

THE HARVARD
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all things new



Inside: New president, new art, and a new podcast!

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The Indy is reinventing.

Cover design by
Audrey Effenberger '19

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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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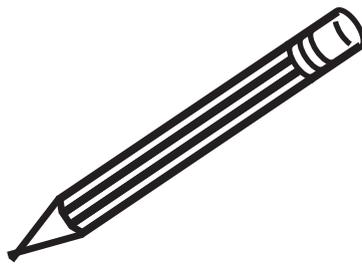
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New Year, New Me



What can you do
better this term?

By HUNTER RICHARDS

As human beings, it's understandable that we all fall susceptible to that "New Year, New Me" mentality. Yes, we know that time is really a social construct and the world isn't going to dramatically shift the minute after 12.31.2016 at 11:59 pm. That doesn't mean wanting to make a change and see some improvements is a bad thing, or that you can't use the opportunity to start your transition into a more productive member of society. The spring semester is the equivalent of the New Year. When you stepped back onto campus after J-Term, you probably felt that shift. But, just in case you didn't and need some ideas, here are some tips:

Show Up

Show up to a lecture or two, even after you find out that they're all taped and it's a big enough class that your TF won't notice. Yeah, the Q Guide swore that you don't need to go to class to get an A but you're literally only spending the hour you could be in lecture watching another episode during a Netflix binge. Unfortunately, you can't get a citation or secondary in Netflix. If you think about it, the lecture videos are kind of just Indie Netflix documentaries that you put on to help you fall asleep. Except I don't see "Lecture and Chill" catching on.

Be Present

Make it to the entryway study break every once in awhile. Your floor tutor is starting to wonder if you're even still living there because they run into your college-married roommates at least 10 times as often as they see you. Study breaks have food outside of finals period and showing up before then helps make sure you get in your order for Kong when the tutor gets delivery for the floor.

Regulate Sleeping

Get up before noon. You don't have to get out of bed necessarily but being conscious is a good step towards leaving the SWUG life behind you, especially since you're not even

a senior yet. Being exhausted for that 10 am lecture is just life, but it's also probably staying up until 4 am on a regular basis because of Who You Are As A Person™. Perhaps the reason you've needed a calculator to verify simple math on each question is because you haven't slept in 2 days. Unlike that calculus problem, there's a simple solution to sleep deprivation: Sleep. As the great Shia LeBeouf once said, "Just do it."

Do the reading.

Stop Ghosting

During Visitas you signed up for more list-servs than could fit on a single page. Of course, it also took you until winter break sophomore year before you finally found out how to get off the email lists after a "Please remove me from this" responding spree on a single thread from half the college population. Instead of RSVP'ing to those guest events that cut into dinner and require putting pants on instead of taking a nap after an all-nighter, be honest with yourself. There's nothing wrong with admitting you don't want to go to that party for your blockmate's estranged freshman roommate's birthday. But it's tacky to ignore the texts asking which shuttle to catch because you've decided to put pajamas on at 4 pm and it doesn't look like they're coming back off until after brunch tomorrow. It's easier to just admit you're emotionally exhausted and have no capacity to grab coffee with the kid who helped you pass your intro courses freshman year than to pretend you caught a 24-hour bug an hour before you're supposed to meet. As usual, it begins with being honest with yourself.

Eat Healthier

You can start by actually eating the salad you spent 5 minutes preparing carefully while waiting for your grill order hamburger to get finished. Lowering the frequency of your trips to your dorms vending machine for junk food while finishing an essay is also a great step. Honestly, even taking the stairs to the vending machine rather than the elevator would be a good move. It's not realistic to recommend you drink less, but maybe swap out those mixers for something healthier. Vodka and cranberry juice is at least 2 servings of fruit right there!

Update Your Wardrobe

You've been wearing nothing but the free t-shirts you stocked up on during the activity fair at the beginning of the year. It's getting pretty obvious that you only do laundry when you have a date, an interview, or run out of underwear because everything you've worn for the last month is crimson and has the word "Veritas" somewhere on it. The clothes your mom sends you in care packages either never fit or make you look like a visiting alumni.

Of course, this is far from an inexhaustible list. The first step is admitting you have the problem. The second is spending a day writing an article to jokingly advise other people to fix their own.

Hunter Richards (hrichards@college.harvard.edu) will try to execute as many of these tips in her own life this term!

Read more
of Hunter's tips
online at

harvardindependent.com

INDY FORUM

This past January in Davos, Switzerland, elite business people, academics, and media personalities of the world gathered to discuss ways to address global problems at the World Economic Forum. Last year, in the face of rising populism, the consensus among attendants was that Donald Trump would not make it to the White House. Martin Sorrell, chief executive of advertising giant WPP, thought Hillary Clinton would win no matter what. Former Harvard professor Niall Ferguson was looking forward to “Trump’s humiliation.”

This year, the Davoisie finally understood how wrong they were; they were at a loss for words as to what this populist trend towards Trump’s presidency meant for the future. Considering how wrong these elite were—these strangers whose power influences our lives—I think it’s important to ask who the elite of the future should look like.

For many of those who want four more years of Barack Obama, the future elite should look like the former president. As president, he was youthful, affable, smart, cool-headed, and tactful. Yet he failed at what I believe is absolutely necessary for the future: he failed to be humble enough.

What do I mean by humble? I don’t mean the state of having low self-esteem, as suggested by the Latin root ‘humilis’ which means ‘low.’ Rather, I mean being grounded and close to the earth, which is suggested by the other related Latin root ‘humus,’ meaning ‘earth.’

Although humility is often thought of as a virtue—or in extremes, a vice—its roots suggest that it’s ultimately grounded in morally-neutral knowledge. Humility is simply the state of knowing the world and one’s place in it. And to be humbled means to be given knowledge of the world and one’s place in it, whether it be high or low, to the left or to the right.

This knowledge is what Mr. Obama and other elites do not have enough of. Living in a globalized world with power and influence means that one’s actions lead to an exponential number of consequences. It also means that understanding and foreseeing these consequences requires immense humility. Mr. Obama’s presidency can attest to this.

Let them Eat Humble Pie!

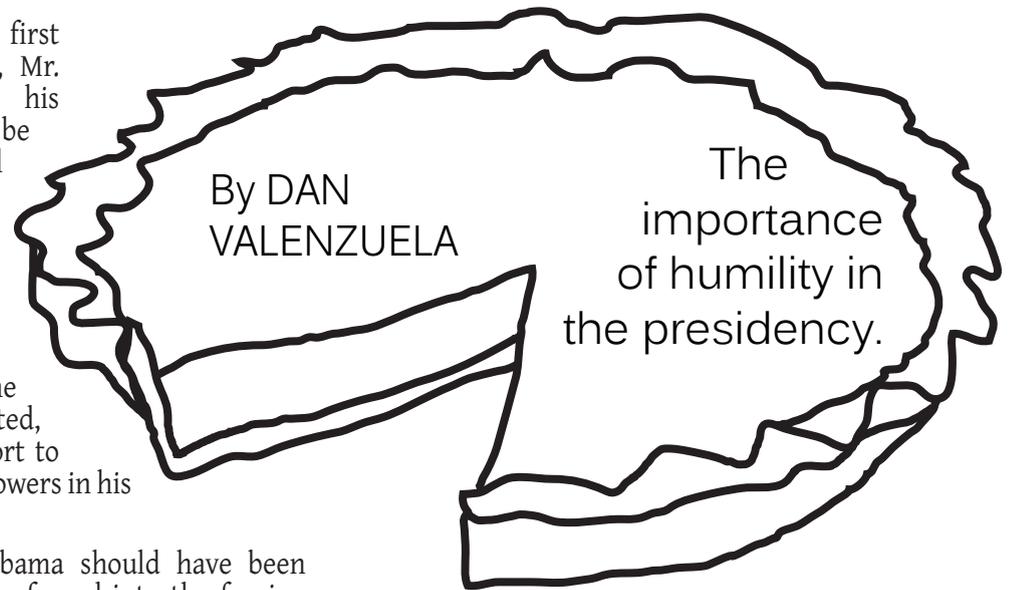
Coming into his first term as president, Mr. Obama believed his presidency could be transformational and help unify the country. However the Democratic defeats in the 2010 midterm elections showed him that his influence upon the country was limited, forcing him to resort to his foreign policy powers in his second term.

Although Mr. Obama should have been humbled after being forced into the foreign policy arena, he still failed to understand why his influence was limited at home. Despite seeing the divisions in America after seven years of being President, he optimistically said in early 2016, “I have a lot of faith in the American people” and “I continue to believe Mr. Trump will not be President.”

These false beliefs that Mr. Obama had are even more surprising given his ability to gain the trust of the American people in two elections. Such an ability must be the result of some understanding and humility. Yet in the span of eight years of being entrusted the presidency, Mr. Obama failed to be close enough to the ground and the people to understand the country’s turn toward dangerous people like Mr. Trump.

Mr. Obama has not been alone in being wrong, however. The political and economic elite have all but said “let them eat cake!” to working-class Americans in misunderstanding their needs. Such a lack of humility has arguably led to the rise in popular resentment against established elites, a resentment that will be around for the foreseeable future.

As much as I disagree with Mr. Trump’s policies and am disgusted by his rhetoric, the fact remains that he recognized and understood the resentful Americans that voted him into power. Contrary to others’ predictions, Mr. Trump knew his place in



relation to these people and appropriately filled the disruptor role that they wanted. This is all true despite the real concern that such humility was used in service of his own self-interest, or that such humility is narrow in scope.

The powerful leaders of tomorrow will need to emulate Mr. Trump in this sense. They will need to gain as much as possible from the knowledge of humility, even if that knowledge goes against popular opinion. And if we hope our leaders to be more than mere disruptors, they will also need the integrity and character to turn humility into reliable virtue, traits that Mr. Trump does not possess.

Now that Mr. Trump is President, his place in the world has dramatically changed. He inherits an office that has expanded its powers over the years, making any action he takes increasingly consequential. To do the best and prevent the worst for the country as president, Mr. Trump will require more humility than he had as a candidate.

But as we have seen in Mr. Obama, achieving such humility is difficult. And, unfortunately for us, it remains to be seen whether President Trump and the other elite will be as humble as the country needs them to be.

Dan Valenzuela (dvalenzuela@college.harvard.edu) is still trying to get his head out of the clouds and down to earth.

Harvard Students Respond to Immigration Ban

An exhaustive snapshot.

By ADITYA AGRAWAL

On January 26, as President Trump temporarily banned the citizens of seven countries from entering the United States, liberal America galvanized like never before. A “resistance,” in the offing since that fateful night of November 8, 2016, finally found life as individuals across the country organized, protested, sang songs of solidarity and then protested some more.

University towns such as Cambridge, M.A., by virtue of their global student bodies, are poised to be amongst the institutions and centers that will be hit hardest by the President’s Executive Order. The Indy provides a snapshot of how a cross-section of Harvard students and organizations responded to the Immigration Ban.

Emergency Rally Mobilized in Response to Anticipated Order

In anticipation of an Immigration Executive order at 4:30 P.M Friday (27th January), members of the Harvard community organized an Emergency rally in Harvard starting 5.30 P.M.

Hazami Barmada, a student at the Kennedy School and one of the organizers of the Emergency Rally, said that upwards of 200 individuals showed up for the rally within three hours. According to Barmada, affiliates from both Harvard and various Boston universities participated in the rally. “Our message was one of solidarity, unity and support,” he said.

A Student Global Justice Working Group was also announced at the Rally. In creating

the Working Group, Barmada and others sought to gather students from across different Boston-area schools with an interest in global justice. The Group looks to achieve four tangible goals. First, creating a tangible *policy toolkit* that would be crucial in equipping students, faculty and staff with knowledge about their rights and available resources; second, creating a *student support network* which entails finding facts on what’s happening to keep each other informed; third, creating a *Strategy Group* that thinks creatively about when and how to mobilize the Harvard community and beyond; and fourth, creating an *Outreach Group* that helps share information about various issues personally impacting the lives of Harvard and other students, thereby putting a human face to global justice.

The Group had its first meeting on the night of 30th January in Northwest Labs, and saw a turnout of over 200 individuals, according to Barmada. Barmada also said that the group had compiled a “confidential list of students who had been impacted from various Boston-based schools.” In fact, Barmada claimed that he “personally [knew] of up to 15 cases” of Boston-area students being impacted by the Executive Order. Part of what the Working Group is trying to do is creating a centralized database to track such information.

Harvard Islamic Society Comes Out Against Order: “Violence Against Muslims Is Nothing New”

The Harvard Islamic Society (HIS), the undergraduate organization for practicing Islamic students, released an official statement

on Tuesday, January 31, condemning Trump’s orders. In its statement, the HIS asserted that governmental policies that target Muslims could not be separated from “interpersonal violence,” referring to the Texas mosque that was burned down hours after Trump’s order and the white-terrorist shooting at a Canadian mosque a day after. It claimed that such violence was not new. “From the arrival of kidnapped and enslaved Muslims on US shores to modern-day warfare waged across the Muslim world (and, currently, in five of the seven “ban” countries), we know that America has for too long fallen short of its promises to our community and to other marginalized communities,” the statement said.

The statement concluded on a hopeful note by announcing the launch of the Anti-Islamophobia Network (ANI), a task force designed to combat Islamophobia at Harvard and in Boston and the US at large. The ANI will meet for the first time on February 1st in Ticknor Lounge.

Culture as Resistance: Dance The Ban Away

On the evening of Monday, 30th of January, three different undergraduate organizations came together to celebrate the culture that the diaspora from the now-banned countries brought to the United States. The event, called “We’re Here and We’re Proud: We are what makes America great” was organized jointly by the Harvard College Iranian Association (HCIA), Harvard Islamic Society (HIS), and the Society of Arab Students (SAS) in Ticknor Lounge.

INDY NEWS

Immigration Ban Response, contd.

To Be Intersectional or Not To Be? The QSA Conundrum

Meanwhile, the Queer Students Association (QSA) found itself in a quandary. At its recent election meeting, the QSA voted to remain “politically neutral on issues that do not explicitly or directly impact LGBTQ+ Harvard students for their identities as LGBTQ+ people.” Supporters of the legislation claimed that the QSA, as an umbrella body for all LGBTQ+ issues at Harvard, should be a safe space for LGBTQ+ individuals of all stripes and leanings.

A petition calling on the QSA to be more “intersectional” was signed by over 200 undergraduates in response to the decision. While it seems the organization’s then Co-Chairs tried to address the petitioners’ concerns by modifying the proposition that was voted upon, the exact nature of the policy remained unclear to many in the organization.

In an active thread on the QSA list, multiple members questioned the rationale behind remaining politically neutral on issues such as the immigration ban. The discussion may have been triggered by the fact that the QSA has not yet released an official statement outlining its stance on the ban. However, the QSA Board attempted to strike a conciliatory note by revealing that it has in fact been working on a draft statement of solidarity.

Aditya Agrawal '17 (adityaagrawal@college.harvard.edu) encourages students across Boston to remain active in showing solidarity with those affected by the executive order.



The Harvard Independent is proud to present *Tell Me More*, a new podcast exploring the lives of the Harvard College community!

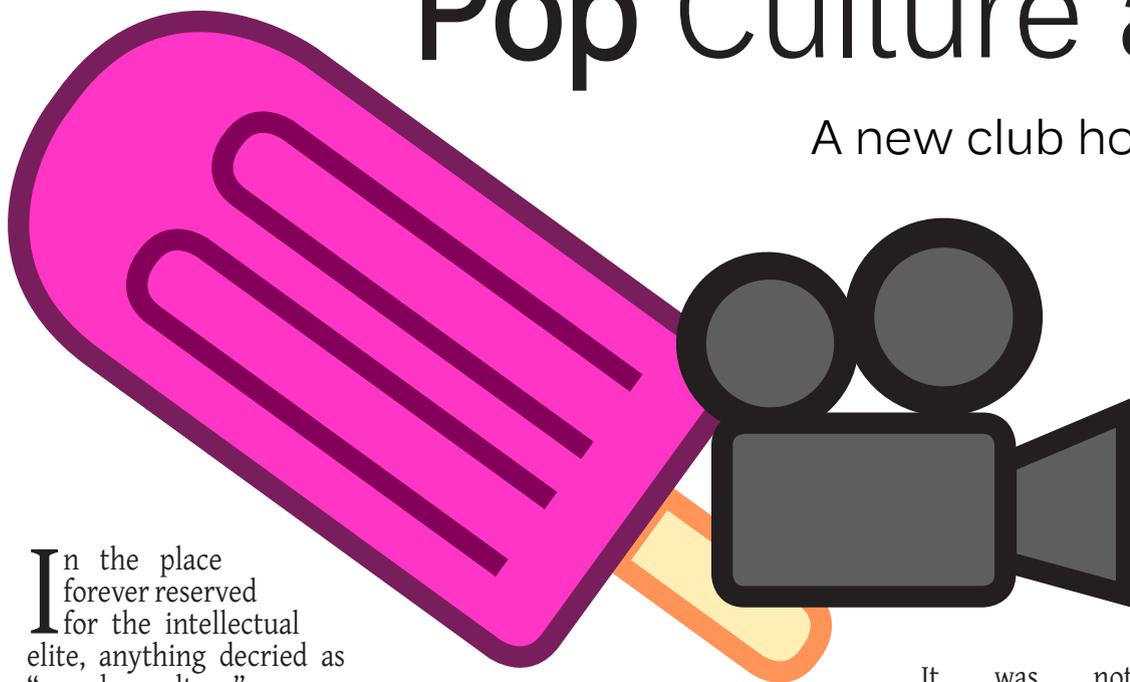
In each episode, Kelsey O'Connor will sit down with a member of the Harvard community to talk about the person who most inspires them. We'll hear about the moms, best friends, and public figures who prompt and motivate the people you pass in the yard, dining halls, and library every day.

Check back on Monday, February 13 for our first episode with guest Miles Counts.

Pop Culture at Harvard

A new club hopes to discuss and enjoy!

By CAROLINE CRONIN



In the place forever reserved for the intellectual elite, anything decried as “popular culture” may seem undesirable and uncouth. But one Folklore & Mythology concentrator named Emily Zauzmer '18, is determined to change that. A lover of all things “pop culture for a very long time,” Zauzmer considers herself “fascinated by TV and celebrities.” However, like many other students, she never expected that popular culture could be a subject of study at Harvard.

In the place forever reserved for the intellectual elite, anything decried as “popular culture” may seem undesirable and uncouth. But one Folklore & Mythology concentrator named Emily Zauzmer '18, is determined to change that. A lover of all things “pop culture for a very long time,” Zauzmer considers herself “fascinated by TV and celebrities.” However, like many other students, she never expected that popular culture could be a subject of study at Harvard.

Yet, after interning at People Magazine after freshmen year, Zauzmer returned to declare her concentration of Folklore & Mythology. The department has very flexible sub-focus options and it encourage students to choose fields about which they feel particularly passionate. One of these options is pop culture! Therefore, Zauzmer had found her niche – the cross of personal enjoyments and academic pursuit.

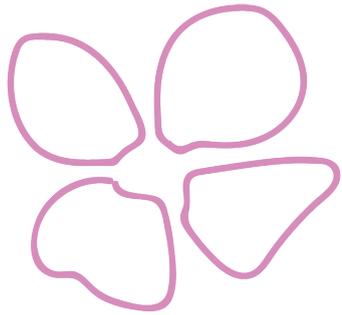
It was not, however, until the beginning of her junior year that Zauzmer thought to include others in this endeavor. The long and at times arduous process of club registration through the Office of Student Life (OSL) was completed at Thanksgiving-time with an official approval. And finally, this past weekend the Pop Culture Club at Harvard had its first official meeting and discussion on the Screen Actors Guild Awards of 2017.

Zauzmer was thrilled when her peers showed interest in her club and has big plans for its continuing presence on Harvard's campus. She hopes it will become a forum for both academic discussion and simple enjoyment of all things pop culture. For, “Harvard at times can be too academic—just for academic's sake” and “watching The Bachelor can be fun!” Zauzmer's plans do not stop there, though. With the creation of a new Harvard-recognized club, comes what the OSL calls “social responsibility.” To Zauzmer, her social responsibility is to “instill in the [Pop Culture Club] all of the policies that Harvard should have.” Zauzmer believes that “rampant exclusivity” is a major problem on campus. Therefore, freshmen and other pop culture lovers will be happy to know that Zauzmer's club will be “really inclusive, very flexible, and with no comps.”

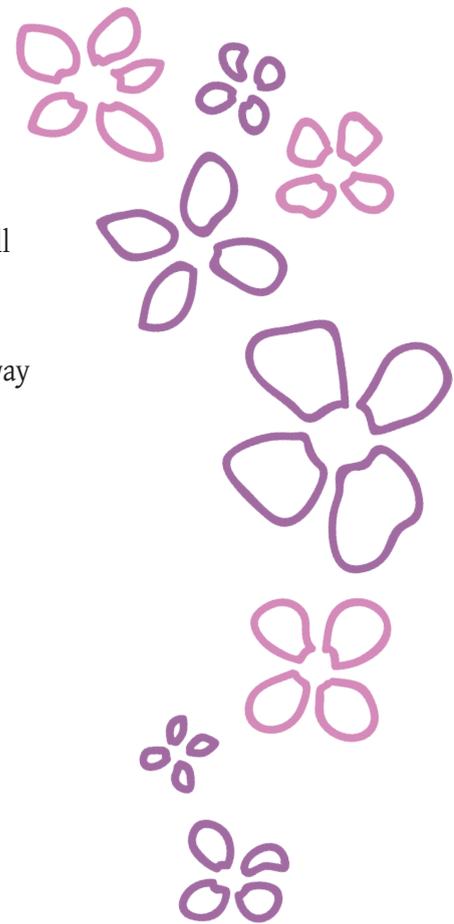
Though the idea of studying something that is supposedly all around us may seem a bit odd, many students can relate to the guilty pleasure of actively enjoying many facets of popular culture. But where to find it and how does one integrate it into other essential pursuits? The Harvard College Pop Culture club puts those worries to rest with its decisive purpose statement: “The Harvard College Pop Culture Club aims to cement the importance of pop culture as an academic, social, and professional discipline at Harvard.”

Caroline Cronin (ccronin01@college.harvard.edu) is pleased to see that the OSL's underutilized 'Hub' announces a number of new school groups this semester.

INDY ARTS

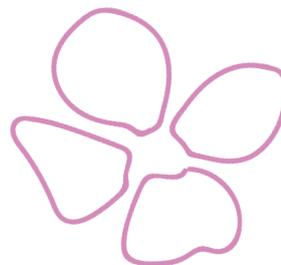
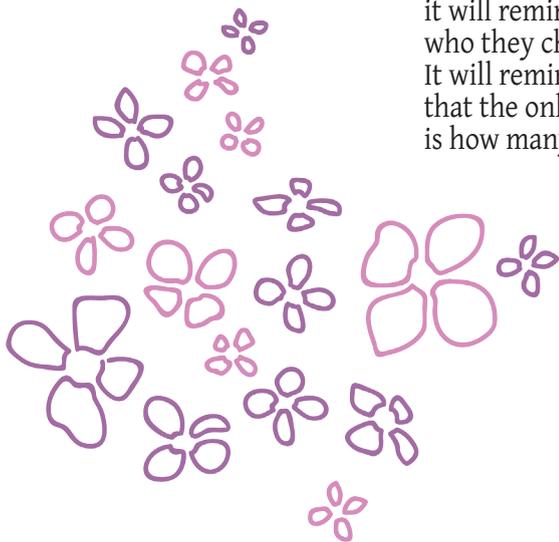


those who don't know the loss of kin
will feel grief, unending, when the rapture comes.
how do you choose who to cry for? how do you choose who you will
allow to leave salt stains on your fallow skin or whose crucifixion
you will watch? by the age of 18 my brethren will have hands that
know blister more than calm that know the weight of a cross and
how high to carry their bleeding father up to Calvary — how far away
to place him from the other thieves how to scream to the
executioner that their mother is a virgin or their father, a
messiah they will know how to pray that the resurrection is real.
and where will you be?
and where have you been?
as the year reaches its horizon,
do not forget whose fault it is that the sky bleeds red, every night
that so many children pray that resurrection is real—
that a man as pale as death can consider himself a God
and take over an entire nation
populated by his followers and their daughters.
i have this dream sometimes.
of what it will be like when the rapture comes.
i will walk, Into the Woods
and i will see nothing but white devils
clinging to their loved ones and their goods,
feeling for once the residency of pain
it will be like a musical
but the harps will screech
and the lights will dance too fast to see anything—
like when there's a bullet in your chest.
or a hand in your hair.
or a hand in your pants.
In this dream, I laugh at how hard they cry
how much a taste of my life's stock can drive them into frenzy
when the sky reflects upon them their nature,
and their violence,
it will remind us all
who they choose to cry for.
It will remind us all
that the only change a new year has ever brought for them
is how many crosses they can carve.



Untitled

By DARIUS JOHNSON



Summer Night

New Winslow Homer at the Fogg.

By CAROLINE CRONIN



Summer Night on display in the Fogg. Caroline Cronin

Winslow Homer (1836 – 1910) is remembered as one of America’s favorite painters. Homer first cut his teeth on sketchings of the Civil War, which were often published in the widely read magazine *Harper’s Weekly*. He soon grew to become one of this country’s most notable artists, and is credited with finding and establishing a feeling that is characteristically American in his work. It is most evident in his paintings of natural scenes including, but certainly not limited to, his extensive work on the Adirondack Mountain region.

Cantabrigians today sing new praises of Homer as his seminal nocturne *Summer Night* is now on display at the Fogg of Harvard Art Museums. The painting is located on the second floor of the museum in the Suzanne and Terrence Murray Gallery. Its deep and dark hues are visible from the outer hall as museum visitors walk slowly and appreciatively in and out of the many different rooms. *Summer Night* depicts two women dancing on a beach in the evening. The waves roll in the background and silhouettes of friends sit on the right side.

The lovely view of summer during a Boston winter is rare. Thus, the Harvard Art Museums is doing everything it can to celebrate the painting

now. On Monday of this week, museum curators had to cancel a midday talk about the painting due to illness, but they have posted a video on the museum website discussing their work with the painting; where it is placed and how they want museum visitors to experience it. On Wednesday evening, as well, the museum held an M. Victor Leventritt Fund lecture on Homer’s painting. The lecture featured Frank Goodyear, co-director of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art; Helene Valance, assistant professor of English at Université de Franche-Comté; and Jennifer Roberts, who is the Elizabeth Cary Agassiz Professor of Humanities at Harvard. All three of the noteworthy speakers have done substantial work with Homer and the subjects he pursued.

The *Summer Night* piece measures 76.5 × 102 cm, and with its thick golden frame and striking movement, cannot but help draw viewers close. But as security guards look on warily, viewers continue to move past the walls dotted with other famous American artists of the nineteenth to twentieth centuries; such as Thomas Eakins (1844-1916), James Abbott McNeill Whistler (1834-1903) and John Singer Sargent (1856-1925). Situated amongst these and other works of Homer like the *Brush Harrow* – which is a rather sensitive Civil War piece painted in 1865 – the nocturne is quite at home.

However, *Summer Night* is currently only on loan from the Musée d’Orsay of Paris. The painting was created in 1890 and, after being unable to find a buyer in New York, Homer sent it to Paris in 1900, where he had traveled to (like many American painters) early in his career. *Summer Night* then received a gold medal at the Exposition Universelle. Since then the painting went on multiple international tours but stayed, for a significant portion of the twentieth century, in museums in Paris. The Musée d’Orsay has enjoyed the painting and describes Homer’s “lyricism tinged with mysticism” as one of the defining features of the, “feeling for nature that is peculiarly American.”

That specific point is perhaps not as obvious to American viewers of *Summer Night* here in Cambridge, but the painting does not fail to evoke an almost otherworldly emotion. Fogg visitor Jill Regan made the snowy trek to the museum this week specifically to see the piece. “I really like [Homer’s] Civil War work but this one has always been meaningful to me because I feel like I can hear the music and the waves,” she mused while standing a few feet from the painting. Undoubtedly, hundred of viewers across the decades have heard those same waves.

Caroline Cronin (ccronin01@college.harvard.edu) thanks her freshmen seminar professor Theodore Stebbins, the Consultative Curator of American Art at the Fogg, for her appreciation of Winslow Homer!

Winter Games

Harvard Varsity teams continue play over break and into spring.

By TUSHAR DWIVEDI

While many of us visited family and home, traveled, worked, or learned, it is easy to forget the number of students who represented Harvard in winter athletics over break. These athletes, such as Holworthy resident Zeth Dean, stayed in what effectively became oversized singles, while continuing practice and competition for their respective sports. For Zeth, that meant wrestling. According to Zeth, "One thing I realized was that staying over break really helped me focus all of my time on wrestling and allowed me to improve. I also grew a lot closer to my team." Zeth's experience is one that is shared across campus. In this article, we quickly overview some of the major results that came from this past break, and some of the upcoming matches and events to look forward to as Harvard students begin the second semester.

The Men's Varsity Basketball team, which is currently 11-6, is ranked second in the Ivy League. Although they have the highest winning percentage in the conference, at .647, their conference record of 3-1 puts them just behind Princeton, with its undefeated conference record. The team played a full slate of games over this past winter break with incredible success. Excluding a loss to Vermont, the team won all 7 of their other winter break games, highlighted by an exciting 57-56 finish over Houston and a 70-45 blowout of McGill. While they lost a tight game against Columbia this past weekend, they look to rebound against Penn this upcoming Friday.

The Women's Varsity Basketball team currently holds a perfect conference record of 4-0 while boasting a 16-1 record overall for a winning percentage of .941. Since losing their first game to Minnesota, the team has proceeded to win all 16 of their games since. Major highlights include holding NJIT to 38 points and close victory over La Salle. While they finished out a perfect set of winter break games, their opening week has been just as strong, resulting in wins in back to back days over Cornell and Columbia. The team looks to continue their win streak and extend it to 18 with games against Penn and Princeton this weekend.

The success of the Women's and Men's Varsity Swimming and Diving teams from the entirety of first semester have continued into the new year. When looking at overall team results, both teams rest at undefeated records, with the women's team taking victories over Penn and Brown in the January 13th slate of events over this past break. This upcoming weekend gives the team the opportunity to continue their perfect record, with competitions against Princeton and Yale. Meanwhile, the men's team has had a similar track record of success, with an exceptional 226-74 blowout over Brown over break on January 13th. This upcoming Saturday is a match against Yale, and a chance to preserve their undefeated overall team record. Beat Yale!

Recently, one of the most interesting and exciting teams at Harvard has been the Men's Varsity Squash team. The team is currently undefeated at 7-0 and rests at the top of the Ivy conference. Although a majority (5/7) of their games have been away, they have still managed to remain victorious outside of Harvard. Their victories have all been over ranked teams, including, most impressively, a solid 6-3 victory over No. 1 ranked Rochester. They followed that with a victory over No. 7 ranked St. Lawrence the very next day. When asked about his team, freshman Saadeldin Aish (No. 1) said that he thought, "last weekend was definitely the toughest [matches against Rochester and St. Lawrence]. We showed great resilience to come out on top on both occasions. Although we have had good results recently, we will need to continue this good form in the upcoming weeks because the season is still far from over." He and his team look to continue their performance with upcoming matches this weekend against Columbia and Cornell.

The women's and men's Ice Hockey, Track and Field, and Wrestling all also continued their season through winter break and will have

matches upcoming this weekend. Although we are still early in the Spring semester, it is exciting to see Harvard athletics start of their semester successfully and students look forward to the next set of games this weekend. In the current surge of community spirit on campus, students look also to supporting friends in all their athletic adventures!

Tushar Dwivedi (tushar_dwivedi@college.harvard.edu) will brave the snow and wind to cross the river and cheer on his peers!



Harvard students are unstoppable, regardless of the snow. *Audrey Effenberger*

comp the INDY



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Interested?

Come to our Spring Comp meeting on **Thursday, Feb 2nd** in **Harvard Hall 102** for journalism, good company, and pizza!

captured and shot

