique community that's thrived here for decades," Jackel said. "We are also concerned that this project, and similar projects, will cause irreparable damage to the rich, artistic, and creative culture of Boston."

Allston-Brighton artists have complained that local trends are driving out the neighborhood's historic arts scene, with the displacement of several studio spaces in recent months. The neighborhood's Sound Museum, a longtime rehearsal space for area musicians, announced plans in December 2022 to close as their building is replaced with a biotech research complex.

Nile S. Hawver, a Boston-area artist whose photography studio is being displaced by the 119 Braintree St. project, said in an

interview that despite the inconvenience to him, he supports the creation of affordable housing.

"I'm a huge proponent for affordable housing and just housing in general. The city desperately needs it, but you know, obviously, the unfortunate by-product of that is that I needed to find a new studio," Hawver said.

Hawver added that developers should take into consideration the needs of local artists when designing new properties, explaining that most rental spaces are "not very large."

"Anything that was suitable for my needs, or often the needs of artists, would be significantly larger than any one person could afford or need," Hawver said.

Escamilla-Salomon said this motion presents the Committee with an opportunity to advance the diversity of experiences within CPS classrooms and AP curricula.

"When you feel represented in a classroom, when you feel represented by history, by the story that's being told, you'll show up," Escamilla-Salomon said.

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BOOKS

Danez Smith Conjures
Worlds of Possibility

COURTESY OF EMMA E. CHAN

BY EMMA E. CHAN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Poet Danez Smith perched precariously on the arm of a couch, chatting with students before their scheduled reading on March 1. On this chilly Wednesday, students, faculty, and visitors alike poured into the space as the sky outside the windows bruised to night. Even before the reading began, the Barker Center's Thompson Room hummed with conversation, warm light spilling from the chandeliers.

The excitement only intensified with Harvard Professor of English, Stephanie L. Burt's, enthusiastic introduction of Smith and their award-winning collections, "Homie" and "Don't Call Us Dead." Smith has won the Forward Prize for Best Collection, the Minnesota Book Award in Poetry, the Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry, and the Kate Tufts Discovery Award. Besides their achievements, Burt focused on Smith's searing emotional impact.

"What has reading so much Danez Smith done to me?" Burt asked the audience as she analyzed her favorite Smith poems, including an innovative list poem titled "depression food" which culminates in "consolatory sex." The emotional appeal that Burt identified — sometimes relatable, sometimes fiercely personal — transformed Smith's already powerful poems into forces to be reckoned with.

Smith is a poetic innovator, expertly shaping form and altering conventions to fit their purpose. Instead of the typical reading structure, which Smith identified as more like a lecture than a conversation, Smith redefined their reading as a collective, shared experience and encouraged the audience to respond to their works together.

"Poems, for me, are better when there is a sense of connectedness between me and you. I know some of us were trained to wait until the end of the poem to show a sign that you were excited or moved by it, and I don't like that," Smith said, even encouraging members of the audience to hold hands. "You can be here together, for a little bit."

Smith maintained this "sense of connectedness" between author and audience throughout their reading, fueled by their own incessant energy and enthusiasm. Smith's incredible written work gained a new charge when read aloud, suffused with a pervasive, infectious joy. As Smith read "My President," the opening poem from "Homie," their achingly emotional delivery pulled the audience out of their everyday lives and into a world of Smith's creation, where "the boys outside walgreens selling candy for a possibly fictional basketball team" were their presidents. Smith's voice was sometimes tender and confessional, while at other times desperate and pulsing with urgency.

Smith's intense imaginative power allows them to push against the reality we live in.

Many of their poems discuss police brutality or gun violence, and navigate the complexities of Smith's Black and Queer identities. In particular, the poem "how many of us have them?" simultaneously celebrates friendship and mourns the dead, sliding seamlessly from self-deprecating jokes to scraping grief and back again. As Harvard Professor of English and African and African American Studies Tracy K. Smith expressed, Smith's emotionally expansive poems "move us through many different stages of revelation," as if each poem is composed of "seasons."

"the wind is tangled / with the dust of the dead homies, carrying us over / to them, giggling in the mirror. hear them. hear," Smith read from "how many of us have them?" This heart-wrenching juxtaposition of joyful memory and hollowing grief was made all the

ment to their emotional range.

Smith's other poems touched on sexuality, race, love, and the body, often collapsing these palimpsestic topics into a single, moving moment. "How many people have somebody in their family that you love but once they're dead, life might be a little easier? Great, so everybody raised their hand! The queer mixer is next door," Smith quipped before reading "waiting on you to die so I can be myself." In "Tonight, in Oakland," a lover proclaims to Smith, "I want to take you / how the police do, unarmed & sudden." These stunning lines, coupled with the poem's wishful, anaphoric litany of "tonight," laid bare the synergy between grieving racialized violence and celebrating one's identity.

Victor Terry, an educator from Boston and longtime fan of Smith, particularly connect-

a male's body experience, unapologetically.

Burt also expressed her appreciation for the transformative experience of reading Smith's restless, ever-shifting poems, especially from an identity that differs from her own.

"I'm super into the micro-pivots that their lines make," said Burt. "My life experience is really different from theirs, and reading them, I have this experience of, 'they're speaking to me, they're not speaking to me, they're speaking to someone else,' and it's amazing to just be in the room and listen."

Even while embracing complex emotions, Smith is insistent on remaining hopeful, and shifting the onus of affirming identity away from marginalized communities.

"I do want to argue for a better world, but I don't need to argue that I matter. I want to move past that," Smith said, reflecting on their earlier tendency to write as an affirmation of their identity. "It's unfair to ask any writer or artist to bear the brunt of all the complications of the world. We've just got to do our fucking work."

While they recognized the challenges of writing from — and about — marginalized identities, Smith ended by dwelling once again on poetry's ability to make the possible tangible, to draw it close.

"The poem's generosity is its porousness; it can hold so many things that it can be a space of conjuring things into life," Smith said. "The generosity of the poem is the generosity to continue to dream."

“

Poems, for me, are better when there is a sense of connectedness between me and you.... You can be here together, for a little bit.

more tragic by Smith's delivery, the repetition of "hear them" both a plea and a promise. Within a single line, Smith channeled both joy and sorrow, grief and hope, love and longing, an inimitable testa-

ed with Smith's raw depiction of their Black Queer experience. "I'm in awe of how honest and brave they are," Terry said. "There aren't many places I can find a true depiction of a Black Queer person in

‘The Great Leap:’ A High-Stakes Game of Family History

BY SOPHIE H. KIM
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

Intergenerational trauma. Found family. Extremely creative insults. What's not to like? The Lyric Stage Company of Boston's production of "The Great Leap," which ran from Feb. 24 to March 19, brings all of these and more to the basketball court. The play, written by Lauren Yee and directed by Michael Hisamoto, is ultimately a story about how to take control of your own narrative, which asks: What is it like to spend your whole life standing still, and how do you learn to move?

Set in San Francisco in 1989, "The Great Leap" follows Manford Lum, a Chinese American basketball player with a chip on his shoulder; Saul, his cynical white coach; and Wen Chang, a Chinese national coach with a

hidden past. Manford manages to get himself a spot on an American basketball team to play a "friendship" game in Beijing, but finds himself caught up in his family history and questioning what it means to be both Chinese and American.

Yee's script is the backbone of the production, peppered with sallying out-of-pocket wordplay and buoyant moments of camaraderie. The dialogue is fresh and alive; characters roast each other with delightful wit, only to turn around and say something so sincere it hurts. Yee also pokes fun at the audience's preconceived notions about the sanctity of religion and politics in China — for example, the show is peppered with tongue-in-cheek references to Mao Zedong. A Chinese character will say, seriously, "To quote an old Chinese proverb..." Pause, then finish, "What bullshit!"

Such unexpected turns aren't just funny; they also make the play feel self-aware of the expectation placed on it — not just to entertain, but to educate. Perhaps in another play, a character would seriously explain an old Chinese proverb to an audience waiting to be praised for watching something educational. However, Yee instead chooses to explore the ideological differences between the two countries, and what it means to be shaped by both, in a funny, nuanced, and ultimately heartbreaking way.

The performances are all strong, with each actor bringing playfulness, nuance, and gravity. But Gary Thomas Ng stands out, bringing a quiet, soft-spoken, yet powerful quality to Wen Chang — a character whose anger and despair are always simmering beneath the surface. These two emotions are hidden so well

that the audience almost forgets they are there, until the moments when Ng tactfully brings them out.

While portrayals of Asian masculinity as soft and "feminine" have historically been criticized for being racist, Ng's portrayal of a softer, gentler, yet still forceful masculinity is a subtle, yet important moment for Asian male representation. In contrast to Saul, the brash, in-your-face, hyper-masculine American male coach who's always yelling or cursing at someone, Ng's character shows that Asian men don't have to prove their masculinity by acting like white men. In a story where proving your toughness is inextricably tied to proving your worth as a father or son, this kind of portrayal onstage allows for more expansiveness around what Asian masculinity can look like.

The production's set design, lighting choices, and the layout of the space heighten the emotions of the play. Seats are arranged against three of the four sides of the stage, making the theater feel more like a stadium than a traditional proscenium. Manford says he wants to "sit courtside" for a close view of history being made. Due to this seating arrangement, the audience feels like they are doing exactly that. The brick walls and wooden floors are designed to make the space feel like a rundown gym: stifling, claustrophobic, familiar. The space reflects Manford's state of mind — he's stuck in his hometown and wants to get out, yet always finds himself returning to the basketball court, whether in San Francisco or Beijing.

These design elements come together in a dramatic, almost ethereal flourish at the play's

close. Wen Chang is sitting alone in his sterile apartment in Beijing, looking down on the Tiananmen Square protests. The play's set lives in the land of realism — real gym benches, real basketballs, hyper-realistic brick walls and windows. However, as Wen Chang prepares to leave his apartment, enter the protests, and face violence and certain death, a door in the middle of the stage swings open — a door that's been there the whole time, but has never been opened. Golden light glows within it — it's impossible to tell where it leads. If it even ends, or just keeps going. In a playground in the smack of a ball hitting the floor, we feel, for a second, weightless. For a moment, the curtain lifts, and we glimpse the unknown and the unearthly. And then the lights go out.

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CULTURE



COURTESY OF ALEX LARK

Cody Ko on YouTube Channel and Staying Motivated

BY STELLA A. GILBERT
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

For Cody Ko, energy is everything. In the early morning, he reaches for his camera, recording himself as he makes subpar oatmeal — which he affectionately calls “b’doats”— and slaps on his baseball cap that reads “Energy is Everything.” Then, he trains. Whether running dozens of miles, spending hours on the bike, or swimming along the California coast before sunrise, Cody Ko trains for his next endurance challenge nearly every day and vlogs while doing it, uploading videos to his newest YouTube channel: “Cody Trains.”

Cody Kolodziejczyk — known to his fans as Cody Ko — is a media professional, with popular podcasts and YouTube channels that regularly garner millions of views. His newest venture veers away from his typical comedic reaction videos and music content, instead focusing on amateur endurance training. Ko started training about a year ago. “I was in a super bad rut,” said Ko in an interview with The Harvard Crimson. “I’ve always been a pretty optimistic and happy person, and I just hadn’t felt like that for a long time.” Ko was a DI college diver at Duke University and

grew up in a family full of athletes. “I used to watch my family do all sorts of incredible endurance feats. And I realized I’d kind of lost that part of my life.”

His response was to sign up for a 60-kilometer ultramarathon, beginning a pattern of endurance training that he has maintained consistently since.

“I feel like I kind of found myself again,” said Ko, grinning. “It wasn’t just specifically going out and running, it was more about being able to trust myself again, that I’d actually show up for myself and complete these workouts and finish something diffi-

“A lot of the reason why people don’t start doing things is just that intimidating part of the learning curve where you don’t know anything.”

Cody Kolodziejczyk
YouTuber

cult.” Ko completed the challenging ultramarathon in August of 2022 and uploaded a video about his journey to his main YouTube channel, which resonated strongly with his viewers.

“In the comments, people were saying, ‘this encouraged me to start running,’ or ‘I had never done anything before, but I got off the couch and I went outside for a walk,’” said Ko. “I go back and watch that ultramarathon video sometimes, just to see how I was feeling, and to remind myself what effect that had on my life.”

Energized by the success of his ultramarathon video, Ko started his separate “Cody Trains” channel in September of 2022. His content embraces imperfection and even failure as it follows his newest training adventure: preparing for an upcoming Ironman race. Whether by vlogging the painstaking process of assembling a stationary bike, telling his fans about his injuries, or even making a full breakfast only to acknowledge that it doesn’t even taste good, Ko doesn’t hesitate to paint a picture of the realistic, and even humorous, struggles of endurance training.

“A lot of the reason why people don’t start doing things is just that intimidating part of the learning curve where you don’t know anything,” said Ko. “So I think it’s important to show that sort of thing.” For Ko, the most troubling learning curve has been cycling.

“I don’t understand bikes; they seem really intimidating. There’s so many moving pieces,” he said, sighing. “Like, I want to focus on my job. I don’t want to sit down

and screw something in for an hour trying to figure out how a bike works.”

However, Ko has persisted in his Ironman training, weathering bike maintenance, injuries, and other challenges as his fans cheer him on from his comment section.

“Nothing is consistently, linearly up,” reflected Ko. “I’ve learned to deal with that with this career especially; it’s peaks and valleys, peaks and valleys.”

By confronting challenges head-on with his channel, Ko has inspired his viewers to do the same. His comments are flooded with positive reinforcement — not only for himself, but for other members of his community. This positive community even reached Ko in person.

“When I was in Palm Desert for my wedding, I went for breakfast with my wife Kelsey,” said Ko. “And we bumped into a girl who told me, ‘I watch your ‘Cody Trains’ videos, and it’s changed my life. My brother, who is severely depressed and hasn’t gotten out of bed in months, is now getting up every morning and training because of your videos.’” Ko paused. “Kelsey and I just started crying because that’s the nicest thing I’ve ever heard. That just makes me want to go harder and keep doing this sort of stuff.”

“Cody Trains” is more than inspirational: It’s funny. Ko injects humor and running jokes into every aspect of his videos. For instance, his now-classic tagline “energy is everything” came from an old hat he found abandoned in his house.

“I thought the phrase was pretty corny, and who left his hat here? It’s not mine,” laughed Ko. “But then I just started saying it. And now it’s become this thing that ties the channel together.”

Although the blend of humor and motivation is intentional, it is also natural for Ko, who is experienced in the digital media.

“By now, when I pull out a camera, it’s kind of second nature to try and be a little bit performative,” said Ko. “I’m only really vlogging maybe three minutes a day, so it’s not a lot to try to think of a funny joke in there. That’s what I’ve always tried to do in my content — make people laugh.”

Ko believes his infectious energy for endurance training applies to more than just the Ironman.

“A lot of the stuff that I talk about around showing up for yourself every day, people think that’s specific to just working out,” he said. “But you can apply this to anything else in your life.”

Ko then delivered a piece of advice directly to his readers and fans who may be starting to build motivation for projects of their own.

“You’ll notice that it’s a compounding thing. You start getting better faster and faster, and you start having more fun, and then it’s a snowball,” said Ko. “That’s the advice I would give. Pick something you want to get better at and just do it a little bit every day.”

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EDITOR’S PICK

HANNAH WHITTEN ON NATURE, RELIGION, STAR WARS.



COURTESY OF CALEB WHITTEN

Hannah F. Whitten is making a name for herself in the world of fantasy literature, writes contributing writer Rachel A. Beard. Whitten is a Nashville-based author who recently released her third novel — and the first in her upcoming “Nightshade Crown” trilogy — “The Foxglove King,” an enthralling fantasy that follows Lore, a witty and enjoyable 23-year-old spy imbued with death magic, as she tries to infiltrate the royal court of the fantastical city Delleire and solve a mystery.

For Whitten, the most rewarding aspect of writing as a career is sharing her stories with the world — connecting with a community of readers who can find solace in escaping to her fantastical worlds. When asked what message she would like readers to take away from “The Foxglove King,” she said, “Where you come from doesn’t dictate where you are going, even whenever it feels inescapable.”

‘PI’ RE-RELEASE REVIEW: INSANITY OR GENIUS?



A24 — COURTESY IMAGE

“Pi: 25th Anniversary Re-Release” probably should not exist, writes contributing writer Joseph A. Johnson. Without A24’s recent dominance of the independent film market and an offhand deal made by director Darren Aronofsky a quarter of a century ago, this remastered version of “Pi” would live only in the heads of the most die-hard cinephiles. Following “mad genius” Maximilian Cohen in his relentless search for mathematical patterns in the world around him, “Pi” was a mostly forgotten black sheep of the 1998 Sundance Film Festival.

That is, until Aronofsky’s most recent effort, “The Whale,” catapulted both himself and actor Brendan Fraser, who won “Best Actor” at the 2023 Oscars, into the Hollywood limelight. So, when the rights to “Pi” serendipitously reverted back to Aronofsky this year, it only made sense for A24, the production company behind “The Whale,” to re-release Aronofsky’s mathematics-obsessed debut on Pi Day at IMAX theaters across the country.

The 95th Academy Awards: A Star Is Re-Born

BY AVERY BRITT
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

To understand the trend of the 95th annual Academy Awards, we must first go back to the 27th Academy Awards, when Judy Garland, a fading child star, sat in her hospital room. Garland’s new film, “A Star Is Born,” was her last chance to reclaim the spotlight — a task which seemed reachable, as she was not only the favorite to win Best Actress in 1955, but seemed so guaranteed to win that NBC cameras filed into her room to capture the moment. However, another name was read and a new star was born: Grace Kelly. With that, the camera crew left and closed the door of Judy Garland’s major acting career — out with the old and in with the new.

After 68 years, the same trend has seemingly arrived again. Michelle Yeoh, at 60 years old, is one of the oldest actresses in her category, but was again a favorite for best actress. Seated in the first row, with her category being announced by historic winner Halle

Berry, auspicious signs presented familiar circumstances, but, this time, the narrative changes: She won. Not out with the old, but not out with the new either.

From the Cocaine Bear to a star-studded rendition of “Happy Birthday,” the 95th annual Academy Awards were full of new surprises — but the greatest part of this year’s honors were the seemingly predictable wins giving way to new representation. “Everything Everywhere All At Once” has been both a critic and fan favorite since its release as a summertime blockbuster. All the major media outlets forecasted its Oscar dominance, but not even the seemingly most certain prediction is guaranteed.

As seen in the dominance #OscarsSoWhite over the last decade, the Oscars have a persistent problem with diversity. So when a film with abundant representation is nominated for an Academy Award, it has the potential to go the way of Judy Garland — making all the top ten Oscar snubs lists rather than walking away with the big prize. However,

this year’s Oscars allowed “Everything Everywhere All At Once” to fulfill the predictions and make history while doing it.

The success of “Everything Everywhere All At Once”’s success is a win for Asian representation. This is the first time that multiple actors of Asian descent have won in one year, and Michelle Yeoh’s

“The Academy awarded actors who have been working for decades to gain their footing or be respected in the industry.”

victory makes her the first Asian American actress to ever win Best Actress. While Asian people finally being recognized is the most important accomplishment of the night, something that Yeoh noted in her acceptance speech establishes another evi-

dent 2023 Oscar’s thread: The old

can never be out. In her speech, Yeoh said, “Don’t let anyone tell you you are past your prime,” a mantra she and Jamie Lee Curtis have clearly both adhered to. With their wins, the 95th Academy Awards awarded actors who have been working for decades to gain their footing or be respected in the in-

dustry. Moreover, while Michelle Yeoh aimed her directive to the older women in the audience who, like Judy Garland, have consistently been passed over for younger women in Hollywood, Oscars’ night saw men claiming that narrative as well. Ke Huy

Quan, a former child actor won best supporting actor, and Brendan Fraser, a since forgotten ‘90s heartthrob, made his leap back into prominence by winning best actor for his role in “The Whale,” beating early favorite “Elvis”’s Austin Butler, a comparatively young actor.

The big winner of the night teaches us what success Hollywood can find when it embraces its originality again; but in a world where two of the best picture nominees are sequels and lackluster remakes reign supreme, how can you make a classic into something inventive and relevant? The answer might lay in the second most popular winner of the night, “All Quiet on the Western Front.”

While the film is very different from both its book and the original 1930 production, “All Quiet on the Western Front” deserves its own praise for bringing this story to a modern audience. The original film was a sensation in its time because of its innovative techniques to showcase the horror of war, including the use of sound,

but a modern audience watching the original picture with a knowledge of contemporary amenities like visual effects would find it difficult to understand the visceral, shocking nature of the original picture. Thus, the movie’s intention is lost with age. It is for reasons like this that remakes should be considered. While the film does not share many similarities with its original source material, it is a successful example of how modern technology can help recontextualize timely classics for a modern audience.

Overall, the 95th Annual Academy Awards appear to have been the perfect amalgamation of the old and the new. It avenged Judy Garland’s loss by giving old-guard actors waiting for deserved success their wins. It also offered a needed reimagining of a classic Hollywood success. As the Academy nears its 100th year, the appreciation for what has come before and what Hollywood’s past could lend to its future is more important than ever.

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Steven Levitsky is a Harvard professor of Government and Latin American Studies who serves as the director of the David Rockefeller Center of Latin American Studies. He co-authored "How Democracies Die" with fellow Harvard Government professor Daniel Ziblatt.

FM: How did you come to study Latin America?

SL: I studied Spanish in high school. I've always been interested in politics, but I was attracted to Latin American politics in part because I spoke some Spanish, but in part because when I was roughly your age — late high school, early college — Central America was a very, very hot issue in the United States. It was the mid and late 1980s and there'd been a revolution in Nicaragua, there were civil wars in three of the five countries in Central America, it was front page news.

And I basically got initially involved more as an activist, someone who was critical of the Reagan administration's policies in Central America, and then when I got to college, I was able to take some classes in Latin America and fell in love with the region.

FM: While you were at Stanford, you were involved in apartheid divestment protests against South Africa. What was that like?

SL: It was how I cut my teeth in politics. It was my first activist issue. As a high school student, there were anti-apartheid or pro-divestment protests at Cornell, and so that was the first issue I ever got involved in.

As you get older, you realize the world is full of grays and not

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It's the pure good versus the pure evil, and as you get older, you realize things are much more complicated.

so many black and whites. And when you're young, when you're 17 or 18 or 19, you see the world in much more Manichean black white terms. It's the pure good versus the pure evil, and as you get older, you realize things are much more complicated, but not that one. I mean, that was just really clear in terms of what was ethically right and what was ethically wrong.

FM: I've heard you've met Fidel Castro once. Can you tell me more about that?

SL: Early 2000s, we were invited to be a part of an observer mission at the Ibero-American Summit in Panama, the summit for all the Latin American presidents, and there was an incident in which a Cuban exile apparently tried to get in the country with a Salvadoran passport allegedly to try to assassinate Castro.

And so there was a press conference, and my wife is a journalist and we used her press kit credentials and got into the press conference. And Fidel was in classic form, going on for hours and hours about what the CIA did in 1976 and just ranting for a very long time.

After the press conference, pandemonium broke out, and my wife and I were basically standing in a hallway and out of a crowd of people — it was as if the Red Sea had parted — and suddenly Fidel Castro was marching right towards me. Not because he wanted to see me, he just happened to be walking in my direction, and I stuck out my hand and said, "Hello," and that was it.

FM: In addition to being a professor, you're the director of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, which sponsors many opportunities for students to spend time abroad in Latin America. Why do you think it's important for students to spend time abroad?

SL: I have a real personal connection to that.

For me, I would not be doing what I'm doing today had it not been an opportunity as an undergraduate to go to, in my

Q&A:

STEVEN LEVITSKY ON DEMOCRACY, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE METS

THE POLITICAL SCIENTIST sat down with Fifteen Minutes to discuss threats to democracy in the United States and Latin America. "Democracy is always an unsettled system," he says. "It's always going to be open to threats and so it requires a tireless fight."

BY CHARLOTTE P. RITZ-JACK
CRIMSON MAGAZINE ASSOCIATE EDITOR



GRAHAM R. WEBER — CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

case, Central America, to travel to Latin America, to study Spanish, to do summer research for my thesis. My summer in the summer of 1989 doing senior thesis research in Managua, Nicaragua, changed my life. I mean, I'm doing what I'm doing today because of the opportunity I had in college to travel to Latin America.

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I have a real personal connection to that. For me, I would not be doing what I'm doing today had it not been an opportunity as an undergraduate to go to, in my case, Central America.

FM: You've co-written books and articles with fellow Harvard Government professor Daniel Ziblatt. How did you guys become collaborators?

SL: Well, we met in graduate school. We both studied at UC Berkeley together. He arrived at Harvard a few

years after me. But, since we already knew each other, and we both studied comparative politics, and we had some of the same professors at Berkeley, I think I probably got to know him better than some of my colleagues.

But what happened is when the 2016 presidential campaign started, he and I basically started having watercooler conversations, and we started talking in the hallway, or there used to be a cafeteria across the street in CGIS back before Covid.

During the campaign, we basically just started shooting the shit in the hallway and realized that what we were seeing early in the campaign was reminiscent to both of us of things we had seen in our own region, not in the United States, but him as a Europeanist who's spent a lot of time studying the breakdown of democracy in Europe in the 1920s and 30s, me as a Latin Americanist, who had spent time studying the breakdown of democracy in the earlier periods in Latin America in the 60s and 70s.

And we both felt, having very different experiences studying different parts of the world, that this was a movie that we'd seen before and that most Americans hadn't seen.

I gave a lecture the day after the election, or two days after the election, and I didn't know what to say and I didn't want to be too partisan,

and I decided not to say anything. And after that lecture, a student came up to me and just ripped the shit out of me and told me, "You need to see something, you're an expert on democracy and you didn't say anything."

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Democracy is always an unsettled system. It's always going to be open to threats and so it requires a tireless fight.

So the next lecture, I gave a 20 minute mini lecture on what this means for American democracy, and that was a kernel of the op-ed that Daniel and I wrote, which eventually became the book "How Democracies Die."

FM: Even post-Trump, discourse about the fate of American democracy still circulates. Are you optimistic?

SL: Well, actually, Daniel and I are writing another book. We're finishing it up right now, and it will be out in October. It's called "Tyranny of the Minority: Why American Democra-

cy Reached The Breaking Point."

It's not terribly optimistic. I mean, it is very good news for American democracy that Donald Trump lost the 2020 election, and we are in better shape now as a result.

Had he been reelected, I think we would have been in some serious trouble. But Daniel and I think — and we're going to argue in this book — that some of the underlying conditions that caused the crisis of the last five years, they've not gone away.

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It's not terribly optimistic. I mean, it is very good news for American democracy that Donald Trump lost the 2020 election, and we are in better shape now as a result.

In particular, the radicalization of the Republican Party continues, and some of our country's very old institutions, which are very, very counter-majoritarian, much more counter-majoritarian than other established democracies in the world, are protecting and empowering what is essentially an authoritarian minority party.

So the threat of another round of democratic crisis continues to be pretty high.

FM: What are some ways you like to spend your time outside of the classroom?

SL: I am a big sports fan for one. So whenever New York sports teams are on television, I'll be there watching.

FM: What sports teams?

SL: I'm a big Mets fan in baseball. Rangers and Knicks. Little less in football, but a big sports fan. My wife and I love to travel so whenever we get a chance we travel, trying to visit new countries everywhere in Latin America.

One hobby that probably most people don't know I have is I'm a big bird watching fan. I like birds.

FM: Has studying declines in good governance been demoralizing?

SL: Yes and no. Sometimes it is, when particularly countries that I know, and have lived in, have studied, and care about, when they experience democratic reversals it can be hard.

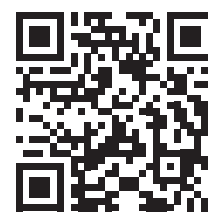
When I first started studying democracies in Latin America — and elsewhere in the world — it was the mid 1980s. And we continue to be in a much better place in the world today than we were back then. The reason I'm in this business, the reason I study democracy, is I had the fortune — I don't know if it was good fortune or bad fortune — but the fortune, to be wandering around Central America in the 1980s and seeing firsthand what the absence of democracy is like.

What authoritarianism, and military rule, and real human rights violations are like. What it's like to not have democracy. And one, that has inspired me my whole life to work to find ways to make democracy succeed. But it also, it reminds me that even today, we're in a much, much better place than we were back then.

And, it reminds me that democracy is always a struggle. There always are setbacks. Democracy is always an unsettled system. It's always going to be open to threats and so it requires a tireless fight.

FM

Fifteen Minutes is the magazine of The Harvard Crimson. To read the full interview and other longform pieces, visit [THECRIMSON.COM/MAGAZINE](https://www.thecrimson.com/magazine)



MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Harvard Readies for Ohio St.

WIN OR GO HOME No. 7 Harvard men's ice hockey starts its NCAA tournament run on Friday afternoon against Ohio State.

BY AARON B. SHUCHMAN
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

All roads have led to this. After its best regular season campaign since 2016-2017, the No. 7 Harvard men's ice hockey team will look to kickstart a championship run against the No. 8 Ohio State Buckeyes on Friday afternoon in Bridgeport, Conn.

Behind the bench, the Crimson is steered by Ted Donato '91, who will make his eighth NCAA tournament appearance in his 19th season as head coach. On the ice, Harvard is captained by three seniors: defenseman Henry Thrun, forward Baker Shore, and forward John Farinacci. Farinacci missed the first half of the season due to injury before returning in January.

"We certainly start the year out with goals and hopes and expectations," said Donato at the end of the regular season. "We know everybody starts on even footing in the playoffs, and it's always difficult to try to end somebody's season and move on. It's something that we've talked a lot about throughout the year — trying to get ourselves to a point where we could play our best when it mattered the most."

At forward, the Crimson's top six is loaded with star power. Junior Sean Farrell, the ECAC Player of the Year, led the team with 52 points (20 goals, 32 assists) on his way to being named a Hobey Baker Award top-10 finalist. Farrell's linemate, sophomore Matthew Coronato, tallied 20 goals of his own en route to a spot on the All-ECAC Second Team. Junior Alex Laferriere joined Coronato on the Second Team after leading the team with 21 goals, while first-year Joe Miller earned a unanimous spot on the ECAC All-Rookie Team with 28 points (13 goals, 15 assists).

On defense, Harvard is backstopped by Thrun, who won the ECAC Howies Hockey Best Defensive Defense Award. First-year Ryan Healey earned a spot alongside Miller on the All-Rookie team, and senior Ryan Siedem and sophomores Ian Moore and Jack Bar provided a steady presence in the top four. In net, senior Mitchell Gibson turned in the

finest season of his career, posting career-best marks in goals-against average and save percentage and winning a spot on the All-ECAC Second Team.

"We're definitely a pretty offensive team, but I think we know the kind of style we need to play to win big games," said Laferriere at the end of the regular season.

Despite the Crimson's infrequent competition against the Big Ten Conference, the squad still has some familiarity with the Buckeyes, both through recruiting and competition in the USHL, the United States' top junior hockey league. Ohio State's attack is led by freshman Stephen Halliday, a draft pick of the NHL's Ottawa Senators and a USHL alum, who tallied 40 points (nine goals, 31 assists) on the season. Halliday and goaltender Jakub Dobes were All-Big Ten honorable mentions, while forwards Jake Wise and Mason Lohrei, the squad's second and third leading scorers, respectively, were named to the All-Big Ten Second Team.

"There are a lot of their players that we have some familiarity with as far as recruiting goes and watching other college games during the season...but certainly not a team that we are familiar with from a style standpoint," Donato said. "That's something that we'll get on the video and on the phone and figure out what makes them successful."

Ohio State's game pounds opposing goalies with shots, as the Buckeyes average over 36 shots on goal per game while conceding under 29 per game. Ohio State's penalty kill is the best unit in the country, shutting down opposing power plays at an eye-popping 89.5% clip. However, the Buckeyes are also one of the weaker faceoff teams in the nation, with their faceoff win percentage of 47.8% ranking 44th out of 60 teams.

Ohio State began the season with two-game sweeps of Mercyhurst and Wisconsin before

at the hands of Minnesota, but they rebounded to advance to the Big Ten Tournament semifinal, where they lost 7-3 to the Wolverines.

The Crimson began the season with seven consecutive wins, including six over ECAC competition. The stretch matched the program's best start to a season since 1989, when Harvard won its only national championship. In a trend that defined the Crimson's campaign, the squad overcame deficits in three of its early wins, rebounding from slow starts to top Dartmouth, Princeton, and RPI.

After a perfect 7-0-0 start on the East Coast, Harvard headed to the midwest for a two-game set against then-No. 5 Michigan, an out-of-conference foe loaded with NHL-caliber talent. After battling to a 4-4 draw in the first game, the Crimson suffered its first defeat of the season the next night, falling 4-1 to the Wolverines despite putting up 40 shots on goal. However, Harvard responded to the defeat less than a week later, claiming a 2-1 overtime victory on the road at Cornell's Lynah Rink, with Farrell scoring the game-winner. The next night, the Crimson were stymied by Colgate goaltender Carter Gylander, whose 36 saves preserved a 6-4 victory for the Raiders, sending Harvard into the midseason break with a record of 8-2-1.

"It's a pretty resilient group," Donato said. "We've won some games in overtime, we've had some comebacks, we've had some injuries throughout the year, so we've had all sorts of people step up under those conditions."

The Crimson returned to play on Dec. 30 at Boston University's Walter Brown Arena for a top-10 showdown with the Terriers.

In a goaltending duel between Gibson and BU Olympian Drew Comusso, the Terriers emerged with a 2-1 overtime victory after a goal from captain Domenick Fensore. The Crimson responded again with a strong victory, throttling Northeastern 8-4 at home on New Year's Day. The next weekend, Harvard's habit of slow starts and lead-chasing reared its head again. Despite erasing a three-goal third period deficit in an overtime victory over Princeton, the Crimson couldn't pull off the same trick the next night in a 4-1 loss to No. 2 Quinnipiac, as the Bobcats' impenetrable defensive structure and goaltending suffocated the Harvard offense.

After a 5-1 mid-January stretch against ECAC competition, including a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory over Yale and a 5-4 comeback win in overtime against Colgate, the Crimson got another shot at the ECAC-leading Bobcats on Feb. 3, but Quinnipiac emerged victorious yet again. Star goaltender Yaniv Perets, the ECAC Goaltender of the Year and a top-10 finalist for the Hobey Baker Award, posted a 25-save shutout, while Harvard's potent power play was shut out on its three chances in the 3-0 loss.

Despite the loss to the Bobcats, the Crimson entered February's storied Beanpot Tournament with an excellent opportunity to secure its first trophy in six years. In its semifinal bout with the Boston College Eagles, Harvard got out to a 2-0 start and held a 3-1 lead late in the third period before Eagles forwards Nikita Nesterenko and Cutter Gauthier scored in the final five minutes to send the game to overtime. Despite being outshot 22-2 in the final period, the Crimson regrouped, and in the dying seconds of the three-on-three extra session, first-year forward Marek Hejduk hammered home the game-winner on his

first overtime shift of the season, sending Harvard to the championship game.

In a tight and emotional Beanpot title game, the Crimson and the Northeastern Huskies fought to a 2-2 draw after 65 minutes of play, sending the game to the first decisive shootout in Beanpot history. Star Harvard forwards Farrell, Coronato, and Laferriere couldn't beat Huskies goaltender Devon Levi in the first three rounds, while Northeastern captain Aidan McDonough scored the shootout's only goal, winning the Beanpot for the Huskies.

Despite the heartbreaking defeat, the Crimson rebounded to sweep its final four ECAC games to secure the conference's second postseason seed, guaranteeing a first-round bye and a home series in the quarterfinals. After emerging from its two week break, Harvard swept Princeton in two 6-1 victories to advance to the semifinals against Cornell in Lake Placid, N.Y. In the season's third faceoff between the archrivals, the Crimson emerged with its third victory, as Laferriere broke a scoreless tie five minutes into overtime to move Harvard to the championship against Colgate.

"I think it was more than half the games we gave up the first goal, and obviously it's good to know that we can come back in those situations, but I think it's super important to get that first goal, especially at a national tournament game," Farinacci said.

The Crimson got off to another slow start against the Raiders, conceding two first period goals before Thrun cut the deficit in half in the second. Colgate answered immediately to restore a two goal advantage, and despite a power play goal from Coronato midway through the third period, Harvard couldn't find the equalizer, and the Crimson ultimately fell one win short of defending its ECAC title.

Despite the tough end to the conference playoffs, Farinacci is motivated to get Harvard into a position to win a trophy after falling just short throughout the season thus far.

"We've come short in the Ivy League, we've come short in the ECAC, obviously in the Beanpot so there's one trophy left to get, and from here on out, it's win or go home."

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Sophomore defenseman Kyle Aucoin fires a shot on net. DYLAN J. GOODMAN—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

A Turning Point: Harvard Is Hitting Its Stride

BY HANNAH BEBAR
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

After a difficult start to the season, the Crimson has hit pace with three wins in its past four games. In a strong start to spring break, the Crimson traveled to Worcester, Mass. to play Holy Cross and notched its first win on the season with a 15-12 scoreline. Familiar standouts, the junior pair of attackers Riley Campbell and Callie Hem, led the attacking domination with four goals each on the day. The Crimson did not stop there, with flying attacking threats from first-year stars Hannah Shiels and Kate Gilliam.

Harvard traveled south with this momentum to play Coastal Carolina for a Tuesday match-up. Despite being on away turf, the Crimson led the charge from the start, with senior standout Shea Jenkins notching a first-career goal on a spectacular run dicing through CCU opponents to rocket a shot just 12 seconds into the game. The Crimson's strong play continued throughout the 60 minutes, edging past CCU in shots, saves, and draw controls.

Harvard has been extremely powerful off the draw despite the loss of senior Grace Hulslander

due to injury. Junior midfielder Maddie Barkate has seamlessly stepped up and dominated on the draw, especially in the team's most recent win against Holy Cross. Barkate reached a career-high of 12 draw controls as well as two goals, demonstrating her versatility and adaptability for the Crimson this season.

The Crimson have shown this resilience and response to adversity as a team, and that is something head coach Devon Wills has emphasized from the start.

"I was really proud of how the team battled both in Holy Cross and in Coastal. We didn't play a perfect game by any means. However, we found a way to regain momentum when the other teams went on a run," Wills noted.

Sophomore midfielder Charley Meier emphasized how important it has been for the team to control momentum and not let the heat of the game affect large swings in possession against the Crimson.

"One of the biggest things in lacrosse is that it is a game of runs. It comes down to who can capitalize on runs — who can score the most off of them or who can prevent the other team from going on those huge runs," Meier commented. "We have been trying to

work on managing a lot when we get down by one or two goals, not shifting our morale or spiraling."

The Crimson managed just that — maintaining scores on the board and managing energy throughout the respective games against CCU and Holy Cross.

"Several players stepped up at the right time. In Holy Cross, we had some critical goals at the right time from Ilana Kofman and in Coastal from Caroline Mullahy. Charlotte Hodgeson had a big game at Coastal and Maddie Barkate has really been leading our draw team," Coach Wills said. "Further, in Holy Cross, Chloe Provenzano went in and honestly was a momentum shifter for us in the cage."

The success on the field comes from a strong desire to improve the details in practice, according to junior midfielder Ilana Kofman.

"We try to focus on ourselves with the film and the drills we do focusing on what we need to build as a team," Kofman reflected. "Our coaches focus on our game and what we can improve which I really like and I think it helps us not focus on what the other team is doing but lead on the field."

The Crimson has sharpened this mentality of putting the team

first and focusing on its potential as opposed to the outside noise — a task that most teams do not realize until much later in the season towards post-season play. Meier spoke to the quality of technical improvement in addition to this mentality that has helped the team going forward.

"We are trying to work on our zone and be like a forcefield where we are a huge unit working together. We have been doing a lot of ivls and zone work to be able to hold the dodges a lot stronger," the midfielder said.

The work on the field, coupled with a fresh mentality going into the season post-break, is essential for Coach Wills' team with a string of important Ivy games looming. The Crimson looks to come back from two Ivy league losses, most recently last Saturday to Penn at home, and flip their fortune in the league away at Dartmouth on April 1. With defending champions Princeton coming off an Ivy League loss to Yale, no team is guaranteed a title, and competition is heating up in the Northeast.

The Crimson sealed off its third win emphatically on Wednesday against Merrimack, 20-2, with Hem tacking on five more goals to her already-20 on

the season, making her total of 25 goals a team-high. Big contributions by Campbell, first-year Charlotte Hodgeson, and sophomore midfielder Caroline Mullahy added greatly to the win and confidence heading into Dart-

mouth next weekend. The Crimson are firing on all cylinders, and hope to take that momentum to make an impact in Ivy League play.

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Harvard swarms the Cornell net during a game on Feb. 29, 2020. BRENDAN J. CHAPUIS—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

BASEBALL

Harvard Drops Series 3-1

OFF TO A POOR START
Harvard baseball has continued to struggle, getting swept by FAU before losing a series 3-1 to Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

BY JACK CANAVAN
CRIMSON STAFF WRITER

The Harvard baseball team continued its uneasy start to the 2023 season in a series against Texas A&M this past weekend, dropping its fourth consecutive series so far this year. The Crimson, having traveled to Florida to face FAU earlier in the week, took a trip down to Corpus Christi in Texas for another road series.

Matching up for four games against the Aggies, Harvard hit a season low point, losing its March 16 opener 24-3 and extending its longest losing streak of the season to eleven games.

Bouncing back for Friday's doubleheader, Harvard played more competitive ball after losing the first game 4-5, finally breaking the losing streak at 12 games with a 7-3 victory later that day.

After Friday's uplifting win, the Crimson wasn't able to build any more momentum, as Texas A&M closed the door on Harvard in the series' final game, with the Crimson falling 5-3 and bringing its season record to (2-14) overall.

Having played all its games on the road thus far and finding success

springly, the Crimson will hope to alter its away game formula before traveling to Philadelphia, Pa. to begin Ivy League play against the University of Pennsylvania.

"We have a good club and we haven't played well for whatever reason," head coach Bill Decker said. "We gotta rally within and play for one another and hopefully we'll see better results moving forwards."

Game 1: Harvard 3, TAMCC 24
// 7 Innings

The Crimson bats were alive in the first inning of Thursday's opener against Texas A&M. Leadoff hitter junior Peter Messervy opened the inning by ripping a single on the first pitch of the game. After two quick strikeouts by George Cooper and Ben Rounds, senior clean up hitter Logan Bravo swept Messervy off first base and into home plate, homering to right center to put Harvard up 2-0 before third baseman Jake Berger struck out to end the inning.

Unfortunately, the Aggie bats exponentially outweighed anything Harvard could put forward for the rest of the game. Scoring a run off a wild pitch in the bottom of the first, Texas A&M scratched the scoreboard in the first, cutting the Crimson's short lived lead to 2-1 to end the first inning.

Harvard entered and exited the top of the second in 1-2-3 fashion, grounding out twice before senior Hunter Baldwin struck out swinging to send the Crimson back into the field.

First-year Callan Fang, after making two strong appearances against FAU, struggled with control during his start against Tex-



The Crimson offense at work against Brown on April 2, 2022. DYLAN J. GOODMAN—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

as A&M-Corpus Christi. Fang threw his second of four wild pitches on the day during the second early in the bottom of the second, allowing Texas A&M's Christian Smith Johnson to advance to second plate after hitting a single off Fang. With a runner in scoring position, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi proceeded to slash a trifecta of singles to drive in two runs, finishing the second by taking the lead for the first time in the game at 3-2.

The Crimson underwent another quiet inning at the plate in the third, with the exception of Senior George Cooper reaching base on an error before be-

ing left stranded at first. The Aggies came up flat as well, leaving the third inning with a 3-2 lead on Harvard entering the fourth.

The top of the fourth saw the Crimson get runners in scoring position on a quick from Logan Bravo, a walk by junior third baseman Jake Berger, and a wild pitch that moved both runners into scoring position on second and third. Three straight strikeouts vanquished any hopes the Crimson had of capitalizing on this opportunity.

Things headed south fast for the Crimson in the bottom of the fourth. Fang continued to struggle with control early in

the inning, walking a runner and throwing another wild pitch before an error by Berger opened the door for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi to score their fourth run of the day. Leaving a man on first, Fang was replaced by senior James Kirkpatrick with one out in the inning. In a blur, Texas A&M began an offensive onslaught on Kirkpatrick, scoring six runs before the Harvard pitcher was pulled without retiring a single batter. On the day, Fang finished the game with 3.1 IP and 5 ER, while Kirkpatrick was replaced by senior Pryor Thomas, ending the day with 0 IP and 5 ER.

The Crimson had another tough inning at the plate in the fifth, with three quick outs leaving Messervy stranded on second.

The runs continued to pile up for Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in the bottom of the fifth, as Thomas had no better luck than his predecessors in retiring Texas A&M-Corpus Christi batters, allowing five more runs and pushing the score to 15-2 for the Aggies.

Harvard had a brief upwind in spirit in the top of the sixth, with Junior Chris Snopek hitting the Crimson's first home run of the game and cutting the deficit to

15-3.

When the Crimson took the field, Texas A&M didn't take its foot off the brake — Using an assortment of pitchers, Harvard allowed nine runs in the bottom of the sixth, exiting the inning with Texas A&M-Corpus Christi leading 24-3.

The Crimson ended the game early without another score in the seventh inning by slaughter rule.

Game 2: Harvard 4, TAMCC 5

Harvard rebounded to play a wire-to-wire game on Friday night, losing in crushing fashion on a walkoff by Texas A&M in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Putting Thursday's game in the past, Decker emphasized the team's ability to "have a little bit of resilience" being "able to move on or this game will get to you".

Bats blazing, the Crimson began the game with a bang. After Messervy reached first on a single out of the leadoff hole on a walk, Junior outfielder Ben Rounds cleared the fences on the



He's a quality arm that we have and probably one of the better ones in New England.

Bill Decker on Harvard junior starter Jay Driver

next at-bat on an (0-1) count, putting Harvard up 2-0. Senior Logan Bravo also reached base on a single before three consecutive outs closed an eventful top of the first.

Texas A&M carried over their hot hitting from Thursday's game to the bottom of the first, putting two runners in scoring position to open the first before scoring a run off Harvard starter, junior Jay Driver. The Crimson left the first with a 2-1 lead.

The third provided little offensive action for either front. Harvard first-year infielder and pitcher Gio Colosante reached base on a walk with two down before the Crimson took the field. Driver began a

spotless five inning stretch from the second to sixth by retiring Aggie batters in 1-2-3 fashion in the bottom of the second.

Harvard immediately mirrored Texas A&M's quick exit at the plate in the top of the third, compiling three straight outs and sending Driver right back out to the mound, where he continued to dominate the Texas university, closing the third at 2-1.

Harvard's hitters broke the lull in scoring in the top of the fifth. With one down, Messervy ripped a double to left center to give the Crimson a runner in scoring position, and after a flyout by Rounds, Bravo drove Messervy into home off an error committed by Texas A&M, extending the Crimson lead to 3-1.

Driver continued his dominant start in the bottom of the fifth and sixth innings. As Crimson hitters went silent in the sixth, Driver allowed no breathing room for Texas A&M, compiling two shutout innings to close the day with 6.0 IP, 1 ER and 6 SO, exiting the game in position for the win.

"He's a quality arm that we have and probably one of the better ones in New England," Decker said. "His performance on Friday was really good."

Driver's pitching was deeply missed as the game progressed. After another silent inning Harvard at the plate, the Crimson handed the ball to Senior Tim Williamson to replace Driver at the mound. After getting a ground out from his first batter of the inning, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi hit hard against Williamson, scoring a run and plac-

GAMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK

FRIDAY

Men's Ice Hockey
NCAA Tournament
2:00 pm, Bridgeport, CT

Softball
vs. Cornell
4:00 pm, Soldiers Field

Men's Tennis
vs. Virginia Tech
2:00 pm, Beren Center

Men's Volleyball
vs. AIC
7:00 pm, MAC

Baseball
at Penn
2:00 pm

SATURDAY

Women's Heavyweight Rowing
Ivy/Big 10 Doubles Dual

Women's Rugby
Crimson 7s
9:00 am, Mignone Field

Men's Golf
Battle of Rum Pointe





Harvard waits for the pitch against Brown on April 2, 2022. DYLAN J. GOODMAN—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

ing a runner on third off a couplet of hits and a wild pitch. A Texas A&M single brought in the runner from third, tying the game at 3-3 before Williamson loaded the bases and exited the game with 0.1 IP and 3 ER. Senior Harrison Stover replaced Williamson to close out the seventh, minimizing the potential damage by only allowing one unearned run on a wild pitch and retiring three Texas A&M-Corpus Christi hitters quickly to end the inning with Harvard falling behind for the first time in the game at 3-4.

The eighth inning kept the same excitement going. Following a strikeout by Bravo, Rounds hit a double to center and advanced to third on a wild pitch by the Aggies. Sophomore Sawyer Feller joined Bravo on the basepath with a walk, giving the Crimson runners on the corners with only one out in the inning before Feller stole second to put two runners in scoring position. Unfortunately, a pop-up and strikeout by Harvard closed any opportunity to capitalize on this scoring chance.

Stovern stayed in to shut out Texas A&M-Corpus Christi hitters in the eighth before sending the Crimson up to the plate for a final chance to save the game in the ninth.

For a moment, it seemed as if the Crimson did just that — with Colasante reaching first on an error, Harvard drove in an unearned run through singles by Berger and

Rounds, tying the game at 4-4.

In heartbreaking fashion, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi scored the game winning run in the bottom of the ninth on a fielder's choice.

Game 3: Harvard 7, TAMCC 3

Bouncing back quickly for the second game of the day, the Crimson stayed hungry to avenge its loss only hours before, doing just that, and maintaining steady control.

Harvard continued its opening inning hot streak, scoring two runs in the first inning for the third time in the series. Quickly down two outs after ground outs from Messervy and Rounds, Bravo continued to contribute extra base hits, slicing a double to right field. Coming off a pitch hit appearance in the start of the doubleheader, Berger launched a home run to left field, putting the Crimson up 2-0 before the inning closed on another ground out.

Junior Chris Clark took the ball to start game three of the series, following up Driver's strong performance with one of his own. Clark retired his first six batters of the day, keeping the score at a 2-0 Harvard lead entering the third, where the Crimson broke the game open and never looked back.

Harvard quickly put runners on the basepath to begin the inning, with Messervy reaching first on a wild pitch on an error, and

advancing to second and third through a fielder's choice and a single by Bravo, setting up runners on the corners for the Crimson. Capitalizing on the moment, Feller homered to left field to break the game open at 5-0 before Harvard took the field in the bottom of the inning.

The Crimson responded in the fourth and fifth by scoring a run in each inning, pushing the lead back up to five at a score of 7-2. Messervy doubled in the fourth and was brought in by a Logan Bravo single, while Colasante brought Berger in off third base on a fielder's choice in the fifth. Clark stacked strong innings on top of his strong early start, shutting out Texas A&M-Corpus Christi from the fourth through fifth innings and letting up an unearned run, ending his day with 6 IP and 2 ER.

Both offenses stayed quiet in the seventh, with the game ending at 7-3 Harvard.

Game 4: Harvard 3, TAMCC 5

In their final game of the series, Harvard played another competitive game, losing contention for the victory in the final innings.

For the fourth consecutive game, the Crimson marked the scoreboard in the first inning, powered by a Peter Messervy double to open the game, which extended his extra base hit streak to three games. Rounds advanced

Messervy to third on a ground out to first, and Bravo's sacrifice fly to center field brought in the first Harvard run of the game.

On the mound, senior Sean Matson began the day for the Crimson pitching staff efficiently, getting out of the inning with only ten pitches thrown and three batters faced.

Matson maintained pace through the next three innings of his start, shutting out Texas A&M through the fourth inning and compiling 3 SO and 2 BB in the process.

With the exception of a pair of singles by Baldwin and another by Feller, the Harvard bats stayed relatively quiet through this stretch, with the score sitting at 1-0 until the top of the bottom of the fifth, where the Aggies scored a run off Matson to tie the game at 1-1.

At the top of the seventh, the Crimson stepped up to the plate and tied the game at 2-2. After a single by senior catcher and third baseman Zach Brown, a walk by Snopek, and a Colasante single to put runners on the corners, a sacrifice fly by Baldwin tied the game before the inning ended on a fly out by Messervy.

Relieving Matson for the day, senior infielder and pitcher Will Jacobsen took the ball for the Crimson, putting away Texas A&M in the bottom of the seventh with no additional runs added to the board.

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WEEKLY SCORES RECAP

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. RHODE ISLAND	W, 74-63
LACROSSE AT MERRIMACK	W, 20-2
SOFTBALL AT PENN	W, 12-6
WATER POLO AT SANTA CLARA	W, 16-0
SAILING IVAN GEIGER RACE	2ND
MEN'S LACROSSE AT NO. 18 BU	L, 15-11
VOLLEYBALL VS. SACRED HEART	L, 3-2
HOCKEY VS. COLGATE	L, 3-2
BASEBALL AT TEXAS A&M-CC	L, 5-3
TENNIS ED COLLINS CLASSIC	2ND
WRESTLING AT NCAA TOURNEY	44TH

READ IT IN FIVE MINUTES

MEN'S LACROSSE WINS IVY OPENER VS BROWN

King's OT goal wins men's lacrosse Ivy opener. The game marked the highly anticipated Ivy League opener for each program. Both the Crimson and the Bears were coming off of bad losses — Brown suffered a crippling defeat at the hands of powerhouse UNC 19-6, while Harvard blew a substantial lead against the University of Michigan and failed to recover in time.



TRACK AND FIELD EXCELS AT NCAAs

Harvard Track and Field earns numerous awards at NCAA Indoor Championships. The Harvard track and field team sent six athletes to the NCAA championship meet in Albuquerque, N.M. on March 10 and 11. The Crimson saw great success, earning eight team honors as well as an individual award. Coaches Jason Saretsky, Marc Mangiacotti, and Alex Gibby all received awards for their performance this season.



Harvard readies to fire to home plate on April 2, 2022 against Brown. DYLAN J. GOODMAN—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

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Sausalito, a coastal city just across the Golden Gate Bridge from San Francisco, is known for its floating homes that sit on the water. The colorful homes are reminiscent of the town's Bohemian roots. ADDISON Y. LIU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



A runner takes an afternoon jog alongside the Charles River, heading toward the John W. Weeks Memorial Bridge. SOPHIA C. SCOTT—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



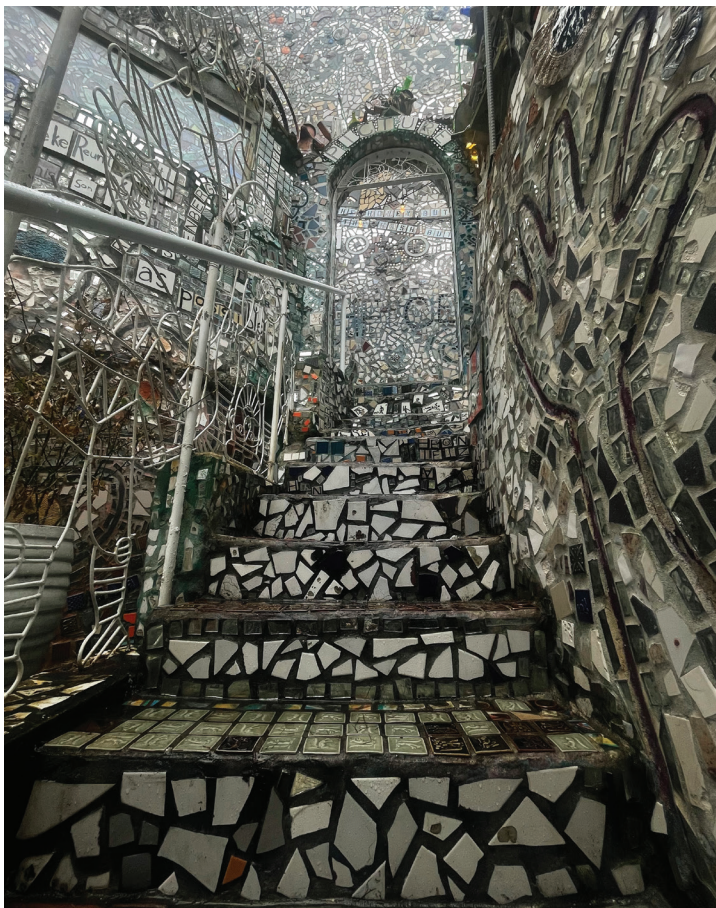
A snowy spring morning on the Ottauquechee river in Vermont. NATHANAEL TJANDRA—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER

Snapshots of Spring Break

ACROSS THE COUNTRY. Crimson photographers were scattered across the country during spring break, which took place for Harvard College students from March 11 to March 19. From marine life in Florida to coastal cities in California, these are snapshots of what they saw in a week away from the classroom.



A name carving inside an inmate cell at the Ohio State Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio. The Reformatory was the former maximum-security prison in which director Frank Darabont shot the Oscar-nominated *Shawshank Redemption*. FRANK S. ZHOU—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



Rain collects on the steps of Magic City Garden, an art mosaic gallery in downtown Philadelphia. CHRISTOPHER L. LI—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



An adult lemon shark cruises through the clear waters of the Gulf Stream off the coast of Florida. BEN Y. CAMMARATA—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



The Clifton Merriman Post Office Building in Cambridge's Central Square is on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1933. JOEY HUANG—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER



A downtown-bound 1 train pulls into the 66th St-Lincoln Center subway station in Manhattan. JULIAN J. GIORDANO—CRIMSON PHOTOGRAPHER