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THE HALLOWEEN ISSUE

Inside: Smoking, Halloween Happenings, and Joining the Crew

10.29.2015

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The Indy wishes everyone
a wicked good Halloween.

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

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#tbt: 'Networks Say No, C.B.S. won't sell time to Senate war critics.'

The Indy revisits an exclusive.

By TOM STEMBERG '71 and MORRIS ABRAM '71

This week, the Indy digs deep into its vault to find this Harvard Independent exclusive from our May 9, 1970 issue. We are publishing this piece in remembrance of Tom Stemberg'71, a founding member of the Harvard Independent who passed away last week. Stemberg had a major impact on the Indy in the 1970s and has had an even larger impact on the paper since he went on to a lucrative career founding Staples and other business ventures. Next week, the Harvard Independent will run a special feature on Stemberg that outlines his life and will include memories from his peers on the Harvard Independent.

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The CBS television network refused early this week to sell airtime to Senator George McGovern, (D-SD), and a group of other Senate sponsors of the McGovern-Hatfield amendment. The senators were seeking thirty minutes of airtime to discuss their amendment, which would cut off all appropriations for the war in Southeast Asia by June 1971.

The president of CBS Broadcasting, Richard Jencks, told Gordon Weil, press secretary to Senator George McGovern, that CBS only sold commercial television time for the promotion of "goods and services." At that time Weil responded, "We're trying to preserve your society so that you can continue to sell your goods and services."

Contacted yesterday by The Harvard Independent, Mr. Jencks said, "CBS policy does not permit the sale of television time to politicians except when they are political candidates or if they are addressing themselves to ballot issues."

Weil said yesterday that the McGovern-Hatfield forces had originally sought free time on the three major networks. Joseph Derby, information officer of NBC News, denied that NBC had been approached, but in an apparently conflicting statement, Gene Walsch, Director of Press at NBC, explained the network action. "The Chief Executive is news when he makes a statement. The McGovern-Hatfield program is not." Other network spokesmen said that their policy was based on the need to conform to standards of balanced coverage.

The ABC and NCB networks have both offered to make paid time available to Senate war critics. But the large amount of paperwork required for an ABC appearance made it impossible for the McGovern office to get clearance for a Tuesday appearance. NBC was more flexible, and the McGovern-Hatfield forces are now seeking to raise the \$60,000 dollars necessary for a Tuesday night appearance, at 7:30pm.

Senator McGovern was unavailable for comment yesterday afternoon. But Senator Mark Hatfield (R.-Ore.) charged in an interview with Independent reporter Sven Holmes, "We've been blocked out. The media has focused solely on violence and the results of violence. The voices of reason and non-violence have not been represented... The American people have been given only one side of this issue."

Other efforts by war critics to get free TV time for a viewpoint differing from that of the Nixon Administration have also failed. Michael Harrington, Democratic Congressman from Massachusetts, requested free time last week for the Democratic Party to respond to

Nixon's speech of April 30th. Richard Jencks of CBS refused at that time saying that the Cambodia war was not "a partisan issue."

Yesterday afternoon, NBC turned down a request by Democratic Party Chairman Larry O'Brien for live coverage of a Milwaukee speech scheduled for tonight in which he will respond directly to the televised appearances of Nixon of April 30th and May 8th. As the Independent goes to press, there has been no response to O'Brien's request from the other two major networks.

Responding to the network policy, Ira Capanstein, Deputy Chairman of the Democratic Party, commented sharply in an interview with The Independent. "The President, and, more cleverly, the Administration spokesmen, have spread-eagled themselves all over the major networks. And more seriously, the networks are cooperating."

Capanstein further speculated that the network's attitude may be an indication of the effectiveness of the Vice-President's attacks on the media. "The corporation executives are intimidated," he said.

While there is widespread concern amongst Nixon Administration critics over the major networks' refusal to grant them free time, there is even more frustration expressed over CBS policy on paid time. For, according to Nielson figures, the CBS network has the largest national audience.

If you would like to share a memory of Tom Stemberg and want it included in next week's feature on his life, please send an email to editorinchief@harvardindependent.com.

Knights of the Smokeful Countenance

The Indy sits in on a smoker's rights meeting.

By JESS CLAY

A couple of weeks ago I found myself in Stephen Helfer's apartment at a meeting of the Cambridge Citizens for Smokers' Rights. Helfer is the Citizens' leader, and you've probably seen him if you've walked through Harvard Square enough times. He's got an off-white mustache and a face like a well-hewn walnut, and he sets up shop in the Square a few days a week. Sometimes he's seated behind a table collecting signatures for a petition, and sometimes he stands and holds up a sign like some smoldering Jeremiah, smoking a tobacco pipe and generally neglecting to give a damn about what other people think. But he gives an enormous damn about smokers' rights, and so did the fellow citizens assembled around the table in his apartment.

I am a native son of Texas, and I have long held a fascination with single-issue groups. We have a cornucopia of nuts back home—largely of the Tea Party genus, and particularly of the gun species. Growing up, my family had seventeen guns for six people. This may seem like an inordinate number of firearms for any single household or city-state to possess, but I suspect there are parts of Texas where such a low guns-to-people ratio might allow a family to register as conscientious objectors to the draft. As such, I was not fearful of these people who wielded much weaker means of expelling smoke and flame. But I was hopeful they might prove just as wacko, and in this I was sorely disappointed. The general atmosphere of the meeting was more that of a book club than a gun show. Granted, the literary selections were primarily of the pro-smoking variety, which is a pretty niche genre. But overall the ambience was the same. Helfer had spread his table with pumpkin bread and baked apples and a French press filled with coffee so dark

it verged on syrupy. Next to the French press was a blue ceramic water pitcher. It was shaped like a fish and gurgled drolly when poured, to the general delight of all present. A few ashtrays also littered the table, and over the course of the meeting they saw a healthy- or maybe unhealthy - amount of use.

We conceive easily of the anti-smoking movement. Most ubiquitous are those little images of cigarettes with a red circle around them and a big slash over them—a familiar trope on airplanes, college campuses, museum grounds, and American society as a whole. There are the ad campaigns, featuring someone speaking through a hole in their throat, or a middle-aged widow who used to be married. There are the surgeon general's warnings on packets of cigarettes and in magazine pages, and insurance penalties, and articles on the ten things that improve once you quit smoking. But it is harder to conceive of those who ardently support smoking. We think of Joe Camel peddling heaters to children, and of Big Tobacco, and maybe we think of Aaron Eckhart's character in Thank You for Smoking. But it was a more motley and amiable crew huddled around the ashtrays inside the apartment. Besides Helfer, there were two other men who were old or pushing it, two women nebulously between twenty-five and forty, and a grad school student from Montana who smoked, among other things, an e-pipe. They shared a common passion, a love which transcended age or gender or social class, and that was the desire to smoke various tobacco products in more places than they could at present. This, I learned, was the purpose of the e-pipe: it allowed its user to smoke in his smoke-free apartment building. However, most of the group opted for more old-fashioned methods. The women both smoked cigarettes, and the men

were divided between cigarettes and pipes. Helfer magnanimously alternated between his big wooden pipe and his hand-rolled cigarettes. He used white rolling papers and shag tobacco and no filters, and his fingers glided nimbly as a shuttle on a loom.

One of the major purposes of this meeting, it seemed, was simply to offer an opportunity to smoke indoors with pleasant company. The other purpose was to discuss how to combat the anti-smoking movement. I expected these discussions to take a somewhat rightward bend, in which paranoia and Constitutionalist anger would converge to let me hear declarations like "Obama can take my cigarettes from my cold, dead lips," with maybe a dismissive loogie-hocking thrown in for good measure. However, the Citizens took special care to avoid associating themselves with the ideologically charged tropes and buzzwords; they were painfully aware that the word "liberty," in particular, had been co-opted by groups of the far right, and as such they avoided using such terms any more than necessary. As Helfer noted, this was a civic organization rather than a partisan one — the tent was plenty big, if not all that full. I admired this ecumenical approach, but I suspect it grew more out of necessity than ideology. It was true that the group's open hatred of the nanny state and authoritarianism were bedrock conservative principles, and it was equally true that tobacco taxes and smoke-free public housing disproportionately affected the poor — the sort of regressive taxes and undue burdens that no good liberal could abide. But I think the lack of partisanship derived primarily from the fact that "pro-smoking" is not, at present, a viable platform for any party.

continued on pg. 5

Knights of the Smokeful Countenance

continued from pg. 4

By JESS CLAY

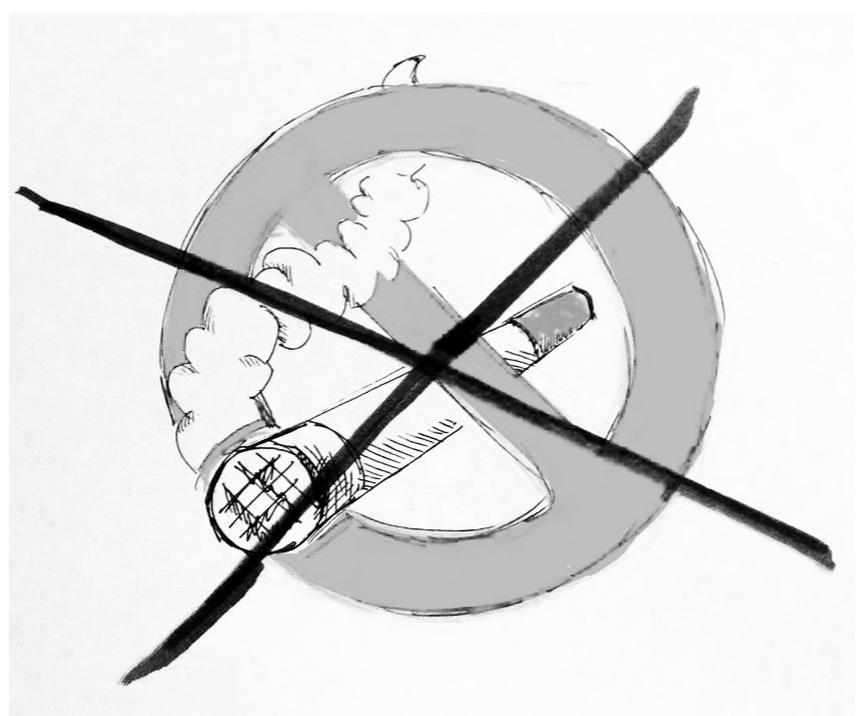
Not that this difficulty could stop the Citizens from trying. The ideas flew thick and fast through the soft gray haze, and the emergent strategies were often remarkable. The group's website currently features a "Centenarian Smoker" every week - some longtime smoker who defied the surgeon general's prophecies and lived to be over one hundred. This celebration of longevity was oddly paired with a general acceptance of mortality. No one at the meeting doubted that smoking was physically harmful - though they did believe the reports, like those of Mark Twain's death, were greatly exaggerated. But as the grad student noted, not wearing a helmet while boarding also offered a health risk; he would prefer to take that risk and not look like an idiot every time he boarded, and he would prefer to smoke. This analogy was well-received by the group, and it initiated a reflection on mortality which was refreshing if somewhat macabre. In a way, their introspection supported the claim that tobacco might improve the mind and spirit, if not the lungs and throat - for in every cigarette, they held poor Yorick's skull.

Most of the discussion, however, was more hopeful and hilarious. One of the young women suggested a social media campaign in the style of "Humans of New York" which might be entitled "Smokers of Cambridge," or something like that. One of the old men wanted to make posters with celebrated smokers alongside salient slogans - a picture of Bob Marley smoking with the caption "Our civil liberties are going up in smoke." Helfer mentioned an activist in New York who had gone the civil

disobedience route, lighting up a cigarette in city hall on Bloomberg's last day in office. Such an action had immediately lent her folk-hero status among the movement. It was by such diverse means - both the overtly political and the socially perceptive - that the group sought to achieve its ends. By the end of the meeting, it was hard to tell which ideas, if any, were truly good or practical. But the enjoyment of the

day rested not so much in the future as in the present. In his emails, Helfer sometimes quotes the late Supreme Court justice Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Fresh air and innocence are good if you don't take too much of them—but I always remember that most of the achievements and pleasures of life are in bad air." And bad as the air was in that room, there was no denying its pleasure.

The achievements remain largely unrealized thus far, but the challenge of the task before them did little to quell the ardor of Helfer and the Citizens. On the wall of the apartment hung a framed print. It featured two figures, silhouetted in black ink. One figure was short and squat, and the other was



long and lean, and each was astride his mount, and it was easy enough to tell that it was an image of Don Quixote. It was oddly fitting, looking down upon this exceptionally quixotic meeting. As the citizen-smokers gathered, their burning tobacco held in hand like so many flame-tipped lances, it was hard to shake the feeling that they were tilting at windmills, dreaming impossible dreams and fighting unbeatable foes. Yet the glory never really lay in slaying the windmills, but in the charge.

Jess Clay '17 (jclay@college.harvard.edu) often pursues fresh air and innocence—in moderation.

Illustration by Anna Papp

HALLOWEEN How-tos

The Indy's Guide to Halloween Costumes.

By ELOISE LYNTON

Fall means many things. The days are shorter, the wind is colder, and the leaves are falling off the trees. The air near the Harvard Starbucks smells of pumpkin spice lattes, and if you listen close enough, you can just hear the rustling of Canada Goose Jackets waiting to be unleashed from student's winter storage. To me, however, as a California native unaccustomed to the concept of "seasonal changes" or "weather," the arrival of fall means one thing first and foremost; fall means its time for Halloween. And if Halloween's coming, you'd better find a costume. Here at the Indy, we've compiled a list of ideas to help you out.

1. The Sexy Something

It's Friday afternoon the day of a big Halloween party. You don't have a costume, and you don't have ideas, but you do have a thing for the guy who will be there later tonight. You don't know what to be, but you know you've gotta look good. It is this questionable method of reasoning that leads you to throw on a pair of ears and a tight dress and call yourself a cat, a bunny, or some other kind of cute animal. Alternatively, you could take any profession out there (stewardess, cop, teacher, student, janitor?) and transform it into something slutty. Just undo some buttons, wear a badge or a hat, and call yourself a sexy professional. The Sexy Something isn't a specific costume per say, its more of an attitude and a measure of skin shown.

2. The Play on Words

Unlike the sexy something, this costume takes a bit of forethought. The play on words costume is for those who like dressing up and don't mind accompanying their costume with a lengthy verbal explanation of what it means. You could take this in many directions; you might be a "pig in a blanket" (pig ears, soft blanket), a "facebook" (face in a book), an "identity crisis" (wear lots of nametags), or 2Chainz (wear two chains). Whatever you do – beware: the "punny costume" is not for the shy or soft-spoken – whatever you chose you'll have a lot of explaining to do.

3. The Political Reference

In today's wacky political climate, it's hard not to embrace the weirdness of our society by making fun of it through costume. You could do a throwback to the past and put on a blue dress with a big white stain to pull off a Monica Lewinsky, or you could embrace the present and dress up as Trump's big beautiful wall dividing America and Mexico. Fair warning to those who chose one of these costumes though—be polite, or you could end up in fight with someone who doesn't believe in gun control.

4. The Movie Character

There are a lot of great movies out there, and a plethora of movie characters to dress up as. You could choose an obscure reference that no one will

get (Maury Ballstein from Zoolander) or a classic film favorite (Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz). You could also go for a group costume—dress up like the entire Mean Girls clique or Snow White and her seven drawves. Alternatively, why not have a group dress up as various characters played by a single actor? Be Will Ferrell's characters in Anchor Man, Step Brothers, and Blades of Glory. The options are really limitless, and who wouldn't want to be a star for a night?

5. The Cop Out

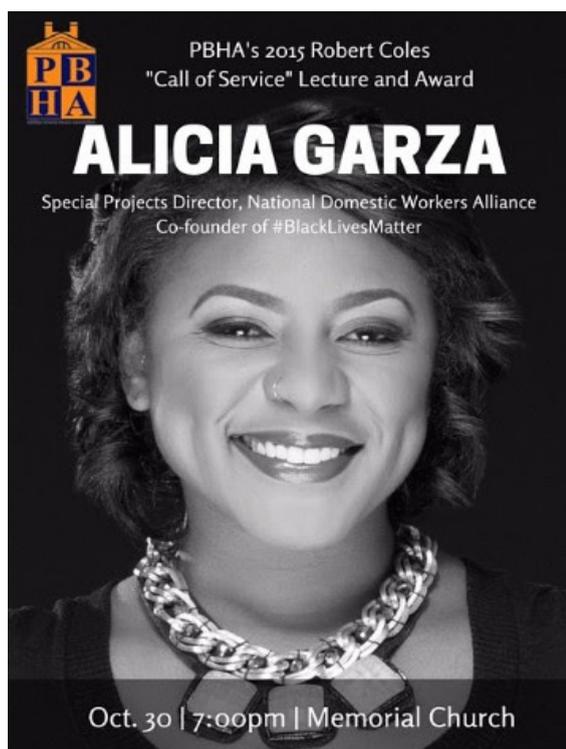
There are always one or two of you at the party who don't like dressing up or who haven't thought of a costume until literally two minutes before heading out the door. I'm not saying that I approve of this, or even that I like you as human beings, but I am saying that you still have options. A "cop out" costume is better than no costume at all. Wear a white T-Shirt that says "This is My Costume," or "I'm with ghost," go dressed as "yourself" or throw on a hat of some kind. No one likes the cop-out (especially when we've spent good money and time on our own costumes), but at least you've showed some sort of effort. Now start planning your costume for next year so this never happens again.

Eloise Lynton'17 (eloiselynton@college.harvard.edu) has a very elaborate costume this year but is waiting for Halloween night to unveil her ensemble.

Harvard Happenings

A round-up of upcoming events around campus.

By SHAQUILLA HARRIGAN



OTHER: A Multiracial Student Gallery

Amanda Mozea '17 created OTHER: A Multiracial Student Photo Gallery as a way to start a conversation on how people conceive of race, especially when it comes to multiracial and multiethnic students.

The exhibit features fifty-eight students of various racial and ethnic backgrounds. Each photo is accompanied by a quote from each model's response to a questionnaire on race. Some of the questions included, "How does the government define your race?" and "How do others define your race?" According to a pamphlet that accompanies the exhibit, "The goal of picturing each model in such a vulnerable state is to remove all

distractions from the scene. The portrait is merely that of the model, nothing else."

Mozea will be hosting a gallery opening and discussion on Thursday, October 29th at 6PM in the SOCH. The event is open to everyone.

Class of 2016 Senior Bar

The Class of 2016's first senior bar will take place on Friday, October 30th in the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub from 8-10PM. This is the first of many events planned by the Senior Class Committee. Seniors are encouraged to come out and participate in the 'Last Senior Standing' competition that will award the seniors who attend the most class events.

PBHA's Robert Coles Call of Service Lecture & Award, ft. Alicia Garza

This Friday, the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) will honor #BlackLivesMatter co-founder Alicia Garza at the Robert Coles "Call of Service" Lecture and Award in Memorial Church at 7PM.

Though she is best known for her organizing and activism around anti-black racism and police brutality, Garza currently serves as the Special Projects Director at the National Domestic Workers Alliance. Before the lecture, student leaders from various on-campus organizations will be able to participate in a forum and small-group discussions on various social justice issues with Garza. Following

her remarks, the Kuumba Singers will close out the event with a few song selections.

Started in 2007 to celebrate students engaged in social justice work and inspire them with remarks from various leaders, the Coles "Call of Service" lecture and award is named after Robert Coles, a Pulitzer prize winner and long-time Harvard professor best known on his course on reflections in social justice. Shantell Williams '18, a student officer at PBHA, says, "This is an opportunity to encourage students to actively engage with the causes they care most about." Garza will now join the rank of other awardees including Al Gore and Geoffrey Canada.

The main lecture and award is open to the public. The doors to Memorial Church will open at 7PM. Seats are first-come, first-serve.

Haunted Hall: A Halloween Party

Given Harvard's lacking social scene, Harvard administrators have dedicated more funding to create inclusive social activities for students. This Saturday, the Office of Student Life, the College Events Board, First-Year Social Committee, the Undergraduate Council, and the Cambridge Queen's Head Pub are teaming up to put on "Haunted Hall." This "costumes-encouraged" party will take place in Memorial Hall on Saturday. At 8PM the pub will open for students to hang out and lounge before the dance starts at 10:30PM.

Poster courtesy of PBHA.

The Start-Up to Chow-down

Harvard students launch a start-up dedicated to Bostonian delicacies.

By CAROLINE GENTILE

Perhaps there's something in the water in Kirkland House that engenders an entrepreneurial spirit. First, Mark Zuckerberg, a Kirkland resident, came along and founded Facebook in February 2004. More recently, this past month, Kirkland residents Cara Cuomo '17 and Jake Levin '17 founded Boston Foods.

While Facebook connects people to other people, Boston Foods connects people to cheap and healthy groceries. As co-founder Cara Cuomo put it, "Boston Foods is a self-sustaining non-profit that provides reduced price groceries to families who otherwise would not have physical or economic access to healthy and nutritious eating options."

"Reduced price groceries" is a vast understatement. Boston Foods' flagship box of food has enough fruits, vegetables, and meat to feed a family of four for a week. For how much, you ask? Just \$35. "Personally, it's really exciting when we tell people about our program and they ask, 'Really?! Only \$35? What's the catch?'" explains Cuomo. "Well, there is no catch, and it's great to see what an impact something so simple can have."

When I asked her how it was at all possible for there to be no catch with a deal like that, Cuomo details how Boston Foods is able to sell at such low prices: "We cut out almost all overhead and inefficiency in the food system. We pick up food directly from wholesale suppliers and deliver it directly to community centers, so we cut out the cost of grocery stores, owning buildings, paying for cold storage etc."

This really made me wonder. How much are those evil grocery stores jacking up the prices?! But then I remember that Boston Foods is a non-profit, whereas groceries stores, as we all very well know, are not. However, this is what necessitates an organization like Boston Foods to help make the healthy food one can find at grocery stores more affordable. "Our main goal," says Cuomo, "is to help as many people as we can, and put an end to food insecurity in the Greater Boston Area."



Achieving such a goal is no small feat. The founding of Boston Foods required six months of work, and still has a lot more potential for growth. It all started last semester, when Cuomo and Levin, along with students from Boston College, got together and applied for the Boston College Venture Capital SEED fund. Fortunately, they won the SEED money, and spent the summer launching head first into making Boston Foods a reality.

For Cuomo and the rest of the Boston Foods team, this past summer "involved a lot of legal work with incorporating and applying for 501(c)3, and applying to snap benefits as a retailer," explains Cuomo. "Also, we had to do a lot of outreach to Greater Boston community centers to see where there was the most need and the most potential for a Boston Foods program." During this semester, Cuomo also received some very helpful input on Boston Foods from Professor Paul Bottino, who teaches a class on start-ups at Harvard called Start-Up Research and Design.

One of the biggest challenges for Cuomo, as co-President of Boston Foods, is that "it is a lot more time than I would have ever imagined and a lot of problem-solving, but it's something I'm passionate about, and

never once during those late nights working on Boston Foods did I ever regret help starting it."

Then came the launch earlier this month, which was "riddled with hiccups," as Cuomo described it, chuckling to herself. "The day before our first launch, our wholesale supplier suggested we find an alternate source for meat and protein, which was a stressful morning and afternoon," she recounts. "Ultimately, we pulled it together for the next day. We called a meat supplier whom we had previously contacted over the summer and they generously agreed to get our order ready for the next morning."

Although the launch was a long day indeed for the Boston Foods team, by the end of the day, they had served 25 families. "My favorite part of working for Boston Foods so far," Cuomo reflects, "was at the end of that long delivery day, preceded by months of organizing and planning, when a customer picked up their box of groceries, and was excited about what's inside."

Caroline Gentile '17 (cgentile@college.harvard.edu) lives in Kirkland House, but has yet to found a start-up.

Photo courtesy of Cara Cuomo

The Glass Flowers of Harvard

An exploration of a soon-to-be-renovated exhibit.

By AUDREY EFFENBERGER



When you enter the Harvard Museum of Natural History, everything is a little unassuming. Amazing things like rare fossils, precious stones, and the like—things usually presented in an imposing and impressive building—are found here with little fanfare. The museum exhibits are up three flights of stairs and nestled among dusty archives and labs, in low-ceilinged rooms flooded by warm sunlight on most afternoons. It's through another unassuming door within the museum that you find yourself in a dimly lit room of wooden cabinets and glass boxes. But this room houses something amazing: the Ware Collection of Blaschka Glass Models of Plants, known more commonly as the Glass Flowers.

The story of the glass flowers begins in the early nineteenth century with Leopold Blaschka, who was born in Bohemia to a family of jewelers and glassmakers. Having developed a skill for manipulating glass with precision and great detail, Blaschka primarily made glass eyes and ornaments. His career found new inspiration in 1853 when he fell ill. Customs of the time dictated that a long sea voyage would help, so Blaschka

sailed to the United States and back. It was during this time that Blaschka turned the focus of his artistry to the study and drawing of marine animals. This led him, upon his return, to recreate the animals in glass.

With the movement of his family to Germany, Leopold Blaschka continued to make glass models of living things. He recreated exotic flowers, catching the eye of Prince Camille de Rohan who then commissioned 100 orchids. Blaschka's reputation for glass models quickly spread, and he began making models for museums, aquariums, universities, and other places of education.

In 1880, Leopold Blaschka's son Rudolf began working with his father, and their business grew. The two created over 100 models of marine invertebrates for what is now the Boston Museum of Science, which in turn caught the eye of George Lincoln Goodale, a professor at Harvard. Goodale was a botanist in charge of founding and organizing the Harvard Botanical Museum as well as teaching new generations of botanists at the college. Without climate control, the harsh weather of Cambridge could not permit the viewing of live specimens year-round, and pressings or wax models lacked realism. Goodale thus commissioned the Blaschkas to create something better—the glass flowers.

From 1887 to 1936, Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka made glass flowers for Harvard. This was sponsored by the benefaction of Elizabeth C. and Mary Lee Ware 1834, who are the namesakes of the collection. Over 800 species are represented in the collection, which resides at Harvard today.

The fruits of the Blaschkas' labor, including hundreds of models of everything from flowers to fruit, currently live in the Glass Flowers gallery. There are hundreds of flowers, of course, ranging from large blooms to tiny clusters of petals. Each pane of glass had

to be heated and carefully shaped as it cooled; then, a thin wash of colored glass or metal oxides could be applied and fused to the glass. Most had wire supports placed inside the glass to reinforce the models, while others were blown, giving rise to hollow structures that mimic their delicate real-life counter-parts.

The remarkable range of techniques is evident in the wide range of plants that the Blaschkas were able to recreate. Some models show tiny root hairs almost as thin as strands of hair. Others have paper-thin ferns and leaves. And not all of the models are "pretty;" some show the effects of mold or fungus on apples or oranges, calling to mind the models' educational intent. Walking through the gallery, it's awe-inspiring to remember that all of them are made simply of silica.

All of the models are marked by small cards, giving the Latin and common names of each plant as well as its genus, family, and other facts. For example, you can find a model of the redroot, or New Jersey tea plant; its leaves were widely used for tea during the American Revolution. Elsewhere in the gallery, one can find *Oryza sativa*, or rice. The history—from the plants' to the models'—intersects with the natural beauty and wonder of the glass, making the Ware Collection truly one of the most fascinating galleries in the Museum of Natural History.

The Glass Flowers exhibit will be closed from November 9, 2015 to May 21, 2016. A small selection of models will be available for viewing in the interim. As with all Harvard museums, admission is free with HUID for each student and one guest.

Audrey Effenberger '19 (effenberger@college.harvard.edu) thought the glass banana looked good enough to eat.

Photo courtesy of Audrey Effenberger

Walking onto Crew

Experiencing a world largely dominated by recruits.

By DANIEL UM

Every year, as many as a hundred potential athletes turn up to the crew interest meeting to learn about the nature of the sport, the progression of the season, and the time commitment. cursory introductions are given as they fill out forms seeking athletic experience, height, and weight. Unlike in high school, the vast majority of college athletes are recruited because many coaches rely on the recruiting process to keep their teams consistently competitive. For this reason, ‘walk-ons’ (non-recruited athletes) are rare, especially in sports with smaller numbers.

One exception is Harvard crew, which prides itself on its strong walk-on program. Men’s Lightweight Coach Ian Accomando states, “Harvard’s walk-on program has always been strong. Harvard rowing, like [in] most schools, was built on walk-ons.” Since most high school students have never had the opportunity to try crew, college is the perfect opportunity for a non-recruited athlete to try his or her hand at rowing.

Maria Splaine’19 had been a swimmer since the age of six and after hearing about the opportunity for crew she attended the interest meeting. Noting the compatibility between the two sports, Splaine claims “swimming for the past 12 years has made me used to brutal workouts so the time commitment is the hardest part, especially with trying to fit in sections.” Furthermore, she finds managing work difficult because, unlike her batch-mates, she doesn’t have the luxury to stay up late studying, and instead has to spend any free time plowing through work.

I am also a crew walk-on. I have been playing tennis since the age of seven and dabbled in baseball, basketball, and volleyball as a multi-sport high school varsity athlete. What attracted me to crew was the tight-knit nature of the team, so I jumped at the opportunity to learn a new sport. My initial expectation was for walk-ons to be sidelined, with attention being focused on the recruits; however, I was pleasantly surprised.

Coach Accomando and Coach Chris



Calkins provide constant, energetic feedback during on-water time and offer individual coaching for anyone interested. Accomando also writes up bi-weekly inspirational emails that are sometimes as long as 1,000 words, with embedded video and useful articles links. In one of these emails, he draws a parallel between baseball player Tim Hudson’s climb from the minor leagues and rowing. He emphasizes how Hudson’s success can be attributed to him working on his weakness and practicing changeups, despite his obviously killer splitter. It is important to isolate your weak points. He believes, “If you’re inflexible, don’t erg more, stretch. If you’re the slowest on the stadium, run more and do more jumpies. If you lack body control, start extending the length of the ab circuit if 6min has become too easy, and start doing more push ups and pull ups, and maybe consider going to yoga for extra workouts rather than running [and] erging.”

Accomando describes a strong walk-on as having “strength, stamina, competitive savvy, an intrinsic understanding of leverage, and the capacity to endure extended or repeated rounds of self-inflicted discomfort or pain. A passion for training certainly doesn’t hurt, but a passion for racing is even more desirable. Anyone can do it, they just have to decide to.” Though the crew team doesn’t cut, the process usually sorts things out. In the first two weeks, walk-ons were subjected

to two grueling stadium runs (weaving Harvard stadium’s 37 sections). Only half the original number of walk-ons was left standing after this grueling workout. Following this, weekly fitness tests continued until numbers dwindled down enough to fill two boats, approximately.

Despite the success of great walk-on programs at Harvard, Princeton and Cornell, many of the other schools in the league have decided to focus mainly on recruits. Accomando thinks “it’s a real shame, as any alum would tell you, because the walk-ons really bring a certain character to the team that they wouldn’t have otherwise being comprised of only recruits.” Walk-ons are eager and always willing to give their full effort in every rowing lesson and fitness test. They push recruits to do better and exemplify the power of hard work.

Perhaps Harvard’s other sports teams can learn from the inclusivity of the crew walk-on program. Giving walk-ons the chance to train and compete alongside recruits could improve the work ethic of teams as well as connect Harvard sports with the larger student body.

Daniel Um ’19 (danielum@college.harvard.edu) applauds the Harvard crew program and their enlightened methods.

Photo courtesy of Daniel Um

The Crimson Tamed the Tigers

Princeton proved a hard catch in the first half, but Harvard made it a blowout.

By PEYTON FINE

It was bound to happen. Harvard's football team would have to face some adversity during the season. The law of averages state that Harvard could not simply continue to blow teams out of the water, hold them scoreless for hours on end, and score at will. Most people would have assumed that the Crimson would face this challenge against Dartmouth or Yale, but Princeton turned out to be the formidable foe. That was until the second half.

The game started off on the wrong foot for Harvard, and the feeling went around the stadium that this game could be different. Upon catching the opening kick, head coach Tim Murphy reached into his bag of tricks and called a reverse. Harvard successfully got the ball into the hands of the normally trusty Andrew Fischer'16, and the rout looked on as Fischer streaked towards midfield. However, a Princeton cover man caught Fischer from behind, and the ball popped loose.

From there, the Crimson and the Tigers traded drives stalling due to penalties or negative plays until the second quarter. In the first drive of the quarter, Fischer began to return to his reliable form. Fischer caught two passes for 48 yards, and fellow senior Paul Stanton mixed in a few runs along with Seitu Smith'16 to bring the Crimson down to Princeton's 2-yard line. From there, senior Scott Hosch faked a toss to Stanton and walked into the end zone himself to give Harvard the lead.

But, the blowout did not ignite from there. Princeton quickly responded with a score of their own to tie the game at seven. This really was the law of averages coming back to haunt Harvard. Harvard had not allowed a point in over 212 minutes of play. That is the equivalent of three and a half entire games. It was bound to happen. The Crimson though would respond again with a quick score to lead 14-7 going into the half.

Now, the blowout could ignite. Harvard came out in the second half and was literally perfect. Princeton got the ball, and Harvard forced a punt. Harvard got the ball and scored a touchdown. Princeton got the ball again. Harvard forced a punt again. Harvard got the ball and scored a touchdown...again. Shall we go one more time? Yes. Princeton got the ball for a third time; Harvard forced a punt for the third straight time, and then scored a touchdown for the third straight time. On the fourth drive, Harvard's defense took this pattern one step further and intercepted a Princeton pass. Harvard's offense just kept rolling along and scored a fourth touchdown.

By the end of this perfect sequence, the game was put away. Hosch had completed almost 75% of his passes for over 400 yards and two touchdowns. Stanton had added over 100 yards and another 2 touchdowns, and Fischer made up for his opening fumble in a big way. Fischer put up 190 yards and a touchdown,

which represented the most yards by a Harvard receiver in three years. Just like it was bound to happen that Harvard would regress to the mean, it was also bound to happen that Harvard's overwhelming offensive talent would dominate the game at some point.

The game against Princeton was far from perfect. The two first-half turnovers were far from customary for Harvard, and the Crimson will need to be better next week. Yes, Princeton last year was picked to finish first in the Ivy League, but this year's Princeton team does not have that level of talent. Dartmouth though, whom Harvard plays on Friday, does. Dartmouth is ranked in the top 25 national poll just like Harvard and has similarly dominated its games so far this season. This game will likely determine the Ivy League champion. Thankfully, Harvard has gotten the bad vibes out of its system.

Peyton Fine'17 (peytonfine@college.harvard.edu) realizes that the Crimson cannot be perfect all the time, but it will take a performance more like the second half against Princeton to beat Dartmouth on Friday.

captured and shot



Glass Flowers at the Harvard Museum of Natural History
by Audrey Effenberger